

# BANYULE BABBLE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BANYULE

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

JULY  
2013

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

Ministers: **Philip Trowse** 0416 230 455 **René Pfitzner** 0401 609 946

**Rosemary Young** 0437 848 394

Internet: [www.banyuleparish.org.au](http://www.banyuleparish.org.au)

email [banyuleparish@netspace.net.au](mailto:banyuleparish@netspace.net.au)

Editor: Peter McKay ph. 9459 5852 email [petergmckay@hotmail.com](mailto:petergmckay@hotmail.com)

## PHILIP PHILOSOPHISES

'Through all the changing scenes of life'

*Through all the changing scenes of life,  
In trouble and in joy,  
The praises of my God shall still  
My heart and tongue employ.*

*Oh, magnify the Lord with me,  
With me exalt His name;  
When in distress to Him I called,  
He to my rescue came.*

*The hosts of God encamp around  
The dwellings of the just;  
Deliverance He affords to all  
Who on His succour trust.*

LIFE continues to bring change to us, and we continue to change with it. I was reminded of this last week as we farewelled Joan McDonald, who has now gone to live in care in Maldon, near her son Paul. Joan has been a faithful member of this community for the last 40 years, but is now unable to live alone, as she has become frailer. However, her spirit is not quenched: she is peaceful and happy in her trust of the Lord through it all. And we know that we will continue to keep in touch, and to pray for one another.

The Lord promises to be with us "through all the changing scenes of life...he camps around us, and gives us succour".

This week vestry faced a number of big decisions, to do with management of our property, and this is a good example of finding God's presence and direction in the changing scenes of our life:

### Vicarage

We are planning to upgrade the main vicarage in Gloucester Drive, and because it has been neglected for some time, it will be expensive to renovate. The vestry agreed that we should use money we have in reserve from various bequests to do this. This plan will mean that René and Louisa will move there in August, and Philip and Geraldine will move into the Jika St Unit. This will enable the clergy to live in the parish, which I believe will be better for all.

### Car Park

At Heidelberg, building developments continue to happen around us. In August, the Freemason's village will begin their work at last - and we have agreed to let a number of tradespersons' cars use our car park (for a fee, which we plan to use to upgrade the car park). It will mean some disruption for the next two years, but I hope at the end of this we will have improved our physical setting for the future.

### Rosanna 2015

Also to do with the future development of our properties, we are about to begin a series of meetings to plan 'Rosanna 2015', with the committee made up of members of the vestry, the Diocese, and specialist consultants. Out of this process, I hope a plan and vision will emerge which helps us to make better use of the Rosanna property for the long-term benefit of the Anglican church, both in Diocesan mission and in our area. We cannot pre-empt what decisions will be, but you should expect that we will be planning for a major change in the use of this valuable asset. Please pray for the first meeting on 23 July.

### Watsonia Teaching Programme

At Watsonia, we do not face the same physical changes, but we have entered into a new phase with our teaching series for the whole parish. Though we have lost a few members due to the change of time to Sunday night, and currently we only attract about 20 people, I am delighted with the response to our teaching series on Luke this term: I have found it especially encouraging listen to René and his clear teaching.

### Staffing

With regard to René and Louisa, we've been discussing the idea that they may be able to stay on with us beyond a standard 2 year curacy. This would be marvellous for us all: it will mean we can plan for some longer-term goals. Please pray for our discussions and planning with the Bishop and Diocese.

### Our Main Priorities

Caring for our current people and growing a new church over the next few years remain the main priorities for us all. We benefit from the foresight of godly people of past generations, and we pray that future generations may look back and bless us for our diligence and obedience.

*Through all the changing scenes of life,  
In trouble and in joy...*

*Oh, magnify the Lord with me,  
With me exalt His name!*

May God continue to bless you all.

Philip

## ADF for your money?

In order to buy the new vicarage near St John's, we took out a loan from the Anglican Development Fund (ADF). The interest on this loan is kept low because we have reserves deposited with the ADF. However, those reserves will evaporate when we have to renovate the Gloucester Drive vicarage, which is now essential after our last tenants.

We shall then have to pay much higher interest on our loan . . . UNLESS parishioners step up to the plate. You can deposit money in the ADF, and get (at current rates) 2.5% for at call, or 3.5–3.75% for term deposits from three months to two years. These compare pretty well with current bank rates, and your investment is guaranteed by the Diocese.

When you put money into the ADF, the form has a section that says "I / We wish our investment to be allocated in support of (Parish) . . ." If you specify the Parish of Banyule, the parish doesn't get your money, nor does it become security for our loan, but it nevertheless helps to lower the interest rate we pay.

More about the ADF is available in pamphlets at each centre, and at <http://www.melbourne.anglican.com.au/ServingCommunity/adf/Pages/anglicandevlopmentfund.aspx>

## This Month – July

**Sunday 7th:** 8 am St Andrew's; 10 am St John's (Family service); 5 pm Holy Spirit (+ teaching)

**Monday 8th:** 1.30 pm Anglicare: Blumes Fashions, St Andrew's Fellowship Hall, \$6, 9457 2321

**Wednesday 10th:** 11 am Strathalan; 3 pm Southern Cross Macleod

**Sunday 14th Sea Sunday:** 10 am St John's; 10 am St Andrew's; 5 pm Holy Spirit (with teaching)

**Monday 15th:** 1.30 pm St Andrew's Mothers' Union

**Wednesday 17th:** 11 am Iris Grange

**Saturday 20th:** 8.30–9.30 am AMS at Scooters; 9.30 am Fair Meeting, St Andrew's

**Sunday 21st:** 10 am St John's for whole parish

**Wednesday 24th:** 1.30 pm St John's Ladies' Fellowship

**Sunday 28th:** 10 am St John's; 10 am St Andrew's; 5 pm Holy Spirit (with teaching)

## Next Month – August

**Saturday 3rd:** Parish Working Bee at St John's

## Wanted

- New helpers for *mainly music*
- New volunteers for the Macleod Op Shop
- A Treasurer's Assistant

## Money – May

Income:	Giving:	\$5,480.00
	Other:	\$15,396.11
	Total:	\$20,876.11
Expenses:		\$39,183.22
<b>Loss:</b>		<b>\$18,307.11</b>

A bad month. Giving was down, and so was other income, even though it included about \$2500 in 'one-off' matters. Expenses were especially high because both April and May monthly employment expenses appeared in May (which is why we made a profit in April).

We are down on budget for the year, and we have several big expenses still to come.

## Anglicare Rosanna Auxiliary

*invite parishioners, friends & neighbours*

to a presentation of

## Blumes Winter Fashions

Monday 8th July 1.30 pm

*Fellowship Hall St Andrew's Rosanna*

Come enjoy the fashions & fellowship

— Afternoon Tea —

Donation \$6

RSVP Mavis 9457 2321

## St John's Ladies' Fellowship

**Wednesday 24th July:** 1.30 pm: A representative from Banyule Health Promotion will give us hints on how to keep fit and healthy.

*Eileen Broadway*

## St Andrew's Mothers' Union

**Monday 15th July:** 1.30 pm Branch Meeting. Wave of Prayer and collection for AMS.

*Betty Kettle, 9435 6533*

## Anglican Men's Society

On **Saturday 20th July** at 8.30–9.30 am the Anglican Men's Society is holding a Breakfast at Scooters in Rosanna. All men are invited: good food (bacon & eggs), good fellowship, good conversation.

## The parable of the long spoons

Rabbi Haim of Romshishok [= Rumsiskes (Lithuania)] was an itinerant preacher. He travelled from town to town delivering religious sermons that stressed the importance of respect for one's fellow man. He often began his talks with the following story:

"I once ascended to the firmaments. I first went to see Hell and the sight was horrifying. Row after row of tables was laden with platters of sumptuous food, yet the people seated around the tables were pale and emaciated, moaning in hunger. As I came closer, I understood their predicament.

"Every person held a full spoon, but both arms were splinted with wooden slats so he could not bend either elbow to bring the food to his mouth. It broke my heart to hear the tortured groans of these poor people as they held their food so near but could not consume it.

"Next I went to visit Heaven. I was surprised to see the same setting I had witnessed in Hell – row after row of long tables laden with food. But in contrast to Hell, the people here in Heaven were sitting contentedly talking with each other, obviously sated from their sumptuous meal.

"As I came closer, I was amazed to discover that here, too, each person had his arms splinted on wooden slats that prevented him from bending his elbows. How, then, did they manage to eat?

"As I watched, a man picked up his spoon and dug it into the dish before him. Then he stretched across the table and fed the person across from him! The recipient of this kindness thanked him and returned the favour by leaning across the table to feed his benefactor.

I suddenly understood. Heaven and Hell offer the same circumstances and conditions. The critical difference is in the way the people treat each other.

I ran back to Hell to share this solution with the poor souls trapped there. I whispered in the ear of one starving man, "You do not have to go hungry. Use your spoon to feed your neighbour, and he will surely return the favour and feed you."

"You expect me to feed the detestable man sitting across the table?" said the man angrily. "I would rather starve than give him the pleasure of eating!"

"I then understood God's wisdom in choosing who is worthy to go to Heaven and who deserves to go to Hell."

## The Savoy Singers: '100 Years of Musical Comedy'

2 pm Sunday 27th October, St Andrew's Rosanna

Tickets \$20, including afternoon tea. Concessions available

*Those who have heard the Savoy Singers sing their praises. This is a major fundraiser and we are looking to sell at least 100 tickets. Bring friends!*

## Sermon by Philip

Pentecost 4, 16 June 2013

Combined Service at St John's

2 Samuel 11:26–12:10, 13–15

When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son.

But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD, and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife."

David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan said to David, "Now the LORD has put away your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child that is born to you shall die." Then Nathan went to his house. The LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became very ill.

Galatians 2:15–21

We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. **I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.** I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

Luke 7:36–8:3

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and

what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "Speak." "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he cancelled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. **Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.**" Then he said to her, "**Your sins are forgiven.**" But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

## God expects all from us, but we have nothing to give

By linking and contrasting the two stories today I hope to show you that in the Christian life there is nothing more important than seeking to please God first in our life.

This should be obvious, but sadly it is not always the priority of every person who professes Christ as Lord.

You may have been a faithful church-goer for 60 years, or you may have only recently come to accept Christ as Saviour and Lord. Either way, we can miss the main point, and we need to examine ourselves and open our hearts anew to God as Master and Lord.

Think about David in our OT story today: He is often called a "man after God's own heart" (1 Sam 13:13)

How was he a man after God's own heart? He loved to pray, he loved to praise, he hated evil, and he longed for unity amongst the people of God.

This is a worthy model for us to follow.

But as we know, David was also very human. It seems that lust and self-indulgence were a couple of his pet sins. So when he fell in lust for Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah (one of his faithful soldiers), he was overcome with temptation, and stole her, making her pregnant and then covering up his sin by having Uriah murdered. He thought he had got away with it, but the reading in such simple terms shows us that God sees everything and we cannot hide anything from Him:

**But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD, and the LORD sent Nathan to David.**

As a result of a simple story, which got in behind his guard, David was able to see himself in the pure mirror of God's word, and see how badly he had fallen. He was a broken man. He begged for forgiveness, and this was given – but not without appalling cost to himself and to others.

God did not punish the baby born to Bathsheba, but simply announced to David

that the turn of events in his life would bring him to true brokenness and repentance. I have no doubt that that little baby was carried straight to God's loving arms and will never suffer again.

David (and Bathsheba for that matter) would continue to suffer the consequences of his actions in his lifetime – and despite the fact that he loved God, his sons would rebel against him, and the kingdom under Solomon would be divided. In the midst of this, the promise emerged, though, that God would bring "from David's line" a Messiah who would be the perfect King, and would rule with justice and purity.

Have you ever realised that you have strayed from the Lord's way, and had to be disciplined and broken in his love? You realise then that you really have *nothing* to give to God.

There have been times when all of us have thought "how hard it is to follow God", and we have wandered away from loving him with all our heart.

So we know the experience of David – it is the human experience – of wandering, brokenness and humility. All of us find that we are the Prodigal son who has wandered from home.

So let's turn to the second story and see how it might fit with David's story.

The woman who wandered in, weeping, and embarrassed everyone with her extravagant show of love for Jesus. Here is a person who also has strayed from God's best for her. She knows, like David did, and like we do, that God calls us to love him with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. But could she do it? No. Can we do it? No. No matter how much we may try!

She has realised how far she has fallen from the life God wanted for her: once she would have been someone's baby, an innocent little girl, playing happily with her friends in the street; but as she grew up, maybe life threw some real hardships her way. Perhaps she married, but was treated badly by her husband (that would be all too common, since women "belonged" to the man in those days), perhaps her husband had died, and she had children to feed, and so in desperation she had turned to prostitution. There were plenty of Roman soldiers who would visit her for some quick comfort.

She must have felt wretched: imagine what it would be like, having to sell your body just to eat?! But maybe her children got fed as a result, so was it really so wrong?

She knew her life did not match up with what *she* wanted, let alone what *God* wanted, for her!

She was a broken woman. Probably shunned, outcast. But what could she do? It was a poor society under occupation: who had anything to help her with!? She was alone. In desperation she had gone down a path of self-destruction.

Then she heard a story too, which woke her soul to the longing to be free, to be whole. It was a story of a visiting rabbi. He was not like the local scribes and religious leaders: she heard that he had raised a little girl from death, embraced a demon-possessed man, taught beautiful things about the rule of God. The thirst in her came alive, and nothing would quench it.

So she took the bold step of turning up in the middle of a dinner party – not a very happy party, actually – in the local Pharisee's house. It was not somewhere she was welcome.

# Vestry Notes

Meeting of Tuesday 18th June at 7.30 pm

## MATTERS ARISING

- The new signs are up – the bill is still to come.
- Rosanna 2015 committee first meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> July.
- U3A – no reply to offer of a reduced fee.
- The possums at St Andrew's are an on-going project.

## REPORTS

- Philip – on the whole the Parish seems to be running well.
- Rene – is continuing to get more involved.

## FINANCE REPORT – Geoff Murphy

- Overall about \$5000 loss for the year.
- Accounts to the value of \$39,183.22 as presented were approved for payment.

## WARDENS' REPORTS

### Heidelberg

- The gutters around the halls to be checked and cleaned out at the next working bee.
- Quote of \$5,400 to repair the capping on buttress, check others & repair/replace loose slates.

### Rosanna

- A new 3-year lease for the Macleod Op. Shop signed. The rent is up about 20%.
- The rear heaters in the church can no longer be replaced as no parts are available. It was agreed to take no action due to lack of funds.

### Watsonia

- The blocked toilet caused by tree roots. Removal cost \$350.
- Another flood has required removal of the carpet. A plumber to be asked to ascertain the problem.
- The Op. Shop staff attended an OCHS 'training' by BSL. They are trying to get a new policy adopted in all their stores. The Guidelines to be revamped and all staff made aware of the new rules. These will then be modified and adopted at Macleod.

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

## Wider Parish

- An inspection of Gloucester Drive revealed that a lot of work is needed to make this habitable again viz. new carpet, floors sanded, curtains replaced, light fittings repaired & a complete paint job. The garden has become a wilderness and the tenants owe \$3,000 in rent. The downstairs bathroom needs a re-fit, split system coolers need to be fitted & the central heating needs repair. The spouting also needs attention.

Peter Harper will advise on this work but it is likely to cost in the region of \$45,000.

- Air-conditioners in Jika Street – cost \$5000 .
- The lighting in St John's is complete.
- New photocopier in the Budget for 2014.
- A schedule of systematic maintenance being drawn up – looking at all our properties on a regular basis.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### • Car park at Heidelberg (builders' parking)

There was much discussion about this – whether we could accommodate 14 cars. The money earned would pay for the car park to be sealed. May be better to exchange car parking for car park upgrade? Or spend the money on fixing Gloucester Drive?

\$10/day per car suggested – more in line with current prices.

What remains unresolved is how we also accommodate 20 cars from mainly music families plus seven cars for the mainly music team.

### • Pathways #2 session on 29 June

Allan pointed out that we have a special low rate of interest on our loan for Jika Street as a result of having sufficient funds in the ADF to cover the loan. If we repeatedly draw down on these funds, for whatever reason, and the sum invested drops below the loan figure the rate of interest will automatically increase. If members of the parish put money into the ADF and wrote in the Parish of Banyule as their special parish interest this would avoid the problem.

### • Vestry Morning Tea for combined services

It was decided to see what happens on the new roster.

*Rosemary Bellair*

Only one thought drove her: and that thought blinded her to everything else:

"I am so bad, I just want to be good again. Maybe he can help me?"

A jar of priceless perfume, maybe a gift of a wealthy client, usually used to prepare herself for her customers – but the best thing she had to give. And what a gift! Hundreds of dollars worth of perfume!

She makes it to the house...she creeps in the door...people see a shape moving out of the corner of their eyes...she slinks across the room, at first eyes downcast, but then as she searches for the visiting teacher, she sees him. He stands out as a light amongst this stern and dismal crowd...and then she only has eyes for him. All else fades into the background, as she comes across to him, the tears break from her and fall on his feet; she breaks the neck of the jar, pours it on his feet; undoes her headscarf and lets down her hair, falling at his feet and weeping like she will never be able to stop! This is her only gift: her brokenness, and she gives it freely.

More beautiful than the perfume, more precious than gold or silver, more sacrificial than the lavish feast on the tables...

And Jesus sees into her heart. By way of contrast with the Lord "being displeased with David", here the Lord is deeply pleased and touched by this woman's act of generous self-giving love and emptiness.

**Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."**

But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Paul, the greatest Christian missionary, must have also known this brokenness. Think of him, on the Damascus Road, heading there to arrest and persecute the Christian sect, and to do God's work! He realized as he saw the light, that Jesus whom he had been hating, was the very one who demanded all, and would be the Judge of all. Imagine how broken Paul must have been! As he went into Damascus, blind and led by the hand; he did not eat for three days...I think he just wanted to die!! What a waste his life energy had been up to this point! How wrong he had got it!

But Christ met him too, and healed him: Ananias said, "Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared on the road, sent me to you. Receive your sight."

And what a change it was! Never again would Paul be the same! No wonder he became the great preacher to the gentiles! He had been broken, and in his brokenness, had nothing to offer to God. He saw all his righteousness as filthy rags, and counted everything else like garbage compared to knowing Christ!

This realization of our own inadequacy and the Lord's grace in us will always be the experience of the true Christian: think about Peter, who denied his best friend, or Thomas...totally broken. We have no hope in our own strength. Our weak and flawed nature is leading us into death.

Lest you think this is all very well in theory, think about how the Lord Jesus experienced this as well: as a beautiful, perfect human being, he was totally broken and became nothing for us. All that power! All that love! All that giftedness! Put aside and pinned to a cross. He experienced David's brokenness, the woman's emptiness, our desolation.

And he overcame it in his resurrection, to become the most powerful force in the universe.

He invites us into his life, to experience new life:

**I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**

Broken? Useless? No, but held in the Lord's own hands and precious to him.

*The Lord is close to the broken hearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

*Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!*

*Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!*

Happy indeed, as we weep on Jesus' feet and pour out our most costly perfume onto him.

Go in peace; your faith has made you whole.

Philip

