

Four Rivers



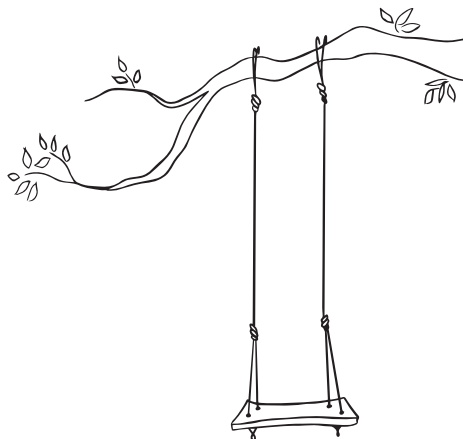
From the Bishop



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are entering the 'season of the saints' which is sometimes called 'the kingdom season' which is that time between All Saints' Day (1st November) and the Feast of Christ the King (this year 24th November). This is a time that reminds us of the promise of eternity that faith brings, a time that reminds us that relationship with Christ brings us into the embrace of God's love in a particular way reassuring us that this love never ceases.

This is a reminder too, that the world is finite. As they say, 'nothing lasts forever', certainly not in human terms at any rate. God's love and God's promise in Jesus Christ is that not even the seeming finality of death can separate us from that love. We are linked to God and to all whom we love through this embrace of His divine love. It does not matter whether those whom we love are still with us in this world or have already passed through the doorway of death, God's love embraces us all together as his faithful people.



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Four Rivers Bookshop

After more than four decades of faithful ministry the Four Rivers Bookshop in Griffith, has come to that point where it is no longer viable to operate. Helena Hicks has done a marvellous job faithfully maintaining the Bookshop for many years and all credit must go to her for sustaining this ministry for so long.

In our current world of internet capacity and availability, the local bookshop has become a thing rarely seen, and Christian Bookshops all over the country have closed even in major centres and cities. That Four Rivers has lasted as long as it has, is a testament to Helena's faithful work.

The Trustees, who are ultimately responsible for the Bookshop, have made the hard decision that it must close. So, there will be a Christmas Sale in December, and then in the weeks of January a Closing Down Sale.

Please, in the next few months, take the opportunity to visit the shop and speak with Helena and express the thanks we all have for all that she and the Bookshop have done for the Church in this Diocese and beyond.

Grace and peace,
+ Donald

*grateful
thankful
blessed*



close contact

A WORD OR TWO FROM THE CATHEDRAL

The Very Rev'd Thomas Leslie
Dean of St Alban's and Rector of Griffith

Spring is in the air...



The Spring Festival in Griffith this year had all the usual hallmarks: Orange Sculptures in the main street, A Multicultural Celebration Day, and the touring circuit of Open Gardens raising money for local charities. For the second year in a row, the Cathedral joined the festival programme, hosting a Quilt Show on October 19th and 20th, displaying work from the Murrumbidgee Country Quilters.

Spring-themed quilts were hung around the Cathedral and over the pews, creating a colourful display of fine handiwork, drawing new visitors into the Cathedral building, and interacting with the colours of the fresh floral displays. There were some magnificent quilts on display, demonstrating innumerable hours of work, with hand applique, elegant design, and a variety of quilting techniques on show, including works by members of the Cathedral parishioners and Op Shop volunteers.

This was a wonderful opportunity to encourage locals and visitors alike to spend time in the Cathedral engaging with the space in a different way, including taking notice of the design elements of the rose windows reflecting the geometry of some of the quilts below. Sunday worship was likewise enriched: with the quilts taking up the 'Anglican' pews (those in the back half of the Nave – 'let the reader understand'), the parish regulars had to gather closer in, sitting in the front pews for worship, ensuring that new perspectives on Sunday worship were also experienced!

It is hoped that this will become an annual Spring Festival event, as the Cathedral continues to seek ways to connect to its community.



Saint Alban
THE MARTYR ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL

From the Registrar

Mandy Walsh

Registry Office

The Registry office is in its final stages of development before completion – we are hoping to have begun moving in by the end of November. The access ramp from the cathedral carpark to the registry's front veranda has been poured (no stairs to have to climb when you come to see us) and the interior has been painted. There is just the flooring and the final touches to electricals, telecommunications and plumbing left to complete.



I will be attending the Registrar's conference from 18th to 21st November, and will be looking forward to seeing the final stages when I return! I have been tending to potted shrubs for some time (if you know me, you know I will have planned the garden before planning the building!) so am looking forward to establishing a low-maintenance garden in front of the registry.

Dedication of New Registry

The Registry will be dedicated on Wednesday 11th December, which is the date of the in-person December meetings for the Trustees and Diocesan Council.

A celebratory midday Eucharist is planned, as well as a light lunch in the hall.

All are welcome to join us for this celebration.



The Bishop of Riverina,
The Right Reverend Donald Kirk
and the Registrar,
Mrs Mandy Walsh

invite you to the
**Dedication of the
Diocesan Registry Office**
1-3 Anzac Street, Griffith

Wednesday 11th December
at 12 noon
beginning with a Eucharist in Saint Alban's Cathedral
followed by a light lunch in the parish hall

Please RSVP by Wednesday 4th December
for catering purposes (with dietary requirements):
E: office@anglicanriverina.com
P: 0474 926 228

Safe Church Corner

Hello and Welcome,

There's great news! The positive response to the new initiative for Safe Church is bright and active. "How We Treat Each Other" posters are going up in church premises all over the Diocese. Such an essential expression of our Safe Church Culture.

Let's enjoy the momentum and - let's not stop now.

There are many different layers of safety we are always addressing; like our Safe Church Awareness training, being safe on church premises, and keeping up with administrative requirements.

The news is not so great on keeping up with administrative requirements, across the total Diocese. This could cause us real difficulties; we need to work out how to solve any stumbling blocks.

I know it can feel like there's never any 'let up'. There can be frustration around tasks like audits for Working with Children's Checks (WWCC), leadership screening processes, volunteer screening, understanding responsibilities around Persons of Concern, and mandatory reporting responsibilities. They can seem complex and, sometimes, it can even feel uncertain as to why they're relevant.

I do understand the frustration. Sometimes, there seems a fair point about relevance. If you're a parish that has no Sunday School and most parish members are well into adulthood – why do we need to be doing WWCC's, for instance?

I won't go into the practical details about the likelihood of someone bringing their grandchild onto church premises, or the local youth club hiring the church hall for some reason. There is always the possibility that an untypical occasion will occur.

The point is, any respectable community organisation must have standards they commit to, values they uphold that express the readiness to be a part of the broader community we live in. The world we live in expects us to be a safe place. Willingly.

Those standards aren't always set by us, or in our control. Society nowadays wants demonstration of standards and values. Checklists, tick boxes. To be known and believed as a Safe Place we simply must meet the standards society expects of Safe Places. We work out how to get those things done because it's important to be trusted. It's important to be Safe.

The community around us expects us to get those boxes ticked:

- The State and Federal laws that all other organisations must comply with – so do we. There are some accommodations made for different kinds of organisations but, in essence, we uphold the law.
- Our insurer requires standards to be met.
- We have a Duty of Care; legally, morally, ethically.
- In our hearts, we know we need to do what's right.

Yes, it can be time-consuming, even irritating, frustrating and sometimes challenging. It's true, it can be. And that's the world we live in. We expect our government to keep us safe from the wrong people entering our country. We expect our children to be safe from the wrong kinds of people working in schools.

It's devastating and heartbreaking when those systems breakdown, when those safeguards fail. And for that reason, especially, let's please be sure we get this important stuff done.

How can we help? If you're finding it hard to complete any of those kinds of tasks – ask for support!

- Clergy, church leaders can guide.
- Diocesan executive staff can all help.
- As can I.

Just ask.

If you have better ideas about how things can be done, please share! If you want to work in groups to make it easier, let's see how that could happen.

I am available by phone or email to hear any concerns you may have, or ... any great ideas you have that could help us improve our Safe Church Culture.

My email is psd@anglicanriverina.com and the mobile number is 0491 109 479.

Connie



Connie Comber

Professional Standards
Director
Anglican Diocese
of Riverina

Email:

psd@anglicanriverina.com

Mobile:

0491 109 479



Prayer

God of Hope

You call on us to be your witnesses in this uncertain world;

By your Spirit awoken in us a true vision of your kingdom, a greater certainty of our salvation, and a deeper dedication to your service; that through our words and actions the same Spirit may bring many who are lost to be found, and for them to celebrate the hope that we can only have in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen

HOPE25

How to... HOPE25
HOPE IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

- 1 Create a Team**
Get a Working Group together at your church. Start thinking about your church, community, and a rough plan for Hope25. Think about who you are trying to reach and what might be the best way to do that work.
- 2 Prayer**
Put together a group that can be praying for Hope25. You may also choose to have regular prayer nights and to regularly pray for this work in your services.
- 3 Resources**
Look through the resources available at hope25.com.au and see what you might use or adapt for your own context. Check out the Hope25 podcast for more ideas.
- 4 Training**
When you have an idea of what you want to do and who you are trying to reach consider what training you and your church may need to be able to do that. Plan to use Hope25 Lenten studies to guide your community in spiritual preparation.
- 5 Effective communication**
When you invite people to participate in your Hope25 event or activity be sure to communicate well. Be welcoming and hospitable. Ensure a clear message through every avenue (flyers, website, banners etc.).

Soon Parishes in the Riverina will receive Hope25 Resources to start the conversation and planning about what Hope25 might look like in your community.

For more information scan the QR code below and refer to the poster, which will be displayed in your Church.

The Riverina Diocese supports the mission of fostering community and stewardship to all those around us.

Stay tuned for the upcoming Facebook page and information in this newsletter on how you can get involved!



October IN REVIEW

October has been a busy month for many parishes.

Here are the highlights!

BROKEN HILL & THE FAR WEST

Rev'd Helen Ferguson

On Saturday 19th October, the Parish of Broken Hill and the Far West had our annual Garage Sale.

All Parishioners were asked to clean out their homes and sheds...and clean up they did! We had loads of pre-loved gear which sold very well.

Whilst the money is important, of far more importance is the camaraderie and team building between Parishioners.

All in all, the event has been hard work, financially beneficial, and good fun.



The plant stall with Lemon Butter and Nuts and Bolts.



The Cooks



The sausage sizzle team taking a well-earned rest.



The Bread of Life. Stored in the "Christmas crib".



The workers ready to reap the rewards.



Due mostly to their isolation, Broken Hill enjoys a very good relationship with all Christian churches and the Ministers meet every month for lunch.

On the fifth Sunday, each church encourages all their Parishioners to gather for a "bring and share" lunch and attend a service afterwards. At our recent gathering, we had 55 people come along to St Peter's church hall where we had a gathering of great fun and camaraderie, followed by a service of Prayer, Praise and Proclamation in the church.

During the luncheon, we unveiled the painting that the Combined Christian Churches will sell tickets in, to raise funds for an outdoor Bush Chapel being established on our behalf by our local Landcare organisation at the Imperial Lake site on the edge of Broken Hill. The beautiful site overlooks the lake and can be used for all occasions, ie Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals. Work has already started so fundraising is taking place in earnest.

Any donations towards our \$10,000 commitment will be appreciated. Donations can be made at <https://www.givenow.com.au/farwestanglicans>



On Sunday 20th October, Bishop Donald attended St James Broken Hill South to Confirm Peter Singleton. It was a special day, and we congratulate Peter.



Congrats!

Shirley Sanderson (Sponsor), Peter, Rev'd Helen Ferguson, Bishop Donald Kirk.

October
CONTINUED

A month to remember at The Newell!

Rev'd Gemma Le Mesurier

October has been a big month in the Parish of the Newell. It began with the Bishop's visit on the first Sunday of the month. This is the Sunday when all three of our centres have services, so the Bishop was whisked from one church to the next all morning with little time to catch his breath (between celebrating all three services as well as preaching at all three, it is a surprise the Bishop had any breath left by the end!). First was St Alban's Tocumwal, where the Bishop blessed some beautiful vestments recently made and donated to the church there by Mr Ross Menhennitt. [Photo 1].

After this it was straight on to Holy Trinity Finley, where, after a conditional baptism, the Bishop formally received a (formerly Salvation Army) congregant, Phil Couchman, into the Anglican Church. [Photo 2]

Then it was on to St Stephen's Jerilderie, where the Bishop rededicated the baptismal font that had recently been installed, which had come out of the church at Moama. No sooner had the font been rededicated was it used for a double baptism, performed by the Bishop. [Photo 3] The morning was topped off by a luncheon in the church hall at Jerilderie.

The second weekend in October saw the Parish Fete at Holy Trinity Finley - the first fete since COVID put everything on hold. The weather was beautiful, and the fete-goers enjoyed the plant, craft, cake, produce, second-hand and doughnut stalls, as well as face painting, spinning wheel, morning tea with scones (with jam and cream of course), and a lunch of BBQ and salads. Fr Frederik had also organised a vestment display in the hall using mannequins and dress forms borrowed from Hunter's Haven Anglican Op Shop in Tocumwal, and the Rotary and Hospital Op Shops in Finley, as well as from parishioners. The display was enhanced by written explanations and ambient chanting music, and a collection of special and interesting Bibles and Prayer Books. [Photo 4] One thing no one expected was surprise entertainment: Fr Frederik, donning a rainbow wig to get into the Rainbow theme of the fete, playing the guitar and singing for us all. [Photo 5]

No sooner was the fete over were the parish preparing for the following weekend: the 125th Anniversary of St Alban's Tocumwal! There had been rain during the week, but Sunday was another perfect day. The celebrations consisted of a Festal Sung Mass, with The Reverend Canon David O'Neill from Hobart as guest organist, [Photo 6] and our own Dean, The Very Reverend Thomas Leslie, as guest preacher, who delivered a thoughtful and moving sermon (drawing from our Anniversary reading from Genesis 28:11-18 - Jacob's Ladder) reflecting on "thin places" and places set aside for God, and all the prayers that St Alban's Tocumwal would have heard over its 125 years. [Photo 7 & 8]. We had estimated a congregation from anywhere between 30 to 60 people, and we indeed had the full 60 in attendance, including not only parishioners of St Alban's, but also the other centres in the Parish (Finley and Jerilderie), the parishioners of the Uniting Church in Tocumwal, and former priests of the parish, Fr Lawrence Anbalagan and his family, and Rev'd Stephen Davies and his wife Leeola.



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The service was followed by a BBQ lunch and fruit salad in the garden surrounded by the roses. [Photo 9] An anniversary cake was made by Yvonne O'Neill (the wife of our guest organist), and cut by beloved resident clergy Fr Tassie Pappas and treasured long-time parishioner Shirley Fuller. [Photo 10] An updated edition of the St Alban's history booklet (first prepared for the Centenary in 1999) was available, as well as recordings of the old musicals the Ladies' Guild used to organise to view.

The clergy, and probably the whole parish to be honest, were ready for a quiet rest of October.

October STILL GOING

October was also the month for fetes in

Lang Leke

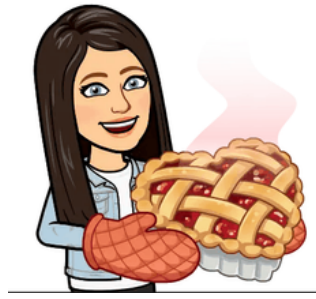


FUN

Lecton



TIME TO BAKE with Laura



At the recent Licensed Lay Ministers' training in Griffith, I took along what is actually known in our house as "Evan's Mum's Slice" and had several requests for the recipe. I have been baking this one for 20 years or so. I met Evan at university and he would often bring this slice, and I would often pinch it. Luckily, his mum is incredibly generous and gave me the recipe, which I now happily share with you.

Almond Honey Slice

Ingredients:

Base

90grams butter, melted
 1/2cup (100grams) firmly packed brown sugar
 1cup (120grams) plain flour
 7/2cup (60grams) packed almond meal

Topping

125grams butter, chopped
 1/4cup (60ml) honey
 1.5cups (210grams) slivered almonds

Method:

Preheat oven to 180 degrees.

To prepare the base, combine all ingredients in a small bowl and mix well. Grease or line with baking paper, a slice or brownie pan (c. 21cm x 21cm). Firmly press into the prepared pan and bake for 12minutes until brown.

While the base is baking prepare the topping by combining the butter and honey in a small saucepan. Simmer uncovered for approximately 3 minutes, until the mixture is a light caramel colour. Stir in the silvered almonds and remove from heat.

Spread the hot topping over the base, and return to the oven for a further 15 minutes or until browned.

Allow the slice to cool completely in the pan, and then cut into portions as desired.



Lemonade Scones

Ingredients:

4 cups self-raising flour
 1 cup lemonade
 300ml thickened cream
 1/2 teaspoon salt
extra flour for dusting

Method:

Preheat oven to 220 degrees. Prepare a tray or pan with baking paper.

Sift the salt and flour into a large bowl.

Make a well, and pour in the cream and lemonade.

Using a knife, slowly stir the mixture until well combined, but don't beat.

Turn the mixture onto a floured bench or board. It may look crumbly, but that's ok!

Gently pat the dough into a thickness of about 3cm. Using a 5cm cookie cutter or glass, cut into rounds.

Place the scones onto the tray close together to help them rise.

Bake for 15 minutes until golden.
 Turn out onto a clean tea towel to cool.



Enjoy with Jam & Cream...
 or Cream & Jam...
 whatever order you prefer!

FRIDAY funnies

