

BANYULE BABBLE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BANYULE

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

**OCTOBER
2011**

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PHILIP PHILOSOPHISES

During September we have turned our focus to the theme of Thanksgiving.

On Commitment Sunday we bring a little blue form to put in the offering, giving what we can to God, and offering ourselves for His service. It is a small symbol of our thankfulness.

We have received so much, haven't we? Not just in material terms, but in the richness of our life in Christ together.

On October 23rd, we will celebrate 160 years since the founding of St John's Heidelberg. A great celebration is planned. Think of the faithful prayers and service of so many over those years! They have soaked into the walls and surround us.

I hope you have been encouraged to make some sort of response, by using your gifts, as we commit our-

selves in a deeper way to God and to a bright future together as the people of God in this place.

You may have a gift of hospitality, or healing, or teaching, or music, or practical help. You may decide that you have extra finances to share for special projects, or with needy people. (One person recently saw our work on the memorial garden at Rosanna, and decided to help: imagine my joy when I opened a letter to find a cheque for \$10,000! The vestry will take great delight in deciding on special projects to enhance our life together.)

You might have decided to increase your weekly giving to our church, or volunteer in the Opp Shop, as a way of thanking God for what he is doing in your life, or you may have enrolled to support our new CMS missionaries, Tavis and Kate Beer.

Whatever you decide to do, it is a joy and privilege to give back to God as generously as we are able, and watch the church, and your own life, flourish under his loving hand.

Soon we will be having meetings in each congregation, to decide how we will move forward next year. I am confident that we will find unity and purpose in following what we discern to be the guidance of the Spirit as he renews and blesses us - so that we can be a blessing to others.

May God
bless you and
keep you in His
care.

With warm
greetings,

Philip



Blessing of the Pets

4 pm October 2nd at St John's



Commitment Sunday:

Saturday 15th October, 9 am to midday Parish Working Bee at St Andrew's

All of us, sprucing the place up for the Parish Fair!

Plenty of work for anyone who can handle a paint brush,
do a little gardening, or wash windows.

Bring any tools useful for these activities.

160 years at St John's

On Sunday 23rd October we will all come together at St John's at 2 pm to celebrate 160 years of worship. Bishop Barbara will attend!

There will be no other services in the parish that weekend, so all of us should be there.



Combined Parish Service
St Andrew's 10 am Oct 2nd
Commit yourself! Be there!

Holy Spirit Watsonia Ladies' Guild

invite you to a concert by

Wandering Melody

12th October 2011
1.30 pm

Afternoon tea supplied

RSVP Joan Hodgson
9846 1681
by 5th October
Cost \$6

This Month – October

Sunday 2nd: 10 am *Commitment Sunday*
Combined Parish Service at St Andrew's;
4 pm Blessing of the Pets at St John's

Saturday 8th: 5.30 pm Congregational meeting
at Holy Spirit

Sunday 9th: 10 am Congregational meeting at
St Andrew's

Wednesday 12th: 1.30 pm 'Wandering Melody'
concert at Holy Spirit, \$6, 9846 1681

Saturday 15th: 9 am – 12 noon Parish
Working Bee at St Andrew's

Sunday 16th: 10 am Congregational meeting
at St John's; 3 pm Donald's Cursillo

Sunday 23rd: 2 pm Combined Parish Service
at St John's with Bp Barbara Dowling to
celebrate 160 years

Monday 24th: 10 am – 2.30 pm M.U. Diocesan
Council meeting, St Peter's Eastern Hill

Wednesday 26th: 10 am Holy Spirit M.U. AGM;
1.30 pm St John's Ladies' Fellowship

Next Month – November

Saturday 5th: Parish Fair

Sunday 13th: National Church Life Survey

Sunday 30th: Parish Annual General Meeting

Wanted

- Table-tennis tables for Open House
- New wardens for Rosanna and Watsonia
- Younger Vestry members



“WHAT A HORRIBLE DREAM!”

I dreamed that the Lord took my weekly contribution to the church, multiplied it by ten, and turned this amount into my weekly income. In no time, I lost all my furniture, and had to give up my car. Why, I couldn't even make a house payment. What can a person do with only \$10.00 a week?

Suppose the Lord took YOUR offering and multiplied it by ten and made that your weekly income. How much would you earn?

Submitted by Mavis Lean

Due to excessive excitement in October, the Sing-along is postponed to Sunday 26th February next year.

Holy Spirit Watsonia Mothers' Union

Wednesday 26th October: 10 am meeting and A.G.M.

October is the month when we have our annual M.U. Christmas cards and diaries for sale. Order form and samples will be on show at Saturday night church.

M.U. Diocesan Council meeting: **Monday 24th October**, 10 am to 2.30 pm, BYO lunch, at St Peter's Eastern Hill. We will be able to meet the two Malawi ladies and hear first hand of their sewing skills achieved whilst here in Melbourne.

Elsie Storr

St John's Ladies' Fellowship

Our fellowship meeting was held on the 24th August with an attendance of twenty-seven.

Our guest speaker was Greg Jones, regional officer for the Bush Church Aid Society. Greg gave us a very interesting insight into BCA, its challenges and how it got started. Greg also brought along his guitar and sang some lovely songs, the first of which he composed when he first became a Christian.

Greg related how people living in the outback would only receive a visit from clergy every couple of years. Prior to the formation of BCA in 1919 it had been the vision of many people to provide pastoral and spiritual care for the original inhabitants and settlers in remote areas of Australia.

In Victoria, BCA first started in Far-East Gippsland near Orbost where pastoral visits were often done on horseback.

During the 1930s, medical ministries were established: these included bush hospitals and clinics. The first 'Flying Doctor' service started in South Australia.

Greg described many remote places he visited, gold mining towns and sheep stations and what wonderful welcomes he received.

BCA try to encourage new churches and a Uniting Church is working as a co-operative church in the south-east of Bendigo where 150 people worship.

Every year the parish at Sunraysia South plans a special conference called 'The Bible in the Bush'. A group of guys from Sydney recently got together to raise some money for BCA.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 26th October at 1.30 pm.

Our guest speaker will be Jacqueline Ninan, author of 'A Woman's War', an historical novel about life on the home front during World War 1.

All very welcome.

Pauline Holbery, Secretary Tel. 9459 0364

Donald Bellamy and Cursillo

Dear friends,

Some of you may be aware of Cursillo, a 3 day weekend intense course in Christian Living.

It is part of the tradition of these weekends that friends, family and others who have attended a course get together to welcome the latest group back into their community.

Donald is doing his Cursillo in October and it may be fitting, as well as a nice surprise, if some of us from Banyule were there for the occasion.

When: Sunday 16th October

Where: Holy Cross, Serpells Road Templestowe.

Time: 3 pm until about 5.30

For more information contact Mike Terry on 94573848.

“Virtue is Its Own Reward”

Virtue its own reward? Alas!

And what a poor one as a rule!
Be Virtuous and Life will pass

Like one long term of Sunday-School.
(No prospect, truly, could one find
More unalluring to the mind.)

You may imagine that it pays
To practice Goodness. Not a bit!
You cease receiving any praise
When people have got used to it;
'Tis generally understood
You find it *easy* to be good.

The Model Child has got to keep
His fingers and his garments white;
In church he may not go to sleep,
Nor ask to stop up late at night.
In fact he must not ever do
A single thing he wishes to.

He may not paddle in his boots,
Like naughty children, at the Sea;
The sweetness of Forbidden Fruits
Is not, alas! for such as he.
He watches, with pathetic eyes,
His weaker brethren make mud-pies.

He must not answer back, oh no!
However rude grown-ups may be,
But keep politely silent, tho'
He brim with scathing repartee;
For nothing is considered worse
Than scoring off Mamma or Nurse.

He must not eat too much at meals.
Nor scatter crumbs upon the floor;
However vacuous he feels,
He may not pass his plate for more;
—Not tho' his every organ ache
For further slabs of Christmas Cake.

He is enjoined to choose his food
From what is easy to digest;
A choice which in itself is good,
But never what *he* likes the best.
(At times how madly he must wish
For just *one* real unwholesome dish!)

And, when the wretched urchin plays
With other little girls and boys,
He has to show unselfish ways
By giving them his choicest toys;
His ears he lets them freely box,
Or pull his lubricated locks.

His face is always being washed,
His hair perpetually brushed,
And thus his brighter side is squashed,
His human instincts warped and crushed;
Small wonder that his early years
Are filled with “thoughts too deep for tears.”

He is commanded not to waste
The fleeting hours of childhood's days
By giving way to any taste
For circuses or matinees;
For him the entertainments planned
Are “Lectures on the Holy Land.”

He never reads a story book
By Rider H. or Winston C.,
In vain upon his desk you'd look
For tales by Richard Harding D.;
Nor could you find upon his shelf
The works of Rudyard—or myself!

He always fears that he may do
Some action that is *infra dig.*,
And so he lives his short life through
In the most noxious rôle of Prig.
 (“Short life” I say, for it's agreed
The Good die very young indeed.)

Ah me! How sad it is to think
He could have lived like me—or you!
With practice and a taste for drink,
Our joys he might have known, he too!
And shared the pleasure *we* have had
In being gloriously bad!

The Naughty Boy gets much delight
From doing what he should not do;
But, as such conduct isn't Right,
He sometimes suffers for it, too.
Yet, what's a spanking to the fun
Of leaving vital things Undone?

If he's notoriously bad,
But for a day should change his ways,
His parents will be all so glad,
They'll shower him with gifts and praise!
(It pays a connoisseur in crimes
To be a perfect saint at times.)

Of course there always lies the chance
That he is charged with being ill,
And all his innocent romance
Is ruined by a rhubarb pill.
(Alas! 'Tis not alone the Good
That are so much misunderstood.)

But, as a rule, when he behaves
(Evincing no malarial signs),
His friends are all his faithful slaves,
Until he once again declines
With easy conscience, more or less,
To undiluted wickedness.

The Wicked flourish like the bay,
At Cards or Love they always win,
Good Fortune dogs their steps all day,
They fatten while the Good grow thin.
The Righteous Man has much to bear;
The Bad becomes a Bullionaire!

For, though he be the greatest sham,
Luck favours him his whole life through;
At “Bridge” he always makes a Slam
After declaring “Sans atout”;
With ev'ry deal his fate has planned
A hundred Aces in his hand.

And it is always just the same;
He somehow manages to win,
By mere good fortune, any game
That he may be competing in.
At Golf no bunker breaks his club,
For him the green provides no “rub.”

At Billiards, too, he flukes away
(With quite unnecessary “side”);
No matter what he tries to play,
For him the pockets open wide;
He never finds both balls in baulk,
Or makes mis-cues for want of chalk.

He swears; he very likely bets;
He even wears a flaming necktie;
Inhales Egyptian cigarettes
And has a “Mens Inconscia Recti”;
Yet, spite of it all, one must confess
That naught succeeds like his excess.

There's no occasion to be Just,
No need for motives that are fine,
To be Director of a Trust,
Or Manager of a Combine;
Your corner is a public curse,
Perhaps; but it will fill your purse.

Then stride across the Public's bones,
Crush all opponents under you,
Until you “rise on stepping-stones
Of their dead selves”; and, when you do,
The widow's and the orphan's tears
Shall comfort your declining years!

But having had your boom in oil,
And made your millions out of it,
Would you propose to cease from toil?
Great Vanderfeller! Not a bit!
You've *got* to labour, day and night,
Until you die—and serve you right!

Then, when you stop this frenzied race,
And others in your office sit,
You'll leave the world a better place,
—The better for your leaving it!
For there's a chance perhaps your heir
May spend what you've collected there.

Myself, how lucky I must be,
That need not fear so gross an end;
Since fortune has not favoured me
With many million pounds to spend.
(Still, did that fickle Dame relent,
I'd show you how they *should* be spent!)

I am not saint enough to feel
My shoulder ripen to a wing,
Nor have I wits enough to steal
His title from the Copper King;
And there's a vasty gulf between
The Man I Am and Might Have Been;

But tho' at dinner I may take
Too much of Heidsieck (extra dry),
And underneath the table make
My simple couch just where I lie,
My mode of roosting on the floor
Is just a trick and nothing more.

And when, not Wisely but too Well,
My thirst I have contrived to quench,
The stories I am apt to tell
May be, perhaps, a trifle French;
(For 'tis in anecdote, no doubt,
That what's Bred in the Beaune comes out.)

It does not render me unfit
To give advice, both wise and right,
Because I do not follow it
Myself as closely as I might;
There's nothing that I wouldn't do
To point the proper road to *you*.

And this I'm sure of, more or less,
And trust that you will all agree,
The Elements of Happiness
Consist in being—just like Me;
No sinner, nor a saint perhaps,
But—well, the very best of chaps.

Share the Experience I have had,
Consider all I've known and seen,
And Don't be Good, and Don't be Bad,
But cultivate a Golden Mean.

What makes Existence *really* nice
Is Virtue—with a dash of Vice.

Harry Graham, *Perverted Proverbs* (1903)

Vestry Notes

Meeting of Tuesday 20th September 2011 at 7.30 pm

ITEMS TO NOTE

- Cross at Watsonia completed – it looks great
- Car-park at Watsonia – negotiations with council in progress.
- Using Watsonia capital for Op Shop verandah – this needs a permit.
- Rental agreement for the tennis club – we accept the current donation and rates and review next year
- Stewardship programme under way – very little feedback received so far.
- Northern Pest Control reported clearance of the possums. Rat bait has also been laid. The extra cleaners will be cancelled. It was suggested that "owls" be tried to scare the possums away.
- St John's 160th Anniversary Committee for 23 October – all attempts to find the old time capsule fruitless. No offers to help in with a new one – so to be shelved.
- Playgroup request for heating in St John's lower hall. Quotes received:
Lower Hall: Heater – \$5000. Curtain – \$1000
Chapel: Heater – \$4000. Curtain – \$693
Upper Hall: Heater – \$4800

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

REGULAR REPORTS

MINISTRY REPORTS

Senior minister:

- New Rosters – provoked much discussion.
- Survey for congregational meetings was discussed.
- New wardens/members for vestry are required.
- Thanksgiving and Commitment Sunday 2 Oct – Vestry to provide morning tea.
- Special projects with use of donation – Vestry to consider possibilities – Heidelberg: heating in lower hall, heating in chapel, verandah; Rosanna: the front garden.

Assistant minister:

- WACKY and strategy for family ministry 2012 – 2015.

WARDENS' REPORTS

Heidelberg

- 1A Burgundy and garden adjoining Masonic village: declined invitation to go to VCAT. The benefit gained was not worth the cost.

Rosanna

- Op Shop rental agreement – to continue with the current rent.

FINANCE: Budget for 2012 in preparation.

Rosemary Bellair

Signs of a Healthy Parish

- ✘ People are constantly expressing disagreement, and they do it right out in the open.
- ✘ The Rector is always behind in his work.
- ✘ The Vestry can never seem to make ends meet financially. And they are forever giving money away.
- ✘ New groups keep cropping up and bumping into each other over schedules and competing over volunteers.
- ✘ A number of people miss meetings and insist on spending time with their families.
- ✘ The choir is filled with a lot of amateurs.
- ✘ The kids are noisy and all over the place, including worship.
- ✘ The prayer books are wearing out, the coffee hour is crowded and confusing, the front door is almost off its hinges, the electric bill is way over budget, and it seems an awful lot of people have keys and all kinds of people are coming and going.
- ✘ The place is full of losers. People who have lost their loved ones, people who know they can't make it on their own. People who are losing but also finding their lives in receiving and giving a lot of love, for Christ's sake.

In short, a healthy, growing, lively church!

St Paul's Epistle, St Paul's Episcopal Church, Shreveport, Louisiana

Misprints and Oddities

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I upped my pledge - up yours!".

Church newsletter

LONELY LADY, 43, with little dog, seeks post.

Ad in *Exeter Express and Echo*

160 years of St John's



ca. 1900

(Heidelberg Historical Society)



ca. 1950

(Photo by Colin Caldwell, in State Library of Victoria)