

BANYULE BABBLE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BANYULE

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

**NOVEMBER
2012**

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PHILIP PHILOSOPHISES

DIRECTIONS FOR 2013

THANK YOU to the large number of people (70) who filled in questionnaires, and attended the series of meetings recently to talk about our directions for the parish. Even though we are wrestling with a couple of big issues, it is very heartening to see the unity and support of the people of this Parish as we move forward. I am continually grateful for your support and willingness to accommodate changes.

Our meetings show that we are very conscious of our need for one another, and our unity in making good decisions which will ensure the survival and the thriving of the Anglican Parish of Banyule into the future. We were pretty much agreed that we have too much property, and we have to embrace the future development of the Rosanna centre and see the use of any income from this to promote mission. We are on track to have two vicarages so our ministers can live in the parish, and we are agreed about our use of parish finances to spend where the need is greatest.

When it comes to making sure service times on Sunday are tailored to the needs of people, we are mostly agreed that we have to do a bit of a "juggling act", but that we should be taking an overall view of this.

In 2013, I will be proposing that we move to having all services on a Sunday:

- Traditional communion at **Rosanna** 8 am (2 Sundays) and 10 am (2 Sundays)
- **Heidelberg** with Family service on the first Sunday of the month, with Holy Communion (varied styles) every week
- **Watsonia**, a pattern of different types of services (including a healing service and a fellowship meal) at 6 pm ("Sundays at Six")

Sadly, the option of having Ros Rudd on staff with us will not be possible as the Diocese want her to focus on Chaplaincy. We wish her well

as she focuses on her ministry in the hospitals, which we also share in. We hope we will be able to continue to have both Ros and Rosemary with us from time to time, perhaps as locums on Sundays.

The response to the idea of having more small groups and consistent teaching was positive, and I believe this is an important way for us to grow in our faith. If you can think of a small group you belong to in the parish, and how it may become more inclusive of prayer and Bible study, let us know. I also hope we will be able to develop more lay teams for funeral, baptism and wedding ministry, as well as continue our focus on outreach through mainly music, Op shops, RE in schools, and "Kids' Hope".

Our most pressing need is to pass on the gospel to the next generation, not so that we can keep our institution alive, but so that the glorious story of the presence of Christ in the world will continue to bring hope and healing to people's lives in the future.

God bless you as you take your part in the Body of Christ.

PARISH FAIR 17th Nov!!

St John's, 9.30 – 2
Come, help and buy!

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We are sad to say farewell to Andrew, Camille and Ethan as they finish up their ministry with us in January 2013. He and Camille have enriched our lives in many ways and we wish them well in the future. Andrew's last Sunday on duty will be 13th January, where he will baptise his son, Ethan at a combined service at Heidelberg: what a lovely way to finish!

Andrew has been appointed as Assistant Priest in the parish of St John's Diamond Creek, so he will not be too far away!

Replacing Andrew will be René Pfitzner, who comes to us as a newly ordained priest, with his wife Louisa, and two boys, Tobias (5) and Bruce (2). They will be moving into the parish in December, and René starts work in January.

I hope you will be filled with joy and confidence as we move forward together.

With love and prayer,
Philip



CLERGY ADVERTISEMENTS

UNDERSTANDING THE HIDDEN SYMBOLISM

SIGNS LIKE THIS MEAN THAT THE ADVERTISEMENT IS MORE LIKELY TO BE GENUINE, RATHER THAN ONE SUBMITTED BY A PRANKSTER

⊕ DIOCESE OF ██████████
THE PARISH OF ██████████ AND ██████████
██████████ WITH ██████████, ██████████ ██████████, ██████████ AND ██████████

- WE ARE LOOKING FOR A PERSON OF PRAYER WITH GOOD PREACHING AND PASTORAL SKILLS
- THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MISSION NETWORKING
- THERE IS SCOPE FOR ENCOURAGING LAY PARTICIPATION
- WE NEED A VISIONARY LEADER WHO IS ENERGETIC, ENTHUSIASTIC AND PRACTICAL

WE HAVE BLOCKED OUT THESE DETAILS FOR OBVIOUS REASONS

"WE LOOKED AT ALL OF THE OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS AND COPIED WHAT THEY HAD WRITTEN"



"YOU CAN GO TO THE PUB IF YOU LIKE"



"NO-ONE ELSE WILL DO ANYTHING"



"YOU WILL HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING"

This Month – November

Thursday 1st: 7.30 pm Parenting Seminar, St John's

Sunday 4th: St Andrew's Mission Boxes

Saturday 17th: 9.30 am – 2 pm Parish Spring Fair

Monday 19th: 10.30 am Mothers' Union Northern Deanery AGM at St Andrew's; 2 pm St Andrew's M.U. Break-up, Sycamore Tree

Sunday 25th: 10 am Combined Parish Service at St John's, followed by Parish AGM

Wednesday 28th: 10 am Holy Spirit Mothers' Union last meeting for 2012; 6 for 6.30 pm St John's Fellowship Spit Roast, \$23 9859 6353

Wanted

- New volunteers for the Macleod Op Shop

Continuing the series of lectures preached by Andrew at St John's on Deuteronomy . . .

'Against Idolatry'

Deuteronomy 12:1–7 & Acts 17:22–31

St. John's, Heidelberg, 5/08/12

Last week in our series on Deuteronomy we were thinking about the Ten Commandments. Today we think about what it means to obey the first and second commandments.

'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.'

'You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them...'

I've argued in the last few weeks that the book of Deuteronomy is really about ethics. It is designed to provide guidance for the people of Israel as to how they are to live in the Promised Land in an ethical way. And for us it is a template and example of how Christian ethics is formed, as a response to our relationship to God. It's interesting, then, that the first thing that the law of Moses is concerned with is proper worship, which is not something that we would naturally consider an ethical problem. But for Israel, the most urgent task in living in the land that they were about to enter was establishing the proper worship of God, and putting aside and tearing down the idols that were there. In order to understand this it is worth considering what idolatry is.

There are two issues with idolatry. One is the religious problem, and the other is the emotional and psychological one.

The religious problem of idolatry is about ways of worship that institutionalise a confusion between creation and the Creator, between God and what he has made. The world is full of what we might call 'energies', the forces and objects and processes of the life of the world. Idolatry involves taking one of these forces and trying to access it and control it through worship. If you're familiar with the Old Testament you can see an example of this religious struggle that the Israelites constantly faced. This was the constant temptation to engage in fertility cults,

particularly the worship of the god Baal. These religions were about trying to engage the powers of the fertility of the earth, to make the crops grow and to have lots of children. Other religions of the time were focussed on the power of military force, and they had warrior gods who were supposed to give success in battle. The challenge that Israel faced is, 'are we going to worship the gods of nature in order to secure our fortune, or will we trust in the Creator and our relationship with him that is based on love?' In many ways it can be hard to see this kind of idolatry in contemporary society, because nature religions are very much a fringe element in our society. But if we see that the problem is not about having anthropomorphic 'gods' and worshipping them, but instead focussing on the energies of the world apart from God and to use their wealth and power, then the institutions that approximate this kind of idolatry would be things like the corruption of financial markets that we've suffered from in recent years, and the application of science for unethical, destructive and selfish ends. Money and knowledge and power in and of themselves and desired for themselves are pure religious idols.

The emotional problem of idolatry is to do with not so much with our religion but with our heart, and what it is that we focus on and what distracts us from God. John Calvin famously described the human heart as a 'factory of idols'. And Paul, in our reading from Acts, reminds us of this temptation – *'we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals'*. An image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. The idols of the heart are the objects, thoughts and feelings that take the place of a relationship with God. This can be as simple as the excessive love of a car, or a house, or any other possession. Or it can be very complex, involving a false image of God himself that has been generated from our own desires. Many of you will have read or heard about the book by Richard Dawkins called the 'God Delusion'. While he himself doesn't properly understand the point he is making, in reality the 'God' that deludes us, the 'God' that atheists rightly reject, is an idol of our heart and our mind.

Because we must understand that 'God', the Lord of Israel, the Father of Jesus Christ, is not a 'god' among other 'gods', who

St. John's Fellowship

End of Year Spit Roast

Wednesday 28th November 2012, 6.00 for 6.30 pm

St. John's Parish Hall

Cost \$23 includes a donation to Anglicare

RSVP with payment by Sunday, 25/11/2012 to Crystal (Tel. 9859 6353)

Everyone very welcome!

Pauline Holbery, Secretary 9459 0354

St Andrew's Mothers' Union

Monday 19th November 10.30 am: M.U. Deanery Day at St Andrew's

2 pm Christmas Break-up at the Sycamore Tree, Heidelberg

Betty Kettle 9435 6533

just happens to be the biggest and best one, even the true one. God the Father is who you find when the idols of your heart and mind have been cleared away and you are able to see purely and clearly again. This is why Christ said 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God'. This is the reality beyond all the gods. The Apostle Paul says it so well:

The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being".

So if we are to imagine what the problem of idolatry is like, reflect on this picture: A young boy on his birthday, receiving a large number of wonderful and exciting gifts. And he becomes so focussed on these gifts and enjoying them that he forgets that it was his mother and father who gave them to him in the first place. In fact he forgets that he has parents at all and just plays with his toys. He never thanks them. When we worship idols we are like that child – we love the gifts and we forget who gave them to us. The first and second commandments are about re-establishing this remembrance. It is about clearing the idols out of our own heart, and not participating in the religious worship of idols either. Because idol worship is selfish, it is about me having and enjoying what I want. It is the opposite of love. I said two weeks ago that all the ethics of Deuteronomy come back to love. How can we be like God, how can we love him and love other people, if we are so focussed on our idols?

Uprooting, tearing up and casting down idols is a constant and daily process. But we cannot live 'in the land' with God if we don't do it. So the first commandment is to learn how to worship correctly. Something like worship, that seems not to be practical, is the basis for practical ethics and Christian living.

Andrew Bowles

Mathew Scott Grigor Howell

21st March 1994 – 1st October 2012

We were very distressed to learn of the death of Peter Howell's son at the age of only 18. The funeral was held at his school (Luther College in Croydon) and was attended by a very large number of people.

There were four eulogies. It was clear that Mathew did not have an easy path in life, and I regretted deeply that I had spoken to him so little. Peter quoted from a German lament, traditional at military funerals:

*Ich hatt' einen Kameraden,
Einen bessern findst du nit.*

— I had a comrade,
you won't find a better one.

The service included this hymn:

JESUS, PLEASE WATCH OVER US

As we step from the edge of morning,
feet can't tell where to take us.

Here's a light that will shine forever,
here's the light that will guide us.

*Jesus, please watch over us;
Jesus, please take care of us.*

Trouble comes and we search for safety,
we forget that you hold us.

Fill our minds so that we remember,
say once more that you love us.

Danger meets us at every moment,
death is never in hiding.

You are stronger than any danger,
you are stronger than dying.

In your life is the Father's welcome,
in your death there is freedom.

Be our life and our death forever,
be our new resurrection.

(Words & music Robin Mann 1979)

Peter McKay

Ronald Joseph Seleeba

11/2/1930 – 29/9/2012

St Andrew's people will be saddened by the recent death of Ron Seleeba. He was not a church person, but he was very good to us, giving us much support and help at the Fête, including propagating a hundred plants for us each year. He also made rocking-horses and other things for Christmas special raffles.

We send condolences to his wife Pat.

Max Coomer

Celebrating the life of

Shirley Feuerheerd

9th March 1916 – 23rd August 2012

Mum's story related by Charis on behalf of sisters Naomi, Erica and Stephanie:

Shirley requested that not much be said about her at her funeral, but that it should be a service to glorify God.

Charis believes that telling Shirley's story will show God working in a life that was obedient to Him, creating a wonderful tapestry.

She was born in Melbourne in 1914, the fifth of six children. Her father, Horace Hannah, was the first accountant and later chief inspector of ES&A Bank in Melbourne.

The family were very involved in their church. Shirley's father helped set up the Leprosy Mission, and Ridley Theological College—and St Andrew's, at which he also served as lay reader. Shirley's parents hosted many missionaries and young theological students. This nurtured Shirley's great love of the Bible and her love of serving people in the community and overseas and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The ministry of Bush Church Aid to the people of outback Australia was shared through the hospitality of Shirley's family.

At the close of her school days, a great love for the organ developed, and Shirley began studies with a couple of well-known organists.

During World War II Shirley joined the Women's Land Army working in vineyards and orange groves in the Mildura area.

In 1944, Shirley travelled by ship to Tanganyika—now Tanzania—to care for the baby son of her brother Wellesley, a missionary doctor, whose wife had died. An interesting aside—Shirley arrived in Dodoma on 23rd August 1944, and her death occurred exactly 68 years later on 23rd August 2012.

She met her future husband, a German who had been in Tanganyika for ten years as a teacher and evangelist. In November 1947 they married in Dodoma and had become full-time CMS missionaries. For the next twenty years they lived in three areas of Tanganyika, training teachers and pastors and encouraging the development of African hymns in their own language and with their own music.

In 1967 the Feuerheerd family returned to Australia after many years of calling Tanzania home. Sadly, Shirley's husband of nineteen years died suddenly, six weeks later, of leukaemia. Shirley retrained as a secretary, entered the workforce, and raised her four daughters. She returned to the organ and became organist at St Andrew's, her childhood church. A great comfort to her was that her brother Wellesley and his family lived nearby, and knew Tanzania.

In 1980 Shirley made another brave decision, to move to Buderim in Queensland as companion to her eldest sister for the next 22 years, and found solace once again as organist at St Mark's there, over a period of seventeen years.

During twenty years Shirley led a Bible study group and a monthly missionary fellowship group, and was a great encourager to many people to read their Bibles regularly, using the guide 'Every Day with Jesus'.

In 1983 Shirley set off on a wonderful adventure for a couple of months to Europe and West Africa, visiting her husband's family in Germany and old friends from Tanzanian days in Switzerland, Denmark, England and Wales.

Three years ago it was evident that Shirley needed extra care as she became frailer. Again God moved ahead as He always did and led them to Buderim Views Aged Care, a new complex, just six months old. As Shirley and Charis sat in the car, deep in prayer, peace was theirs—Shirley gave assurance that God had promised to direct His children with His right hand. Yes, she moved in, chose her own room with peaceful views over the park, and she could watch the world go by.

Just a few days before her death, 69-year-old Lister, the baby she had cared for in Tanzania for over two years, visited Shirley. Yet another blessing God bestowed on his loyal servant.

Five days later Shirley completed her life's journey and praise God she now lives in glory.

The Rev'd Dr Peter Adam OAM, immediate past Principal of Ridley, has been a dear family friend of Shirley's, and wrote:

"Shirley was one of God's saints because she loved God, served His purposes, and lived for His glory. We thank God for her, and for His grace in her life, her gifts, and her ministry."



Charis Radford & Mavis Lean

Vestry Notes

Meeting of Tuesday 17th July 2012 at 7.30 pm

BUDGET AND STAFFING DECISIONS FOR 2013

- Through a generous donation from a parishioner our budget has been expanded to employ Ros Rudd on some Sundays at Rosanna. Lengthy discussion took place over various concerns which were raised.
- Andrew's last Sunday in the Parish will be 13th January 2013. Andrew's replacement will start immediately after that.

MINISTRY REPORTS

- Philip – involved with planning for the Retreat Day, Congregational Survey & AGM, & Carols in the Park
- Andrew – has created our new website and plans to focus on Rosanna for the next two months
- Ros – has spent the last five months caring for the congregation at Rosanna. Her work there has been very much appreciated by the congregation.

FINANCE REPORT

- The treasurer's report be accepted and accounts for July and August to the value of \$69,806.82 as presented were approved for payment.

WARDENS' REPORTS

Heidelberg

- There is to be a working bee at Heidelberg on Saturday 27th October. Tasks include:
 1. Lopping dead branches
 2. Cleaning windows
 3. Clearing the drain at the entrance

4. Spreading the gravel – to be purchased
5. Spreading the mulch – to be purchased

Rosanna

Nothing to report

Watsonia

- The Op Shop has had another good month
- There is probably some work to be done on the plumbing as the toilets are frequently blocked

IMPLEMENTING OUR M.A.P.

- Our new member of staff will move into Jika Street for six months and then into Gloucester Drive when it becomes available.
- Ministry – various team ministries should be developed to include lay people.
- Outreach and Mission – a wedding ministry could be developed and the baptism ministry built on.
- Kids' Hope will start next year.

UPDATES

- Parish Spring Fair – tracking OK.
- Lascelles Avenue – Settlement date is mid-November.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Nominations for 2012–3 Vestry due on **Sunday 11th November**
- **Sunday 25th November**: A.G.M.

Rosemary Bellair

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

Disadvantaged Children's Camps

Each year Banyule Council runs camps for disadvantaged children. Sherryn Prinzi writes to us:

“Each January disadvantaged children living in Banyule are given an opportunity to enjoy a summer holiday with one to one supervision from adults . . . [The] majority of these children do not have the opportunity of experiencing a holiday and many are in need of a break from their often challenging circumstances.

“ . . . The camps aim to provide children with individual attention and support from caring adults . . . When the bus leaves for the camps many children feel wary and anxious. When the bus returns after a week away, the group is bubbling with the excitement of stories, experiences and new friends who have shared their lives.”

The cost per child is \$350–\$600, depending on the circumstances of the individual child. Not all children referred to the program can be helped: more children could be sent if more funds were available.

There will be a **retiring collection** for this cause at the Combined Service at St John's on 25th November. We hope parishioners will support at least two children.

The 'Gospel of Jesus' Wife'

This story has progressed further, and it now seems almost certain that the 'Gospel of Jesus' Wife' is a modern forgery.

First, it appears to have been written with a brush, rather than the typical metal stylus or reed pen of the period.

Second, the whole text has now been related to phrases from a specific online edition of the Coptic *Gospel of Thomas*, placed online on 11th November 2002. In particular, this edition contains a unique misprint (a missing letter) that is exactly reproduced in the 'Gospel of Jesus' Wife'. Other peculiarities of language that it contains are also explicable in terms of this edition.

Further reading:

<http://alinsuciu.com/2012/09/26/on-the-so-called-gospel-of-jesus-wife-some-preliminary-thoughts-by-hugo-lundhaug-and-alin-suciu/>

<http://ntweblog.blogspot.se/2012/10/jesus-wife-fragment-further-evidence-of.html>

<http://www.gospels.net/gjw/mighthavebeenforged.pdf>

<http://rogueclassicism.com/2012/10/21/some-more-nails-for-the-ossuary-of-the-gospel-of-jesus-wife/>

Peter McKay

WAITRESS NEEDED. Must be 18 years old with 20 years experience. Apply in Person Carnation Restaurant.

EXCUSES FOR ABSENTEEISM

