



# FOUR RIVERS

(a publication of the Diocese of Riverina)  
*A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden  
and there it divided and became four rivers.*

Christmas Edition 2015

FOUR RIVERS

Volume 18 Number 24

*May the good news of Christmas fill you with  
hope for the coming year.*



*Photo: Bishop Rob, Reverend Helen Ferguson, Rebecca Singleton (Mary), Lillian Singleton (Angel), Peter Singleton (Joseph) (obscured), take the Nativity to the people in the Broken Hill Christmas Parade.*

## GRIFFITH ORDINATION

Brendan Webster was ordained a Deacon on Friday 18th September in St Alban's Cathedral Griffith by Bishop Rob Gillion.

Brendan will serve as a Deacon in the parish of Griffith. He is married to Ciara and they have two children.

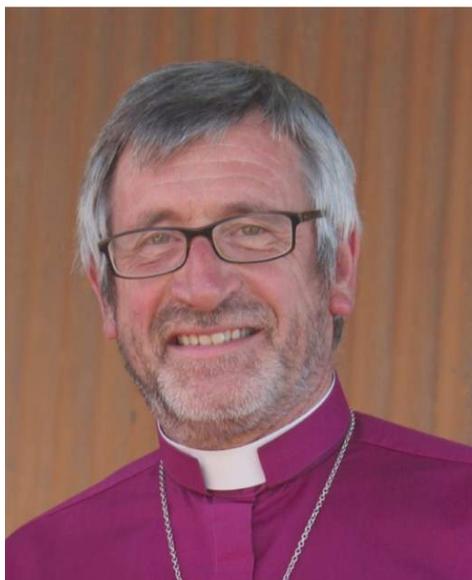


## THE REV'D HELEN FERGUSON Now Priest in Charge

The Rev'd Helen Ferguson was Licensed as the the Priest in Charge of the parish of Broken Hill & The Far West on Sunday 6th December by Bishop Rob Gillion.



## BISHOPS LETTER



### Bishop's Christmas Message

*In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But an angel said to them, 'do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.'* (Luke 2.8-11)

My preparations for Christmas began with my visit to Broken Hill and the Far West. In one way it felt so isolated, on the very edge of our Diocese, and yet the community spirit was so evident. The Anglican Church organised a float for the annual Christmas Pageant. On the float was the holy family and an angel, and myself as Shepherd of my 'far flung flock!' I loved being a shepherd!

I spent a week which involved licensing Helen Ferguson as Priest in Charge of Broken Hill and the Far West, visiting Wilcannia, meeting with farmers on properties in the area, and being filmed by ABC's Landline programme for airing in February, as well as performing 'The Christmas Visit' to a full house at



the Musicians Club. Then it was down the unsealed road to Ivanhoe to visit the Prison. Quite a week!

At the same time during this Advent season being so aware of the darkness in this world, with terrorism at its height affecting us all, and the despair of so many displaced people fleeing from violence. The message of Christmas is one of hope and light in the darkness, and a reminder of the love and peace which God offers in our relationship with Jesus longing to be born afresh in our hearts through the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Those shepherds at that first Christmas were being entrusted with a message of joy 'for all the people' the shepherds were definitely the 'right' people, because they were on the margins and that is where we so often find Jesus. It is typical of the way God acts all through the scripture that the most momentous announcement of history was made to a group of shepherds living on the fringe of respectable society. And the angel makes it absolutely clear that the good news is for them. 'I am bringing you good news.' They were being entrusted with a message of joy 'for all people' the news of the birth of the Messiah and Saviour of the world was to be entrusted to them, and to no one else. That may be an important lesson for us, too, because God has entrusted to his followers in each generation the same message 'for all the people.' Of course in one sense the shepherds were the 'right' people because all of this was happening in the town of David, and

## *I loved being a shepherd!*

David was the most famous shepherd boy in Israel's history. He may well have been keeping the sheep on the very same hillside when the call came for him to meet the prophet Samuel and be anointed king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:11). It was hard for his father Jesse, to accept that such an honour was to befall his youngest son, the shepherd boy. Luke, who all through his Gospel has an eye for the downtrodden and the outcasts of society, must have enjoyed giving the shepherds the starring role on that first Christmas night.

*"Janine and I would like to wish you all a Peaceful and Joyful Christmas."*

*The Right Reverend Rob Gillion  
Bishop of Riverina*

### **Christmas Blessings**

*Registrar/General Manager Mrs Michelle Catanzariti,  
The Bishops Secretary Mrs Coleen Light and  
Accounts Assistant Mrs Debbie Cunningham of the  
Diocesan Registry, would like to wish one and all a Happy  
Christmas and advise that the Registry will be closed from  
noon Wednesday 23rd December and will reopen on  
Monday 4th January 2016.*



Photo: The Stage is set in Broken Hill for 'The Christmas Visit'



Photo: The Hall was filled to capacity



Photo: Kyle and Tim the film crew from the ABC Landline programme were in place.



Photo: "Hello—who did you say is coming for Christmas?. Did you say it was Jesus? But he can't come I'm too busy!"

### Your Feedback from the performance of "The Christmas Visit at Griffith.

- \* The messages were so good. I like the part where he went looking for Jesus in the streets of London.
- \* It was quite emotional, I cried when he went into the streets.
- \* I was impressed how the Bible was reflected into the structure of the journey.
- \* I thought he did well in all different characters. If you know your Bible, he put the context very well, bringing the Gospel to life in a real situation—like the miracle of the one armed man. It was emotional.
- \* I've not seen the interpretation of the Bible in that way before. It's different seeing preaching in that way without the piety of the Gospel from a pulpit. I thought the message came across more clearly in a relevant way for me.
- \* I really like Adrian Plass, I have all his books. The Bishop interpreted the humour really well. I loved it.

### BROKEN HILL



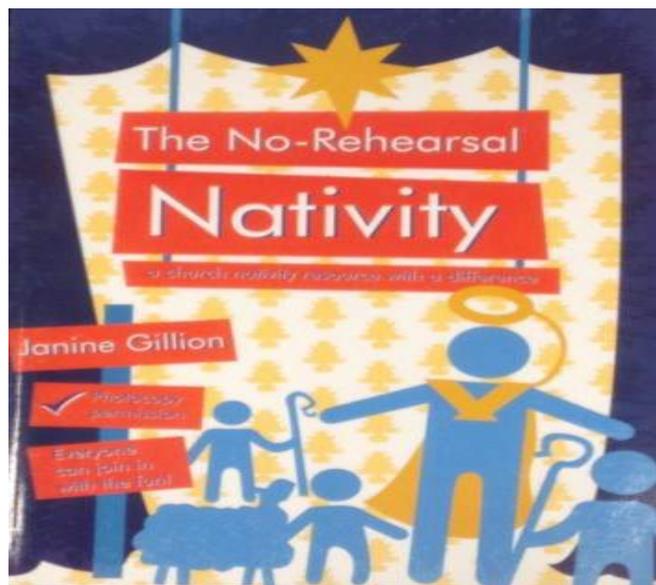
Photo: The Rev'd Helen Ferguson filmed ringing the bells.



Photo: Bishop Rob and Rev'd Helen getting ready to take the Christmas message to the people

## ***In Review: The No-Rehearsal Nativity***

***Author: Janine Gillion***



*Review by Lara Sweeney . Published on the Anglican Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn Website:*

Janine Gillion, as a professional actor, teacher and ministry partner with her husband Bishop Rob Gillion, has a wealth of experience with the nativity play.

This is obvious in the opening sections of the book, in which she discusses the variety of fears that one might bring to the organisation of a nativity play; Janine asks, “Do you feel you aren’t confident enough to stage a performance? Do you lack time to organise everything? Are you worried about asking your children to learn lines? Are you afraid you’ll have too many children, or not enough? Does it all seem like simply too big a task? If you have never attempted a nativity, or if you do one each year but they are not working... I hope to encourage you.”

***“Nativity plays are a wonderful opportunity to share in the Christmas story.”***

Janine goes on to share her methods for navigating the various factors involved in organising a nativity play: the children (from the anxious to the belligerent) the parents (from the anxious to the belligerent!) the script, the props, the

costumes, and the audience.

The most precious gem in this book, for me personally, was the No-Rehearsal Nativity Script.

Janine’s approach to presenting a nativity play is called Directed Drama, a method in which, ‘The director or storyteller tells the story while the children react to what he or she is saying... in the No-Rehearsal Nativity, the storyteller is in control.’

This technique, and the script she provides for its performance, was particularly appealing to me, as it remedies many of the difficulties I would anticipate when organising a nativity play: it takes the pressure off children to learn lines and rehearse, reducing their nerves, and leading them to enjoy the experience of dressing up and being part of a group performance. As well as this, it doesn’t depend on hours of work being put into the construction of elaborate costumes or props.

The book also includes costume tips, make-your-own Christingle instructions, and an example of a service booklet for a Christmas event involving the No-Rehearsal nativity scene.

*In summary: The No—Rehearsal Nativity* by Jane Gillion is a thoughtful, user-friendly resource with decades of experience gone into its making. If the thought of organising your church’s nativity play strikes fear into your heart (like it did mine), this book is for you.

The book was released in September and can be ordered online through Amazon, Four Rivers Bookshop or through your local Christian bookstore for \$18.95.rrp



*Photos: James, Kyle & Tim with Bishop Rob, filming for the Landline programme which will be aired next year on the ABC.*



## Christmas Service Times for 2015.



### GRIFFITH PARISH

*Sunday 20th The Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
6.00pm **St Luke's Rankins Springs** –Ecumenical  
*Thursday 24th Christmas Eve*  
6.00pm—Crib Service at the **St Alban's Cathedral**  
9.30pm—Sung Eucharist at **St Alban's Cathedral**  
*Friday 25th Christmas Day*  
9.30am—**St Alban's Cathedral**  
9.30am—**St George's Yenda**—Morning Prayer

### LOCKHART PARISH

*Wednesday 16th*  
2.30pm Ecumenical Service **Woodhaven Aged Care Facility**  
*Sunday 20th The Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
5.30pm **St Philip Urana**  
*Thursday 24th Christmas Eve*  
9.00pm **St Aidan Lockhart**  
6.30pm **St Oswald Boree Creek** Christmas Carol service

### LEETON PARISH

*Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December*  
7.30 pm—Festival of Lessons & Carols sung by St. Peter's choir—(Followed by a bring and share supper)  
*24th December Christmas Eve*  
6.00 pm Children's Liturgy and Mass—(Children may come dressed as a shepherd, angel or Wiseman)  
11.30 pm Procession, Blessing of the Crib & Solemn Sung Mass  
*Christmas Day 25th December*  
8:30 am Sung Mass

### LAKE CARGELLIGO PARISH

*Thursday 24th Christmas Eve*  
5.00 pm Children's Christmas **Lake Cargelligo**  
7.00 pm at **Tullibigeal**  
9.00 pm at **Lake Cargelligo**  
*Christmas Day Friday 25th*  
9.00 am at **Lake Cargelligo**

### COROWA PARISH

**St John's Corowa**  
*Thursday 24th Christmas Eve* 5.00 pm Children's Service  
*Friday 25th Christmas Day* 9.30am Christmas Communion  
**St Thomas' Howlong**  
*Thursday 24th Christmas Eve* 7.00pm Children's Service  
*Friday 25th Christmas Day* 8.00am Christmas Communion  
**St Mark's Bungowannah**  
*Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December* 5.00pm Children's Service  
*Thursday 24th Christmas Eve* 9.00pm Christmas Communion

### DENILQUIN PARISH

*Thursday 24th Christmas Eve*  
6.30pm The Christmas Story for Children and Families  
*Friday 25th Christmas Day*  
9.00am Eucharist and Carols

### BARHAM PARISH

*Friday 25th Christmas Day*  
9.30am

### HILLSTON

*Thursday 24th Christmas Eve*  
9.00pm Carols and Lessons

### MOAMA PARISH

*Thursday 24th Christmas Eve*  
6.30pm The Christmas Story for Children and Families  
*Friday 25th. Christmas Day*  
9.00am Eucharist and Carols  
**Holy Cross Mathoura:**  
*Thursday 24th Christmas Eve*  
9.00pm Eucharist and Carols

### COLEAMBALLY-DARLINGTON POINT PARISH

*Sunday 20th December Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
11.00am. **St Mark the Evangelist Coleambally**—Children's Pageant with Lunch afterwards  
2.00pm Eucharist at **Cypress View Lodge Coleambally**  
6.00pm **Argoon** Christmas Service  
*Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve*  
6.00pm **St Paul's Darlington Point**—Holy Eucharist  
9.00pm **St Mark the Evangelist Coleambally**—Holy Eucharist

### BROKEN HILL & THE FAR WEST

*Thursday 24th Christmas Eve*  
7:00pm. Children's service **St James**  
11.00pm Christmas Mass **St James**  
*Friday 25th Christmas Day*  
8:30am Christmas Mass **St Peters**  
*Sunday 27th First Sunday after Christmas*  
10:15am Combined service **St James**

### TOCUMWAL-FINLEY

*Thursday 24th Christmas Eve,*  
7:30pm **Finley**  
*Friday 25th Christmas Day*  
8:30am **Tocumwal**  
**Jerilderie** No Christmas Eve or Christmas Day services.

### ARIAH PARK-ARDLETHAN

*Sunday 20th Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
10.00am Barmedman Christmas Eucharist  
*Thursday 24th Christmas Eve*  
6.00pm Ariah Park—Eucharist  
6.00pm Ardlethan—Evening Prayer  
9.00pm Barmedman—Christmas Carols

### BARELLAN WEETHALLE

*Thursday 24th Christmas Eve*  
9.00pm Barellan—Eucharist

### NARRANDERA

*Friday 18th*—10.30am—Holy Communion  
*Saturday 19th*—5.00pm—Nine Lessons & Carols  
*Thursday 24th Christmas Eve* 11.00pm Holy Communion  
*Saturday 26th*—5.00pm Holy Communion

### COOLAMON-GANMAIN

*Sunday 20th Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
10.00am Coolamon—Nine Lessons & Carols  
5.00pm Grong Grong—Holy Communion  
*Thursday 24th Christmas Eve*  
7.00pm Ganmain—Christmas Pageant  
*Friday 25th Christmas Day*  
9.00am Coolamon—Holy Communion  
*Sunday 27th First Sunday after Christmas*  
9.00am Ganmain—Holy Communion

*Please check with your local Church if not listed above.*

**BISHOPS LODGE NARRANDERA**

*Photo: Bishop Rob and the Registrar Michelle Catanzariti admire the new balustrade at the Bishops Lodge*

**DENILIQVIN**

On a sunny Saturday afternoon in November the parish of St Paul's Deniliquin together with many friends from local churches and the wider community gathered in the grounds and hall for a wonderful rejuvenated fete. With a variety of attractions on offer the people enjoyed face painting, cake making (and eating), delicious coffee, and many stalls of plants, books, local made produce, bric a brac and artwork including the "Rectors Recyclables."

The wafting aroma of sausages and onions attracted the young and not so young from the joy of browsing and buying to sit for a while for a chat and BBQ. If anyone was feeling a bit stressed, they could relax with a five or ten minute massage under the shade of the trees. Then it was back to the enjoyment of a modern adaptation of the chocolate wheel or trying to bounce ping pong balls into a number of bras (Yes it was legal... they were not being worn).

A great afternoon of fun, friendship and buying was also an important fund-raiser for the Deniliquin Parish. Thanks goes to the parish council for the initiative and to the parishioners for much valued assistance.

On the First Sunday of Advent, the parish of St Paul's Deniliquin hosted the Ministers Association Community Carol Service, taking the form of the Nine Lessons and Carols which has been much loved for many years in Anglican Tradition.

Each local church was involved in the readings from Scripture that tells of the heralding and birth of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The Lessons were complimented by the enthusiastic congregational singing of carols and uplifting anthems from the choir of the churches and Sing Australia.

An encouraging yet challenging message of keeping the Coming of Christ alive and active in our world today and not consigning Him to history was given by the Rector Rev Wayne Sheean and the generosity of the local community was witnessed in the retiring collection to support SRE in our schools and in the splendid supper that followed in the church hall.

On Sunday 6th December the two Parishes of Moama/ Mathoura and Deniliquin celebrated the joy of the coming Christmas with a traditional Christmas Luncheon in St James Hall at Moama. This time of celebration together began with Yuletide punch and nibbles followed by a two course lunch with all the trimmings. The hall was transformed with Christmas decorations and carol singing was a feature of the gathering.

*Blessings The Reverend Wayne Sheean*

**COROWA**

Window number six of St John's Roof and Windows project is currently under going restoration with two more windows to go. \$71,197 has been raised thanks to many generous donors. \$25,000 is still needed.

St Thomas' Howlong will celebrate their 150 years celebration on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd July 2016.

**COOLAMON-GANMAIN**

Bishop Rob was the guest preacher at St Andrew's on Sunday 29th November to celebrate St Andrew's 110 years of continuous ministry. The service was followed by lunch in the hall.

**NARRANDERA**

*Photo: Bishop Rob confirmed three adults and two children at a combined service for the parishes of Narrandera & Coolamon-Ganmain which was held at St Thomas' Narrandera.*



*Photo: Lyn Hunt and Sue Coates man the plant stall at St Thomas' recent Market Day*



*Photo: Kyle, James and Tim the ABC Landline crew with Bishop Rob & Janine at Bishops Lodge Hay*

**FOUR RIVERS DEADLINE**

The deadline for the Autumn Edition of Four Rivers will be Monday 1st February 2016.

Articles and Photos can be posted to the Editor, Coleen Light at The Registry, PO Box 10, Narrandera 2700 or emailed to: rivdio@bigpond.com or mailed to the