

# BANYULE BABBLE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BANYULE

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

**MARCH  
2011**

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## ANDREW'S ASIDES

As I write this I have been at this parish for just under two weeks now. Not a long time, considering I have met some parishioners who can remember more than fifty years of history here! So there are still many people to get to know and parts of this ministry to experience, but even in this short time I have come across many of the great saints who inhabit our congregations and fill the week with acts of service and Christian love. I'm also impressed by the power of our history to shape our attitudes and expectations, and how we carry on the things from the past and find new ways to do them. There is a great depth in this parish of experience of God and of Christian ministry, and I hope that I can honour that while I am here.

My final big research project at theological college

last year was on the issue of Christian freedom. One thing for you to know about me is that my main inspiration to serve as a minister comes from a desire that people be set free from spiritual oppression. I take a lot of cues from one of Jesus' early sermons about his ministry and the Kingdom of God that he was bringing to us. In Luke 4:18-19 he says, quoting Isaiah, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' So I am motivated by the expectation that being a Christian will radically change

us, that knowing Jesus will set us free from things that bind us. In particular you will often hear me speaking about the importance of forgiveness, and of growing in our experience of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. As Paul says, 'Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom' (2 Cor 3:17).

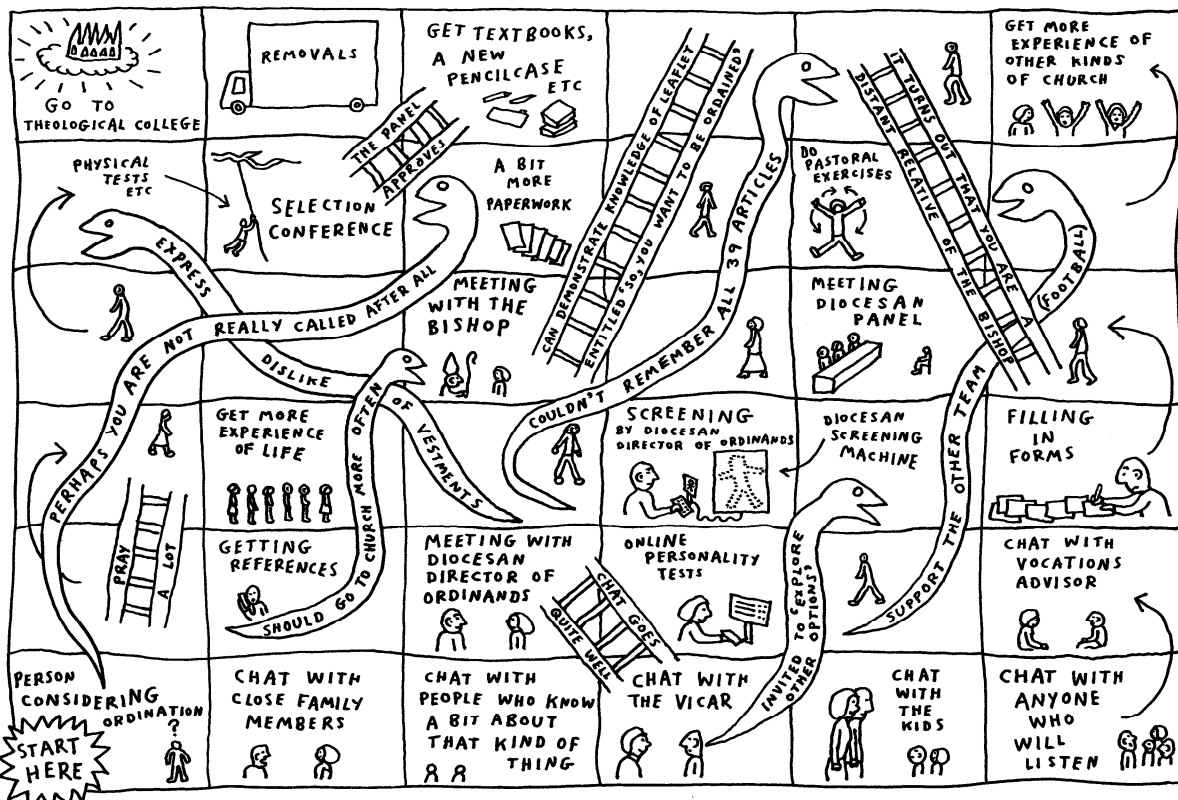
I'm looking forward to getting to know you all, and taking part with you in this time of change and renewal in this parish. I think that good times are ahead.

Andrew



## THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS

HOW TO BE SELECTED AS A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY



### Ash Wednesday Services

Wed 9th March

8 am St John's  
11 am Holy Spirit  
7 pm St Andrew's

All parish members are encouraged to attend one of these services to prepare for Lent.

N.B. Lenten resources, including daily readings and notes, are available at:

<http://www.melbourne.anglican.com.au/cm2p>

## This Month – March

**Friday 4th:** World Day of Prayer

**Saturday 5th:** 10 am Parish Fair planning meeting, St Andrew's Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday 9th Ash Wednesday:** Services 8 am Heidelberg, 11 am Watsonia, 7 pm Rosanna

**Saturday 26th:** 7.30 pm Trivial Pursuit Night at St John's

## Next Month – April

**Thursday 21st Maudy 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)

## Wanted

- A Fair Coordinator
- More volunteers for both Op Shops

## Money – Dec/Jan

Income: Giving: \$13,470.05  
 Other: \$36,340.13  
 Total: \$49,810.18

Expenses: \$52,609.94

**Loss: \$2,799.76**

Giving per month was down.

## Parish Fair Meeting

**10 am Saturday 5th March**

(note change of date)

at St Andrew's Fellowship Hall,

for anyone who wants to be part of the Fair

**We still don't have a Coordinator. If we don't get a Coordinator we will have no Fair this year.**

A coordinator is essential because this would be a fair for the whole parish, and therefore different from previous fairs at St Andrew's.

## MOTHERS' UNION

The theme for MU 2011 is

**'Loving and Faithful Relationships'**

The intention for the theme is for building relationships within families, and communities as a whole.

A reference in the Worship and Prayer Book for Mothers' Union Australia, reads: *The Vision of Mothers' Union is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. The aim and purpose is to demonstrate the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of family in its many forms.*

I think this ties in very well with the Vision and Goals of our Parish. — Brenda G

## St John's Ladies' Fellowship News

Our fellowship meeting was held on the 23rd February in the parish centre of St John's. Our guest speaker Val Freeland told us of her involvement with Berry Street and how her family have been supporters for over fifty years, spanning three generations.

Berry Street was founded in 1877 by Lady Bowen, wife of the Governor of Victoria. She was upset that babies were abandoned so she established a refuge which became 'The Berry Street Babies' Home. Berry Street's focus has always been protecting children and strengthening families.

In the 1930s the Depression brought huge demands and to cope with these demands children were placed with foster parents or adopted. In the 1950s cottage accommodation was introduced to provide more family-like care.

The 70s saw the need to provide care that focused on each individual child. This led to the closure of large institutions including Berry Street Babies' Home. The value of raising a child in a family environment was recognised. Foster care was established as the principal form of care.

It is now the largest independent child welfare organisation in Victoria. Berry Street has a vision "that all children should have a good childhood". This vision takes an outstanding staff of highly professional group of caring committed people. They are led by Sandie de Wolf, who in 2009 became a member of the General Division in the Order of Australia for services to child and family welfare. She also received the Robin Clark Memorial Award for inspirational leadership. Berry Street now has over 700 staff throughout Victoria.

Val then spoke about foster carers who are a group of very special people who play a vital role at Berry Street. They make a commitment to care for children and babies who have been removed from their home by the Department of Human Services for a number of reasons. These children have suffered great distress and harm growing up in families where violence, chronic neglect, substance abuse, mental illness and poverty have prevented them from having a good childhood.

Berry Street also runs a camp at Anglesea. They are held for foster carers and their children with the aim of giving the children a beach holiday and the carers a break with staff cooking meals and keeping the children occupied. These camps are run by Anita Pell, the Regional Director of the Hume area. An outstanding lady who was awarded a Churchill Fellowship and has spent time touring Britain, Ireland and the US studying foster care and how to attract more carers. Foster care is at a critical point, with more people leaving each year. This is one of Berry Street's priorities because if things don't change foster care will not exist in five years and where would these babies and children go?

The motto of Berry Street is ***We never give up.***

We all came away with a much different perspective of Berry Street.

*Pauline Holbery*

Our next meeting will be on March 23 at 1.30 pm. Our speaker will be Maureen Shand who will tell us about a project being conducted by the Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society. This is a two year project recording everything in St. John's for posterity.

All welcome to come along.

*Pauline Holbery, Secretary. Tel. 94590364*

## St Andrew's Mothers' Union

**Monday March 1st** at 1.30 pm: Branch Meeting. Speaker Sylvia Webb: An Oberammergau Visit.

**Friday March 25th** at 10.30 am: Lady Day service at St Paul's Cathedral.

**Monday April 18th:** Branch Lenten Meeting.

*Betty Kettle 9435 6533*

# Looking back and looking forward

*Sermon by Philip Trowse at St Andrew's Epiphany 6, Sunday 13 February 2011*

**Deuteronomy 10: 12–22**

**1 Corinthians 3:1–9**

**Matthew 5:21–37**

When you go for your driving test, the tester sits in the back seat and closely watches everything you do. If you put your indicator on too early, or too late, you will lose a point. If you go through a stop sign by rolling, instead of coming to a full stop for 3 seconds, you will fail your test. If you put your foot on the brake without checking your rear view mirror first, you will lose points.

When we learn to drive, these habits are ingrained into us, so that we will be able to drive safely from one point to another, and not endanger anyone's life.

Looking in the rear view mirror is especially important. How many times have you been behind someone who does NOT look, and known that they are totally unaware of you being there? Which is dangerous. So you stay away from them! I have even followed people who have their mirror tilted towards themselves so that they can do their grooming!

This is a good metaphor for us as we look back and look forward. Most of our looking is forward, to the future, but we must glance back every now and then to make sure we know where we are on the road.

The danger of never looking back, and not knowing what lies behind, is only eclipsed by the danger of always looking back, and not paying attention to where you are going! Just imagine if we drove with our eyes fixed to the mirror, and only occasionally glanced forward!!!

Moses took the people through the desert of Sinai, and towards the end of the journey, just as they were gathered to enter the Promised Land after 40 years of wandering, he gave them his final speech. The book of Deuteronomy is framed as a long farewell sermon by Moses, as he recites to the people what has happened on their journey, and the lessons they must learn so that they will not crash in the future.

He recounts the disasters and the high points of faith, where God really made His presence known. He is looking back, and then he is looking forward. We must do both, in the right proportion: Looking back, we learn from the mistakes and lessons of the past. Often it is said, "Anyone who does not learn from history is doomed to repeat it".

But we must also look forward, in order to fulfil our destiny. For as the people of God, we have a wonderful reason for being. The people of Israel were told they must cling closely to God's ways, so that they would give honour to him, and in the end, they would be a "light to the nations" (Isaiah).

Moses tells them to recall what they have seen and learned, so that they do not fall back into the old ways that will not only be dishonouring to God, but be harmful for them.

Even animals do this: if my dog strays too close to an aggressive dog, she will get a nip, and next time be more careful. Children do this: if they touch a hot stove, they will learn not to touch things so hastily in future.

In our lives as adults, we can all point to many things we have learned by hard experience; many lessons that we happily pass on to the next generation. We have learned both bad and good things to do, and we add to the accumulated wisdom of the human race by our experiences. (That is how Wikipedia works: people share their wisdom and check with each other.)

**Here is some of Moses' advice:**

*12 And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?*

*The LORD set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations—as it is today. 16 Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer...*

*...he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes. 22 Your ancestors who went down into Egypt were seventy in all, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky.*

Looking back, they saw how God had guided them, been faithful to them, taught them, and corrected them. Just think of the smoking Mt Sinai, the earthquake that swallowed thousands, the bitter water of Meribah, and the miracle of the manna and quail!

Looking forward, they hoped for great things, because the same God who had travelled with them in the past promised to go with them, even if Moses did not.

They made many mistakes, and had to be called back again and again, to put God first. And their journey is like a parallel with our own.

Today we look back. As we look in the rear-vision mirror, we can see what a long and wonderful history we have had! How many times has God spoken to us, to tell us he loves us, and to encourage us? How many times have we done the wrong thing, and learned from our mistakes?

We can all tell a story of our journey. It helps us to understand where we have been, where are going, and what is important to us.

You have your own story to tell, of the phases of your life as you look back.

As an example, I give you a few snapshots from my own life:

I am now 55.

If I am blessed to live to 80, I am approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through my life here on earth. (It could, of course, be less. Or possibly a bit more.)

I look back at my 55 years and think of the phases of the journey which have been significant. Some of it has been hard, other parts joyful; Some times have been periods of tremendous growth, and I note that they have usually been the tough times!

Up to the age of 10, I remember being a happy kid, loved and cared for. But I was never big and tall, so sometimes I was bullied, and I had to learn how to stand up for myself.

13–16 was my rebellious phase, when I disobeyed my parents and got in with a rough crowd; I expressed lots of anger, and did some silly things which could have got me into real trouble.

16–22: My early Christian life, as I came to the Lord and made the decision to put him first in my life. I was very intense and zealous! I wanted to convert everybody, but mainly I just fell in love with Jesus!

24–29: Early married life, studying at Bible College for the ministry, and three lovely children given to us. A time of early ministry, first real challenges in my work, and being troubled by depression when things didn't go as they should have.

30–45: The years of being devoted to the kids, and using my best energy for them; working hard, and finding myself and my gifts. Learning how to love myself.

(During this time I found God to be very close and loving as I explored contemplative prayer in a deeper way.)

52–55: A watershed: I left school work and came back into parish ministry. It was punctuated by a brush with cancer, which was a galvanizing force, and reinforced to me that we have just one go at life, and we have to make the most of it.

I look back: and it gives me strength and courage to go on, because God has been faithful to me through it all.

No doubt, you will do the same.

If you are older than me, you know you have a proportion of life left: you may be conscious of what you have learned, and want to pass good advice on. It is natural to look back over the past and reflect on the value of the journey.

This is what Moses was doing. He was 120 years old, and just about to meet his Maker up on Mt Nebo. He had led the people of Israel for some 42 years or so, 40 of which had been desert travelling. Now he has brought them to the very brink of entering the Promised Land, and Deuteronomy is a sort of summary sermon to them as he leaves them. He recaps their life as a people, and gives them advice about where they are heading now.

As well as looking back on our individual lives, we can also look back on our community and corporate life, sometimes with nostalgia, and sometimes with gratitude that we have learned a few things!

Paul writes to the young church at Corinth, a church that has had a stormy and passionate life in the midst of a pagan world. He recalls that they were babies not so long ago, just new Christians who were very weak and fragile in a hostile world.

They have grown, and are now looking more robust. But he reminds them of where they have come from. He had to give them milk, not solid food, and gradually introduce the solids like you do with a baby.

Now they are reaching toddler age, they are maturing in their faith, but fighting with their brothers and sisters! They must learn to get on! After all, they are all God's children, and meant to shine as a light in the world!

There are divisions amongst them as they argue who their favourite teacher is... Apollon, Paul, Peter, Jesus! It's like arguing who has been the best pastor at St Andrew's, and being divided by that into groups.

*Continues next page . . .*

# Vestry Notes

Meeting of Tuesday 15th February 2011 at 7.30 pm

## ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

*Assistant Treasurer?*

- Pat Lambert and Sally Porter will share the position of Assistant Treasurer.

*Macleod Op. Shop Volunteers*

- Four new volunteers have been put on the roster. There is to be a meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

## CORRESPONDENCE

- Brownie Bradford's family have donated \$1000 towards expanding/modifying memorial garden at Rosanna.

## ITEMS FOR PRIORITY ATTENTION

- A new vestry agenda format was adopted as a trial for 3 months.
- Formal motions and action points will include the person responsible and the time frame required.
- Vestry members will each join a portfolio /subcommittee:  
*Property sub-committee:* Laurel Ceff, Charles Doyle, Allan Way  
*Worship sub-committee:* Andrew, Lay readers, Gay Miller  
*Pastoral Care sub-committee:* Rosemary Young, Judith Thomson  
*Outreach sub-committee:* Marion Edmonds, Peter McKay.

## MINISTRY REPORTS

*Senior minister – Philip*

- We are in a very positive position.
- We have about two years in which to act.
- We are poised to put our goals into action.
- We must remain aware that growth and revival depend on the working of the Holy Spirit.

*Associate minister – Rosemary (absent)*

*Assistant minister – Andrew*

- This first term will be spent observing and becoming familiar with the parish.

## FINANCE: Treasurer's report

- BCA's new contract to be finalised.
- The treasurer's report was accepted and accounts to the value of \$52,609.94 were approved for payment.

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

## MAJOR WARDENS' ISSUES

**Rosanna**

- Ongoing problems with possums.
- Problems with the bathroom plumbing in the vicarage.
- Blinds for the rear of the church: first quote received, second quote next month.

**Heidelberg**

- Objections to the building in Vine St have been lodged.
- No progress on the objections to the building at 1A Burgundy St.
- One break-in and two attempted break-ins recorded.

**Watsonia**

- Due to an inadequate drain water entered the 'link'. Remedies will be investigated.
- Allan and Charles to present a plan for a cross to April's meeting.
- Skylight blind in the church has ceased to function. Still under guarantee.

## PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE

**The Vicarage Project 2011**

The property sub-committee will create terms of reference and make a list of experts to join a working group which can brainstorm options for our vicarages and report back to the next vestry meeting.

## Maintenance and practical issues

- Allan will canvas the parish for volunteers to go on a roster to mow the lawns at each centre.
- Three working bees this year in the Parish:  
Heidelberg 9<sup>th</sup> April  
Watsonia 4<sup>th</sup> June  
Rosanna 15<sup>th</sup> October

## Giving and appeals for projects

- A motion regarding stewardship to be presented next month.
- The first meeting of the Fair Committee is on 5th March at 10 am at Heidelberg. Unless a co-ordinator is found there will be no fair.

## OTHER BUSINESS

- Victorian Volunteers Small Grants – it is not aimed at us.
- 'Next Week's Readings' in the pew sheet will be updated.
- May/should parishioners pay for TMA?  
From this – How many do we get? How many do we need?

Rosemary Bellair

*Continued from page 3 . . .*

We may have our own favourites, but we must not let this blind us to the fact that it is *GOD* who has been at work in us all these years!

We look back at the phases of our life as a people, and we examine ourselves and assess what we have learned.

That brings us to the *now*: what will God do with us now? As we enter a new land, how will we fare as we face the challenges of a world that needs us?

We are exercised, it's true, and a bit daunted. There are so many changes proposed; it is exciting, but somewhat scary; we are hoping for a bright future, but wondering whether this church will be here in 5 years' time. It is risky business, walking by faith!

Like the people of Israel gathered as they began a new phase, we are gathered, ready to move on. It is natural to look in the rear vision mirror and take a look at the past. But we must not let our gaze be drawn for too long: or the next bend in the road will come upon us suddenly, and we will crash.

The third reading has Jesus, addressing his followers in his great Sermon on the Mount. He tells them he has come to lead them into a new phase of life, beyond the old Law and its inflexible ways. The people are excited, he is leading them into something

new and real and fulfilling. They want to chuck away the old ways, and start a new life!

But he tells them he has not come to do away with the Law and the old ways, but to fulfil them.

*You have heard that it was said to you: An eye for an eye...*

*But I say to you...if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out...*

*You have heard that it was said to you: love your friends and hate your enemies...*

*But I say to you...love your enemies.*

Like Moses, Jesus is addressing his people and summarizing the journey, as he calls them to the journey ahead.

He tells them he is not doing away with the lessons of the past – they are still part of us. We must move on and build on the lessons of the past.

"Not one stroke of the pen will be taken away from the Law of Moses": I have come to *fulfil* the Law. Not in the legalistic ways of the Pharisees, who have missed the point; but in a way that is *Life-Giving*.

As he summarises the commandments, he reminds us that on our own we can *never* be good enough. The standard is so high, we will *always* fail. The era that is about to come is one of *Grace* instead of Law.

No one will ever be saved by trying to be good. We try, but we always fail. The rear vision mirror is littered with our collisions and the tyre marks of our swerving on the road!

We must realize as we look back, that in our life journey, when we have tried to do it by ourselves, we have messed up, but as we are forgiven by God's free gift, we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us to change us from within.

Jesus has a new standard for us, and a future filled with life and with grace.

DON'T forget the lessons of the journey. You are still a pilgrim people.

Hop in the driver's seat. Start the engine. Put on the blinker. Engage the clutch. Check the mirror. And move out into the traffic, looking forward to what God will do with us on our journey ahead!

And keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Then we will be on the right track!

## Misprints and Oddities

Alderman Johnston moved that, pending the passing of the street by-law, all vehicles on Columbia Street be required to keep to the left going up and to the right going down.

*The British Columbian*