

BANYULE BABBLE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BANYULE

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

OCTOBER
2012

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

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

Rosemary Young 0437 848 394
Rosaleen Rudd 0400 892 522

Internet: www.banyuleparish.org.au

email banyuleparish@netspace.net.au

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

ANDREW ASSEVERATES

AS YOU KNOW there are two events of momentous religious significance taking place this Saturday. One of them is a time of fervent prayer, intense fellowship, and passionate hope and anticipation. The other is the Parish retreat day at Amberley. Like most Christians I am constantly in a cycle where I realise the importance of prayer and dedicate myself to it, then forget and lapse away from it, then come back again. So it is worth setting time aside to pray personally and together about our relationship with God and about the mission of the church, to refresh our vision. We are always in danger of making church being primarily about our activities, or the friendships that we have, and forgetting the 'one thing necessary' that Christ commended Mary for.

I hope that we all have a great warm and relaxing day on the 29th, and enjoy our time together either at the MCG, around the television or in prayer at Amberley. The Spring season offers us a sense of renewal and hope, that the winter doesn't last forever (either for our AFL team or the church). The mercies of the Lord are renewed every morning. So should our prayer and thanksgiving be.

Andrew



Spring

Winter chills, winter ills, everyone is suffering, Cold and frosty dawns, rainy, misty mornings – How we long for warmer times.

Spring is fast coming; soon its arriving will unfold the story when all is glory and new life appears on the scene.

Spring flowers in bud, – wait for the flood of blossom in season, which gives us a reason for living our lives to the full.

God gives hope and strength to cope will all life's sorrow; so hasten the morrow when God brings the Spring and new life.

Betty Kettle

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BANYULE

Holy Spirit Watsonia Ladies' Guild

cordially invites you to a concert

presented by

Wandering Melody

Holy Spirit Anglican Church
78 Watsonia Rd, Watsonia

1.30 pm, Wednesday 10th October 2012

Please come and join us!

Entry \$6 includes afternoon tea and door prize

RSVP 3rd October

Further enquiries: Joan Hodgson 9846 1681

[ADVERTISEMENT]

DRUMKIT TUITION

Learn to play the drums and percussion, from 5 years old upwards.

I have 20 years experience teaching privately and, more recently, in a music school. I also have experience teaching children with learning difficulties, e.g. dyspraxia, mild autism, dyslexia and fine motor coordination problems.

First lesson is free; \$20 per 45 minutes thereafter.

Contact Mike Martin on 0420 996 328.

The 'Gospel of Jesus' Wife'



Some readers may have read in the news of the finding of a papyrus fragment that refers to Jesus' having a wife. The piece is tiny, 4 cm high and 8 cm wide, and contains only eight fragments of lines of text. There is more text on the other side, but it is faded and abraded and almost wholly illegible. The papyrus has not been carbon-dated, but the writing style fits the fourth century. The text is in Sahidic Coptic, and the grammar suggests it was composed in the second half of the second century.

This was a time when a large number of fictitious gospels were written, either to push a particular theological viewpoint, or by pious people of unrestrained imagination—hence the church resolved to use only early Gospels written by contemporaries. Therefore, even if this fragment is authentic, it does not say anything about Jesus' actual marital state, but only about what second-century Christians found plausible.

However, though the papyrus has been brought to attention by a respected scholar, its authenticity is in dispute, especially as there is virtually no provenance. Damaged parts of the manuscript do seem to have been written on before they were damaged, which supports an authentic document rather than one written recently on a blank piece of ancient papyrus. On the other hand a very recent paper has shown that most of the text is identical to phrases from the published Coptic *Gospel of Thomas* (including at one place even a specific break in the middle of a word), plus a bit of *Matthew*. This would be consistent with a forger who was familiar with Coptic but not confident enough to write it *de novo*, so made it out of bits of genuine second-century writing.

Further reading:

<http://www.hds.harvard.edu/faculty-research/research-projects/the-gospel-of-jesus-wife>
<http://andrewsullivan.thedailybeast.com/2012/09/jesus-said-to-them-my-wife-ctd-from-ms-for-a-to-see.html>
<http://danielwallace.com/2012/09/21/reality-check-the-jesus-wife-coptic-fragment/>
<http://markgoodacre.org/Watson.pdf>

Peter McKay

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY SERVICE

*St. John's, Friday 26th October
at 10 am*

The theme will be 'Love in Action'
**Ross Oldmeadow will talk about
the work of Open House**

Followed afterwards by morning tea!

Pauline Holbery, 9459 0364

This Month – October

Wednesday 10th: 1.30 pm 'Wandering Melody' at Holy Spirit

Monday 15th: 1.30 pm St Andrew's Mothers' Union Communion & Collection of Toys

Wednesday 24th: 10 am Holy Spirit M.U. AGM; 1.30 pm St John's Fellowship AGM

Friday 26th: 10 am World Community Day Service at St John's: 'Love in Action'

Saturday 27th: Working Bee at St John's

Monday 29th: 10 am Mothers' Union Council Meeting, St Peter's Eastern Hill

Next Month – November

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

Monday 19th: Mothers' Union Northern Deanery AGM at St Andrew's

Wednesday 28th: 10 am Holy Spirit Mothers' Union last meeting for 2012

Wanted

- New volunteers for the Macleod Op Shop
- Goods and helpers for the Parish Fair

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

The Commandments

Deut 5:1–11 & Matt 22:34–40

St. John's Heidelberg, 29/07/12

A few years ago I was driving along the Tullamarine Freeway when I saw a banner hanging from an overpass. The banner said 'The Ten Commandments: The Most Negative Thing Ever Written?' You may remember this. It was an advertising campaign put out by Francis McNab, the minister of St. Michael's Uniting Church in Collins St. in the city. His opinion is that the Ten Commandments and most of traditional Christianity is negative and unhelpful and needs to be updated with a new version of the faith. He proposed his own alternative version of the Ten Commandments, which seem to me to be about his own particular agenda for our political arena. I think there may be more to the Ten Commandments than this! So today we're thinking about what the Ten Commandments are, and how they relate to the Two Commandments of Jesus, which are his summary of the law.

If you were here last week you will remember that we are looking at the book of Deuteronomy this term. Last week I introduced us to what the book of Deuteronomy is about. Deuteronomy is a record of a sermon that Moses gave to the Israelites just before they entered the Promised Land for the first time. It lays out a lot of the laws that they are to obey once they get there. And it is really an ethical blueprint for life in the land that God is giving them. I suggested last week that for us it is an example of how we form our ethics as Christians, because the logic is the same as in the New Testament – our ethics are based around our relationship with God and what he has done for us. For the Israelites this was their liberation from Israel. For us it is our salvation from sin and death by the death and resurrection of Jesus.

St. John's Fellowship

Wednesday 24th October at 1.30 pm. This is our Annual General Meeting! We need to have discussions about the future of our group. Please come armed with ideas! Everyone to come along.

Pauline Holbery, Secretary 9459 0354

Mothers' Unions

Monday 15th October 1.30 pm: *St Andrew's* Communion and Collection of Toys for Anglicare

Wednesday 24th October 10 am: *Holy Spirit* AGM

Monday 29th October 10 am: Council Meeting, St Peter's Eastern Hill

Monday 19th November: Northern Deanery Day/AGM at St Andrew's

Wednesday 28th November 10 am: *Holy Spirit* last meeting for 2012. Samples of Christmas Cards and 2013 Diaries will be displayed at church (Sat night) for ordering

Betty Kettle 9435 6533 (St Andrew's); Elsie Storr 9435 5164 (Holy Spirit)

CRE: Preps and Grade 1/2 at Watsonia Primary School

This time of year is when the children (20 Preps and 35 Grade 1/2) start to show what they have learnt. Some of the children attend church, and some attend church when they stay with their grandparents (they usually tell me and are very pleased about going to church). Thank you to the Parish for your prayers and financial support for this local mission.

Elsie Storr

Following that it is our task to learn how to live as Christians on the basis of that.

What are the Ten Commandments and why are they so important? Almost everyone can remember at least three or four of them. When Moses comes down to tell the Israelites about how to live, he first begins with these commandments. Only after that does he move to specific laws about things like who should be marrying each other and what kinds of food they should eat. So the Ten Commandments are not really just another set of laws. What they are is a framework for understanding what it means to live as the people of God in the land. They are like the constitution that God writes to govern the covenant that he has with the Israelite people.

I'm not going to go through each of the commandments today and explain them. Rather, let's think about what as a whole they are saying. When we look at them we find that they are basically of two types – there are those commandments about our relationship to God, and then those about our relationship to others, our 'neighbours'.

First we have the first three commandments which are about faithfulness to God: 1) You shall have no other gods before me. 2) You shall not make idols or images and worship them. 3) You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord. This establishes that purity of worship and faithfulness to God is the prime imperative of their life in the land. I'll skip over the fourth commandment, which is special, and we can see that commandments 5–10 are about our relationships to others within the community: 5) Honour your father and your mother. 6) You shall not murder. 7) Neither shall you commit adultery. 8) Neither shall you steal. 9) Neither shall you bear false witness against your neighbour. 10) You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbour.

It's worth looking at the fourth commandment by itself, because it actually contains both of these emphases in the one command-

ment, and brings together all the concerns of the ten commandments in the one place.

'Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy . . . the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work – you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave . . . or the resident foreigner in your towns . . . Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord God brought you out from there . . .'

With the fourth commandment the Israelites are commanded both to dedicate themselves to worshipping God, and also to do so in company with everyone else in the nation, all their neighbours. So the whole community is united by the memory of what God has done for them. This is why I think that the fourth commandment is in one sense a summary of the ten. It could stand on its own. And we can see now why it was natural that when Jesus came to summarise the law, he did it in the way he did:

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind' and 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'. This is just a straight summary of the Ten Commandments. It is what it would look like to be part of a community that keeps the fourth commandment together.

So the Ten Commandments are certainly not the most negative document ever written. They are not even negative at all. The Ten Commandments are actually the basis of an ethic of liberated love for God and for our neighbours. They tell us that we 'shall not' do things, because the things that we are not supposed to do are things that put obstacles in the way of this life of love to God and others. It is with an extremely positive purpose that the commandments were given. When you summarise them as Jesus did, they are entirely positive; love God and love each other.

Continues next page . . .

Okay, so how do we live the ten commandments today? I think it is important to take them as a whole, and consider at what point we tend to fail in them. As I said, it seems clear to me that the fourth commandment, to keep the sabbath day, is the central commandment among the ten. And there is no commandment which is harder for us to keep than this. As we shall see in a few weeks, the Sabbath has a very deep significance, and the Israelites had terrible trouble keeping it properly. And we are no different. And don't mistake me, this is not about whether you should come to church every week. The news on that score is even harder than that. Traditionally, Christian worship has been a daily affair. That is why there are services in the prayer book for every day. But the Sabbath is not about attending worship services. The Sabbath is about what the foundation of our life is. Do we live ultimately with our rest and trust in God, and in thankfulness for his gifts? Do we live in peaceful relationships with our neighbours as we worship God together? Or do we live with a frantic accumulation of possessions and activities in order to make ourselves safe, with God given only the smallest piece of our attention? And do we live in a society of mistrust and conflict where we can never truly rest together? I don't think that is a question that is too hard to answer.

Francis McNab's idea is that the Ten Commandments are too primitive, and we should find sophisticated and more pure commandments, like the Two Commandments of Christ, to follow. But really what the Ten Commandments tell us is that our ethics and noble intentions need to be grounded in a life-giving relationship with God and an attitude of thankfulness and peace. This then enables us to flow out in love to our neighbour. The Ten Commandments cannot be kept: they can only be lived in a more and more complete way.

Andrew Bowles

Apology

The Ottawa Citizen and Southam News wish to apologize for our apology to Mark Steyn, published Oct. 22. In correcting the incorrect statements about Mr. Steyn published Oct. 15, we incorrectly published the incorrect correction. We accept and regret that our original regrets were unacceptable and we apologize to Mr.

50 Years of Mothers' Union at Holy Spirit Watsonia



Celebrating Holy Spirit Watsonia MU 50 Years on Wednesday 25th July 2012

Our President Jean Morris led us in a M.U. Service of Praise and Thanksgiving, singing three early midday prayers; then we went to the Bundoora Homestead for lunch; and afterwards we looked at the art display. Congratulations came from St John's West Brunswick, St Alban's West Coburg, and a card from our Link branch St Mary's Broughty Ferry Scotland.

The Mothers' Union is part of a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service. Members have greatly appreciated the support of their families and members of our church throughout the years.

Here are a few of the many interesting projects we have had over the years—

Our first meeting was on Wednesday 25th July 1962: our leader was Alice Gardner. In our first year, we baked cakes for Austin Hospital, made uniforms for a New Guinea Mission, joined MMA (part of CMS), sent second-hand, lightweight clothing to St Paul's Op Shop in Katherine NT (they paid for the rail postage, until the postage increased; then the truckies would take the parcels when they had room, for free).

Our first Deanery Day was at St John's Heidelberg.

Over the years we have had Link Branches at: St Bartholomew's MU Menapi Papua; St George's MU Papatotoe New Zealand; St Peter's MU Kitwe Zambia; St Mary's MU Broughty Ferry Scotland. One time St Bartholomew's MU Menapi Papua took up a collection among their members and sent the money to our branch to pass on to the bushfire victims. (Four people had died in a bushfire along Geelong Rd.)

We have supported our church: with a crèche in the church house on the 4th Sunday (family service); organised the cake stall at the church fêtes & the simnel cake (in early years the Sunday School made the cake and posy of flowers); and provided the baptism kits, and one member would send a card on the anniversary of the baptism.

Two members shopped for, made and served lunch once a week for a kindergarten at St Albans; two members were commissioned to serve Holy Communion in private homes or age care centres; five members became volunteers at Dowell Court Aged Care at evening meetings to cater for members who returned to full time employment.

Projects: Lazarus Centre: Knitted beanies, scarves, collected clothing and food. Steps Ministries: Knitted mittens, collected groceries. Crocheted rugs for children at Mission of St James and St John. Knitted bonnets and jackets for still-born and premature babies. Knitted stress teddies for St John's Ambulance. Collected groceries for Anglicare. Toiletries for the Deer Park Correction Centre. Knitted fairy penguin jumpers for the Tasmanian conservation trust: these jumpers were put on the penguins to protect them from poisoning as they preen their oil-clogged feathers. Gave a donation of money to help resettle Antarctic Mawson Huskies to Canada. Supported Austin hospital Christmas gifts; members, when possible, would help hand the presents on Christmas morning. Macleod Chaplaincy. Kalparrin.

More recent projects: Educated women in Burundi (costs \$20 per person); provided a large cooking pot for the Karen orphanage; powdered milk for flooded areas in Australia; personal mosquito repellent for the Bendigo area; and this year extra funds to go to the Karen Orphanage, and knitting beanies for the seafarers.

Over the years our members have been represented at most Deanery, Council, Quiet and Lady days.

Ephesians 2:8-10: For it is by God's grace that you are saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it. God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do.

Note: There are knitters in the church other than MU members who also knit for the seafarers. There is a article in the Spring edition of the Ship & Shore from Seafarers' CEO that reads: "On behalf of all the seafarers who have been visited and met by the MtSV team, and received warmly gifted beanies from our 'winter knitters', I take this opportunity to say thank you for your thoughtfulness, goodwill and willingness to work late into the evenings in support of seafarers' welfare".

The Maritime Art Exhibition is open to the public October 5th to Wed 31st, 12 noon to 7 pm, at 717 Flinders St, Docklands 3008 (about 15 minutes' walk from Southern Cross Station).

Vestry Notes

Meeting of Tuesday 17th July 2012 at 7.30 pm

PRIORITY ISSUES

- After much negotiation the Vicarage at Lascelles Avenue has been sold to the current tenant at a lower price than hoped for, but there are no agent's fees, nor costs in preparing the property for sale. Settlement date is 18th November.
- We have agreed to purchase the property at Jika Street with settlement date of 12th November. We will use a bridging loan from the Diocese.
- As Geoff was on leave very little progress could be made on the financial anomalies found last month.
- Mission giving – we could commit to nothing due to Geoff's absence and lack of a financial report.

MINISTRY REPORTS

- Philip's report gave an account of the many and various activities in which he has participated in the past month.
- Andrew's report gave news of the doing of *mainly music* and the prospect of a new website for the parish.
- There was no financial report due to Geoff's absence.

WARDENS' REPORTS

Heidelberg

- Working Bee planned for 27th October – the car park needs repair. Other tasks are to be listed.

Rosanna

- The Op Shop will not be moving. There steps at the rear of the considered shop are a deterrent and the rental is higher.

Watsonia

- The Op Shop took \$6,500 in sales in August

IMPLEMENTING OUR M.A.P.

Philip put forward possible structures, programs and staffing arrangements for consideration. They will go next to the Retreat Day, then the Congregational Meetings and finally to the AGM.

OTHER BUSINESS

Sat 29th Sept Parish Retreat Day at Amberley: 10 am – 3 pm

Sun 30th Sept *Commitment Sunday*: 5th Sunday Combined Service at Rosanna with a retiring collection for Tavis and Kate Beer

Eastern Region Training Day

Subjects covered included finances, property management and outreach to the community. It was felt that the Diocese put on a very professional day.

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.

National Church Life Survey results

Members of the parish with good memories might remember last year filling in a questionnaire for the National Church Life Survey, which is held every five years. The results for our parish have now become available.

Few will be surprised to learn that we are much older on average than the local community. However I had not expected that our average age would be 71 years, 2 months. Clearly we need more young people!

We are 67% female, 33% male. 5% are newcomers returning to church after many years; none have never been regular church attenders. In the last five years 1% have joined us from another denomination, and 13% from another Anglican parish. 63% of us have been here for more than 20 years, and 82% attend usually every week or better. We are heavily involved in lay leadership and ministry rôles, as we know.

The main results of the survey are classified under nine 'core qualities', which themselves are grouped in threes:-

The '**Internal Core Qualities**' relate to our inner spiritual life:

Faith: 34% of us report 'much growth', 44% 'some growth', and 22% 'no growth'. We are a little down on this compared with 2006, and below the regional church average.

Worship: 47% of us find services always or usually inspiring, and another 47% find them sometimes inspiring (leaving 6% uninspired). This is a significant improvement over five years ago, though still below the average for churches in the region. Most of us always or usually experience joy, a sense of God's presence, and growth in understanding of God. 68% of us find the preaching always or usually helpful to our lives, and another 27% find it so sometimes.

We enjoy music: 65% strongly agree that music and singing are an important part of worship, 27% agree less strongly, and the

remaining 9% are neutral; no-one disagrees. (NCLS has however found in other surveys that the type of church music preferred depends on age.)

Belonging: 96% of us have a strong sense of belonging: 45% growing, 39% stable, 12% weakening. We also have a sense of belonging to the Anglican church (93%).

Compared with 2006, fewer of us (17%) are involved in Bible study or prayer or discussion groups, but more are in social groups (59%) and community service or welfare (47%).

The '**Inspirational Core Qualities**' relate to our overall feeling of direction as a parish:

Vision: We have a much stronger vision than five years ago. 81% of us have a clear idea of our vision, goals and directions (in 2006 only 39%), though only 33% are fully committed and 35% partly committed. Only 20% of us are fully confident the vision can be achieved, but 59% are partly confident.

Leadership: We are strong here, and have much improved over 2006. 65% feel encouraged to find and use their gifts and skills to some or a great extent, compared with 33% in 2006 and 56% in regional churches in 2011.

Innovation: The proportion of the congregation that *strongly* agree that we are "always willing to try something new" has increased from 0% in 2001 to 5.4% in 2006 to 10.5% in 2011. Another 42% agree less strongly, and 36% are neutral or unsure. 79% agree or strongly agree that our leaders encourage innovation.

Given the question whether, if innovative change were proposed to the worship service they attend, they would tend to support the change, 11% of parishioners said 'strongly', another 44% said they would, 31% were neutral or unsure, and a total of 14% would oppose the change.

The '**Outward Core Qualities**' focus on how we interact with those outside the church:

Service: We are strong here, and getting stronger. 60% of our members have helped others in the last year in three different ways.

We have strong involvement in community service or welfare groups, both inside and outside the church.

Faith-sharing: Here we are weak and getting weaker. Only 25% invited someone to a church service in the last year (29% in 2006; regional church average is 36%). 46% of us find it hard to talk about our faith.

NCLS notes that "The most common way in which people join religious groups is because friends and relatives invite them".

Inclusion: We rate poorly. Only 50% think it likely or better that someone drifting away from church would be followed up. However 93% of us have found it easy to make friends at church, and 94% of those who arrived in the past five years say the same.

Our top strengths are: **service, leadership, vision and innovation.**

The things we think we are personally best at are: **listening** (70%), **connecting with others** (54%), **learning** (49%) and **resolution** (38%).

The four things we most hope for are: **worship that nurtures** (39%), **ministry to children and youth** (36%), **a larger congregation** (33%) and **a strong sense of community** (28%).

The four things we value most are: **sharing in Holy Communion** (63%), **traditional worship or music** (41%, down from 70% in 2006), **practical care for one another** (37%) and **praying for one another** (34%).

You can see the whole report by going to <http://www.ncls.org.au/default.aspx?sitemapid=6118> and putting in the Profile Number 9XFYWH.

Peter McKay

correction

Due to incorrect information received from the Clerk of Courts Office, Diane K. Merchant, 38, ██████████ SW, was incorrectly listed as being fined for prostitution in Wednesday's paper. The charge should have been failure to stop at a railroad crossing. The Public Opinion apologizes for the error.