

'The Bishop's eye'



The Ven. Michael Faragher in 2018 at the Byzantine and Christian Museum in Athens, next to a 14th Century icon of St Michael the Archangel

The office and title of 'Archdeacon' is thought to have been introduced to the English church by the Normans in the wake of their 1066 invasion. In the early Latin Church the Archdeacon's functions included not only financial administration, but also the discipline of the clergy, and examination of candidates for priesthood.

From the 8th century, in the West, there was a further development of the authority of the Archdeacon, who often enjoyed a jurisdiction independent of the Bishop. They were often appointed, not by the Bishop, but by the cathedral chapter or the reigning monarch, and from the 13th century efforts were made to limit their authority. In 1553, the Council of Trent, in an action lamented deeply by some of us, removed entirely the independent powers and considerable resources hitherto enjoyed by Archdeacons. The function or purpose of the office has often been described metaphorically as that of *oculus episcopi*, the 'bishop's eye'; or sometimes, in modern parlance, by those with a more jaundiced view, as the 'Bishop's Rottweiler'.

As I contemplate the conclusion of my full-time stipendiary ministry, I also recall the satisfaction, challenge and interest provided by my parallel life as a modern Archdeacon. My duties have variously included particular responsibility for parish buildings, the welfare of clergy and their families and the implementation of Diocesan policy for the sake of the Gospel.

Being an *ex officio* member of presentation boards tasked with selecting new incumbents for vacant parishes within one's archdeaconry, preparing the reviews of such vacant parishes and organising the induction services of incoming parish clergy are also responsibilities of the Archdeacon, along with membership of and regular attendance at a number of Diocesan committees. Not to forget, the little matter of running a demanding parish in one's spare time.

One of the bittersweet functions I have performed on several occasions is arranging and presiding over the de-consecration, or secularisation, of redundant church buildings, often prior to their demolition or repurposing. At each of these events, I have been moved and humbled by the faithfulness of a determined congregation of former parishioners, gathered to give honour and remember with fondness and gratitude the witness and service of those who went before.

Archdeacons are styled as 'The Venerable', an honorific not without certain pitfalls. I have received a number of written communications headed with "The Vulnerable Michael Faragher", but pride of place in my collection goes to a congratulatory letter from a local politician addressed to "The Venereal..."

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served God's Church in this somewhat unusual calling, and I offer my thanks to all who have worked alongside me, for their forbearance, wisdom, good humour and insatiable curiosity to discover what God next has in mind, under the leading of the Holy Spirit, for the Body of Christ.

Features • Wednesday 16 June 2021 • By The Rev'd Charlie Lacey, The Rev'd Stewart Perry, The Rev'd Selina McMahon, The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt, The Rev'd Adam Lowe

Five Resource Church leaders share stories and resources



The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt (far right), Executive Director of Parishes and other Mission Agencies Commission Dr Stephen Harrison (far left) and Resource Church specialist Bishop Daniel Abot (Centre) at St Martin's House in May 2021)

Inspired by a similar project in the [Church of England](#), the Anglican Church Southern Queensland launched the 'Resource Churches' project in 2019 as part of our strategic framework to support parish health and growth. While project plans were inevitably disrupted or necessarily shifted online due to COVID-19 in 2020, Resource Church leaders have been busy with exciting new and ongoing initiatives this year.

The Rev'd Charlie Lacey – Priest-in-Charge and Resource Church leader, St Andrew's, Springfield

When St Andrew's was invited to join the Resource Church project, I initially had reservations about the ability of our church to contribute in any meaningful way. "We're a small church" I thought "and oftentimes we struggle to resource our own ministry." However, being a 'Resource Church' is helping us to shift from a mindset of poverty to one of abundance as we focus, not on what we lack, but on what we can offer.

The Alpha Course has been a regular feature in our church calendar for over four years. Due to COVID-19, all our Alpha Courses have been offered online since March last year. This has revolutionised our thinking around Alpha. We can now run more courses, at different times and for people who may never have been able to join us in person. On our current course, one participant logs on from Columbia! Because of the increased flexibility, we have more emerging 'Alpha leaders' and have decided to make this a primary ministry focus for our church. The need to help people understand the basics of the Christian faith has never been greater. We are seeing people join our Sunday gatherings who have never stepped foot inside a church building before and know very little about the Christian message.

We believe that our growing expertise in running Alpha is something that we can offer as a resource to the wider Diocesan community. Additionally, we have a very diverse congregation – people who hail from every continent, and of all ages, backgrounds and walks of life, as well as people who come from a broad spectrum of denominational backgrounds. Because of the relatively small size of our congregation, we can only hold one Sunday service and so we must find creative ways to accommodate so much diversity. This is another area where we can offer advice and support.

If you would like to know more about anything covered above, please do not hesitate to contact me via charlie@stndrewsspringfield.org.au

The Rev'd Stewart Perry – Rector and Resource Church leader, Parish of Robina/Mermaid Beach

The history of the Parish of Robina/Mermaid Beach is one marked with bold and visionary decisions. From the people of St John's, Burleigh Heads seeing the opportunity to plant a new community, through to the establishment of our community's main base in the centre of Robina's CBD. One of the most exciting things for me leading a Resource Church is to build on and continue this legacy of bold and visionary ministry. In coming full circle, it has been exciting to work alongside The Rev'd Eron Perry from Burleigh Heads in recent months, as we discover what we can do 'better together'.

We feel called to champion the idea of 'church done differently', to try new things, even though they don't always 'work', and to look for different ways and mediums of connection. All while holding, in careful tension, the traditions and cultures of our past. One of the most exciting things for me in leading a Resource Church is to be able to provide working examples and shared experiences of

learning how to do church differently. We are getting better at understanding what it means to have in-person and online congregations; we are working hard at empowering and equipping the young adults in our church to lead; and, we are aspiring for best-practice op shop, Early Learning Centre and community engagement ministry. We also write our original songs for worship!

Our church is blessed with a number of strength areas developed mostly from learning as we go and trial and error. Church music, liturgical resources, change management, digital ministry, working with young adults, multi-generational worship and connecting with the wider community through entrepreneurial and service-based ministries are some of the areas where we might be able to help resource other parishes. A Bishop once said, "Deep change or slow death", but I've always advocated for the idea that "Deep change without deep care is quick death".

Our ministry team and I would be happy to help explore the idea of church done differently any time. Drop me an email at stewart@robinaanglican.com or call 56188238 any time!

The Rev'd Selina McMahon – Rector and Resource Church leader, St Paul's, Ipswich

One major highlight of participating in the Resource Church project has been the way in which, when a common need that is particularly prevalent in all areas of the city has been identified, *all* churches in the area are willing to collaborate in order to alleviate the issues. This has seen the formation of the Ipswich Anglican community as a city-wide community, rather than something that merely happens at one brick and mortar church location.

Liturgy is a strength at St Paul's and there are a great number of resources available. We are looking at alternatives for the Daily Office that focus on the different seasons in the liturgical year, utilising items from the UK, New Zealand and Canada, as well as those used by various religious communities. We are hoping to soon make all of this content available on a dedicated website.

From a social justice perspective, there are already plenty of food pantries in the area, so we provide hot meals to people who sleep rough in the city, in collaboration with other local churches. We are looking to spread the net further and are leading the exploration of an ecumenical initiative to provide overnight accommodation for those without a warm bed to sleep in at night – again in collaboration with other Christian churches in Ipswich.

We can assist parishes in advising on the issues/practicalities of setting up a meal kitchen, including what can and cannot be provided, how to meet COVID-19 requirements and so on. We can also assist with variations on resources for different forms of liturgy to help heighten worship, both in church and in the home throughout the Church's year.

If you would like any further information on any of the resources we are currently developing, please feel free to give me a call/drop me a line on 0415 771 345 or via Selina.mcmahon@anglicanchurchsq.org.au

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt – Dean and Resource Church leader, St John's Cathedral

On a beautiful April day, we gathered in the hall of St Paul's, Manly.

Following the morning session of input and working in parish teams, we engaged in our first circle conversation. What were we noticing? How was the process speaking to our spirituality and theology?

Teams from nine Diocesan faith communities are engaged in the Cathedral-based Resource Churches project which aims to enable and develop collaborative capacity. Each community is involved in a process that seeks to allow them to notice what possibilities for mission and ministry are emerging in their context. Part of this 'noticing' is acknowledging that we live in complex times. We are learning that dealing with complexity requires special tools.

'Collaboration' is one of the buzzwords of our time. We know it is a good thing. Most of us want to do it. We also know that it is a challenging thing to develop. To foster that capacity, we need to do some skill development. We also need to recognise the factors in ourselves and in our communities that inhibit its development.

One of the resources participating communities have access to is a suite of videos developed by Dr Neil Preston, an industrial psychologist. Neil has been working with the Social Responsibilities Committee (SRC) for many years to develop our Diocesan capacity for collaboration. The videos explore the characteristics of collaboration, the situations in which collaboration are best applied, and lead participants through the work required to build a truly collaborative team. They also help us recognise some of the disablers of collaboration.

The SRC has a licence to offer these videos to our Diocesan faith communities. Faith communities that are not part of the Resource Churches project are welcome to get in touch to gain access to the videos and to discuss how they might be used in their context. Please email me via pcatt@stjohnscathedral.com.au if you are interested in accessing these video resources.

The Rev'd Adam Lowe – Senior Minister and Resource Church leader, St Bart's Toowoomba

Over the past 18 months, it has been a great joy to serve as a Resource Church leader in the life of our Diocese. In my role at St Bart's, my focus has been in the nurturing of the Resource Church learning community, along with sharing resources in the areas of:

- **Vision**(e.g. using consultative processes to help shape the vision and mission in the local church).
- **Strategy**(e.g. developing resources to assist in strategic leadership, [especially through crisis and ongoing COVID Ministry Review](#); best practices in governance; and, leading leaders).
- **Teaching**(e.g. [developing series of teaching material with corresponding small group resources](#) and study/devotional guides).

It's been a privilege to share in conversation with other parish leaders, *hearing* about some of their local opportunities and challenges, and *witnessing* how resources that we've developed can be of

blessing as they're adapted in a different local context. I'm so thankful that it's God's mission in which we share and are partners in the Gospel.

In the coming months, we're really excited at St Bart's about beginning to implement our VISION 2025. We believe that God is leading us to pursue five key mission goals, as we grow our vision to make and mature disciples. We're also really excited for the potential of some of this work to contribute to other local communities. I especially think this will be the case in some of the work we're doing in extending our reach (both ethnically and with regard to accessibility), establishing a leadership academy, and growing our training centre. The team at St Bart's is also looking forward to continuing to share in key areas of children's ministry, digital ministry, discipleship, and our partnership with one of the local Anglican schools.

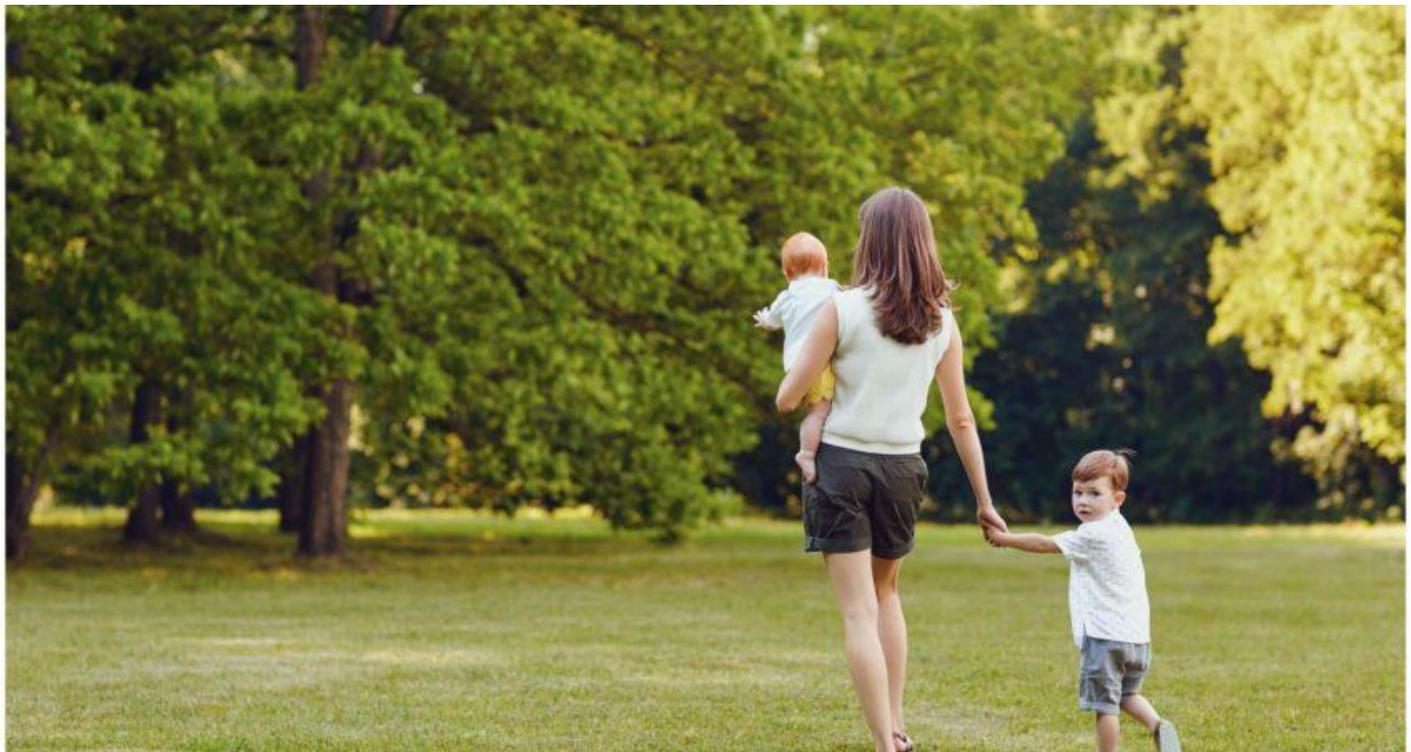
If we can assist with resources in any of the above areas, then we would be really happy to be of help. You may also wish to explore our:

- Training resources and articles on strategy and leadership (you can visit our [online hub](#)).
- Teaching (e.g. sermons, small group materials, going deeper resources) and children's resources (Sunday School materials, Kids Talks videos, Bible reading eBooks), or our [teaching repository](#).

For any church leaders who would like to chat more about any of the above, please feel free to email me via adam@stbarts.com.au.

News • Friday 11 June 2021

National Anglican Family Violence Research Report released



The Standing Committee of the Anglican Church of Australia has made 10 Commitments to prevent and respond to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), after undertaking the first known Australian Church study into the prevalence of IPV within its faith community.

IPV is defined as behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours.

The Australian Institute of Family Studies notes IPV is the most common form of family violence used against women in Australia and takes place across all cultures and faith groups.

Convenor of the Anglican Church of Australia's Family Violence Working Group, The Reverend Tracy Lauersen said the Church has deliberately taken the lead on a broader societal issue.

"Following considerable public discussion in 2016 about IPV, we felt duty-bound to better understand its nature and prevalence in our community and develop and implement more effective responses," she said.

"As a result, we embarked on a two-year project – three in-depth research reports into the prevalence, a study of clergy and lay leaders, and one-on-one interviews to capture personal experiences within our community."

The research, commissioned by the Church and conducted by NCLS Research, produced 28 top line findings, which included:

- The prevalence of IPV among Anglicans was the same or higher than in the wider Australian community.
- Women were much more likely than men to have experienced IPV.
- Most Anglican victims of IPV did not seek help from Anglican Churches, but for those that did most reported that it positively changed the situation or helped them feel supported.
- Clergy and lay leaders were well-informed about breadth of IPV and understood that it was more men who commit violence.
- Most clergy felt that having women on the pastoral team equips the Church to better respond to IPV.
- Clergy confidence in their personal capacity to respond to IPV was low to moderate.
- Perpetrators' misuse Christian teachings and positional power.

"All Anglicans will feel deep sadness over these results," the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, The Most Reverend Geoffrey Smith said.

"But armed with this data we can develop a better response to protect those within our church communities from domestic violence."

"There is a strong resolve among the Church leadership to address the problem and to provide an appropriate response and adequate support for victims," he said.

"As a Church, we grieve with the victims and survivors of IPV, we pray for healing and recovery, and we commit to doing more to prevent it happening," The Reverend Lauersen said.

"This research has lifted the veil and highlighted how big the problem is not just in Australia but within our Anglican community also."

In response to the research findings, the Anglican Church has developed and endorsed 10 Commitments to improve the way IPV is addressed within its faith community. They are focused on cultural change, education, training and support.

“There is positive work being done by dioceses across the country, but as this research demonstrates there are gaps which we are committed to addressing,” The Reverend Lauersen said.

“We are forever grateful to those that took part in our research project, from members of the Clergy and lay leaders to survivors and victims across the country, for they are helping to drive change in the Anglican Church and, we hope, more broadly across Australia.”

For more information, please visit the [Anglican Church of Australia website](#).

Editor’s note: If you are in immediate danger, call 000 for police or ambulance help. For a list of helplines and websites available to women, children and men, visit this page on the [Queensland Government website](#).

Features • Tuesday 15 June 2021 • By The Rev’d Ann Shepperson

The art of deep listening



The Rev’d Ann Shepperson using focused listening skills at Nambour General Hospital with Jim Nugent, Tony Burlingham and Coral McVean during a ministry meeting

I grew up in a family of six children with two older brothers, two younger brothers and a sister who was six years younger than me. I was born and raised at a time when females were often seen as less valuable and useful than males and when children were told to be seen but not heard. So, it was easy to gain the impression that I had little to contribute to my family or to life generally.

Our family always gathered around the meal table and, as the children grew up and took a greater part in the conversation, I found it difficult to contribute to the dialogue. The sense that while I was

expected to listen to others I wasn't listened to, continued throughout much of my life and frequently I wondered why I bothered to mix socially with people at all.

It wasn't until I began working in hospital chaplaincy that I realised that, although I was often not heard in my family of origin, I had learned to listen very well and that was a valuable skill for any chaplain or pastoral carer to have – a skill that, in fact, forms the basis of all caring interactions.

My time as a chaplain and my work in parishes providing care for parishioners reinforced this understanding, as I regularly heard patients, healthcare staff and parishioners thank me profusely for the assistance I had given them, when I had said very little and had done nothing at all. But, I had listened. In the focused and deep listening, they knew they were cared about, important and valued. And, that is something we all need to know – in our families, while working alongside colleagues, among friends and most importantly in our church communities.

I have drawn upon these learnings to assemble courses in order to encourage and train parishioners in caring skills and have recently trained eight presenters for the Creating Caring Communities Course: a short course that provides information and skill training to help grow church communities that are warm, welcoming places where all people are listened to and heard and valued for their uniqueness. These courses are being conducted across our Diocese and are commencing soon under the Parish and other Mission Agencies Commission's 'Communities of Care' initiative.

With the [recent release of the National Anglican Family Violence Research Report](#) that reveals the frightening prevalence of intimate partner violence among Anglicans, I believe that it is more important than ever for us to develop the ability to listen to vulnerable people and to create a respectful and safe space for people to share their stories with us.

Author's note: For more information on the '[Creating Communities of Care](#)' course or to arrange for a course to be facilitated in your parish, please contact The Rev'd Ann Shepperson via annshepperson@gmail.com or 0408 983 193.

Order of Australia: an honour shared



The Archbishop of Brisbane, The Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall, was today appointed a Companion (AC) of the Order of Australia (General Division) as part of the Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours List.

The citation for the honour is: "For eminent service to the Anglican Church of Australia, to the development of ecumenical relationships and professional standards, and through commitment to social justice and welfare."

In accepting the Order of Australia, Archbishop Aspinall acknowledged the tireless work of the many people within the Anglican Church who contribute so much to the common good.

"This is really their honour. Despite our failings, we strive to do good work," Archbishop Aspinall said.

"In these times when there has been some deserved criticism of the Church, it is reassuring to know that so many people of faith give of themselves generously and compassionately to serve others."

"It is my hope that the Church can be there for everyone seeking spiritual guidance and support."

Archbishop Aspinall has been the Archbishop of Brisbane since 2002. From 2005 to 2014 he was Primate of Australia, the highest position within the Anglican Church of Australia.

Within two weeks of being appointed Archbishop of Brisbane, he established an Independent Inquiry into the handling of sex abuse allegations and has encouraged victims to come forward to seek assistance and to enable proper action to be taken.

He has also held numerous other senior roles including Chair of Anglicare Australia, a member of the International Commission for Anglican Orthodox Theological Dialogue and Chair of the national Anglican Ecumenical Relations Commission.

Reflections • Wednesday 16 June 2021 • By Sheryn Yates

St Andrew's, Lutwyche bell ringers on the world's stage again



The oldest and youngest current bell ringers at St Andrew's Church, Lutwyche, Robbie McKimm (52 years' service) and Rowan Yates (16 years' service) preparing for the forthcoming bicentennial on 26 June 2021. Rowan and his brother Hans (23 years' service), are third-generation bellringers. Their parents, Sheryn and Stephen Yates, both played for over 40 years and their grandfather Arthur Bang played for 65 years

St Andrew's Church, Lutwyche will once again be on the world stage with their participation in the forthcoming bicentennial of a major bell ringing innovation, the Ellacombe apparatus

The Ellacombe system is an apparatus that enables one person to ring all the bells of a church simultaneously. Each bell is struck while the bell is in a static position instead of the bell being rotated. The apparatus was invented by vicar The Rev'd Henry Thomas Ellacombe (1790-1885) while he was at St Mary's Church, Bitton in the UK, located between Bristol and Bath.

Our church will be the only participant in Queensland and one of only nine in Australia, with more than 130 joining in around the world.

The celebrations will commence in New Zealand, and pass like a wave westwards through Australia and then on to India, South Africa, Gibraltar, the Channel Islands, England, Scotland and Wales, The Isle of Man, The Republic of Ireland, USA and then on to Vancouver in Canada 17 hours after commencing.

The event is scheduled for 12 noon on Saturday 26 June and will consist of a half-hour demonstration of change ringing (St Andrew's style) and tunes on our 13 bells. The community is invited to bring a rug or chair and sit on the front lawn of our church on Lutwyche Road, Lutwyche to enjoy this spectacular event.

St Andrew's bell system was the largest carillon in the Southern Hemisphere when it was built. The bells comprise of an octave of eight bells, middle C to high C, and five extra sharps/flats that allow the bellringers to play approximately 200 hymns. It is operated by a hand-pulled clavier keyboard, strung by wire to the Ellacombe system to ring the bells.

In addition to the system, an electrical apparatus was made by Synchronome to electronically play the Westminster Chimes hourly and half-hourly; however, this is no longer operational. The bells for the Westminster Chimes weighed in a total of 1250.7 kg, with the largest weighing over 305 kg and the smallest 57.1 kg. All 13 bells were founded between 1925 and 1937 in Loughborough UK by John Taylor and Co.

For many years the bells at Lutwyche were broadcast regularly on national radio on Sundays, and also played for church services, and at Easter, Christmas, weddings and funerals. The bells have also rung out on Brisbane's northside on special occasions, such as when celebrating VE (Victory in Europe) Day and VP (Victory in the Pacific) Day; for the first visit of The Queen to Australia in 1954 (a radio hook-up to the airport was needed for this); and, for the Centenary of Federation.

You are very welcome to come along and join in the bell ringing celebrations on Saturday 26 June from 12 noon at St Andrew's Church, 673 Lutwyche Rd, Lutwyche. Please bring a picnic blanket or chair to sit on the church grounds.

Dozens of Anglican Bishops nationally send open letter to Government calling for the return of young family back to Biloela



Bishop Jeremy Greaves has today joined Anglican Bishops around the country calling for the return of Nades and Priya and their daughters, Kopika and Tharnicaa, to Biloela

16 June 2021

To: The Minister for Immigration, the Hon Alex Hawke MP
The Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP
The Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon Karen Andrews MP
The Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Michael McCormack MP

CC: The Hon Anthony Albanese

Re: Bring Nades and Priya and their girls home to Biloela where they belong

Biloela is a powerful story of a small rural town with a big heart, which has welcomed a courageous young family seeking peace, freedom, safety and stability.

As Christian leaders, we write to each of you welcoming your government's decision to release Nades and Priya and their daughters, Kopika and Tharnicaa, from immigration detention – but only as the first step to bringing the family back home to Biloela where they clearly belong. This young family has become an integral part of the tight-knit Biloela community, where they volunteered, worked, participated in church groups and built close friendships for nearly four years.

However, in March 2018, your government chose to detain this young family, first in Melbourne and then on Christmas Island, after they were forced from their Biloela home by armed government officers in a dawn raid.

Forcibly returning Nades and Priya to Sri Lanka was, and remains, an unsafe option, as abduction, torture, unlawful detention and sexual violence of Tamils at the hands of Sri Lankan security forces continue to be reported.

Every parent has the right to build a life with their children in safety and with a measure of certainty about their future. After spending well over three years in immigration detention, Nades and Priya, along with their young girls, need stability to rebuild their lives. Granting the family visas and allowing their return to Biloela will enable them to do so.

Robust studies show that detaining children severely impacts their mental, emotional and physical health long-term. Returning these young girls to their home town of Biloela, where they are cherished by people they know, will enable the healing process to commence following the trauma caused by several years of immigration detention.

We are told that Nades wants to return to his job in Biloela to support his young family, which he cannot do while the family is forced into community detention. Priya wants to enrol Kopika at Biloela State School to continue her education. And, the Biloela community wants to make good their promise to celebrate young Tharnicaa's fourth birthday with her, after she needlessly marked every birthday in arbitrary immigration detention.

Under the *Migration Act*, The Minister for Immigration the Hon Alex Hawke MP has the ability to grant the family members the visas they need for a permanent solution so they can rebuild their lives.

Our great country is behind this family. More than half a million people signed a petition calling for the family's release and immediate return to Biloela. They are joined by medical professionals, children's advocates, elected representatives (including from your own parties), educators, academics, broadcasters, business owners, peak bodies and community leaders.

As Christian leaders, we echo the call for a compassionate, fair, safe, common sense and permanent solution. We stand in solidarity with this young family seeking peace, safety and stability, and with the Biloela community who are waiting to welcome them back home.

Sincerely,

The Right Rev'd Jeremy Greaves, Bishop for the Northern Region, Anglican Church Southern Queensland

The Right Rev'd Clarence E Bester, Bishop, Diocese of Wangaratta

The Right Rev'd Mark Calder, Bishop, Diocese of Bathurst

The Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall AC, Archbishop, Anglican Church Southern Queensland

The Right Rev'd Dr Peter Stuart, Bishop, Diocese of Newcastle

The Right Rev'd Donald Kirk, Bishop, Diocese of Riverina

The Right Rev'd Ian Coutts. Bishop, Diocese of Bunbury

The Right Rev'd Dr Keith Joseph, Bishop, Diocese of North Queensland

The Right Rev'd Jeremy James, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Perth

The Right Rev'd Denise Ferguson, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Adelaide

The Right Rev'd Dr Chris Jones, CEO Anglicare Tasmania and Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Tasmania

The Right Rev'd Mark Short, Bishop, Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn
The Right Rev'd Grant Dibden, Bishop to the Australian Defence Force
The Right Rev'd John Roundhill, Bishop for the Southern Region, Anglican Church Southern Queensland
The Right Rev'd Cameron Venables, Bishop for the Western Region, Anglican Church Southern Queensland
The Right Rev'd Paul Barker, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Melbourne
Mrs Anne Hywood, General Secretary, Anglican Church of Australia
The Right Rev'd Matt Brain, Bishop, Diocese of Bendigo
The Right Rev'd Kay Goldsworthy AO, Archbishop, Diocese of Perth
The Right Rev'd Kate Prowd, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Melbourne
The Right Rev'd Richard Condie, Bishop, Diocese of Tasmania
The Right Rev'd Dr Michael Stead, Bishop of South Sydney, Diocese of Sydney
The Right Rev'd Rod Chiswell, Bishop, Diocese of Armidale
The Right Rev'd Peter Lin, Bishop of Georges River Region, Diocese of Sydney
The Right Rev'd Chris McLeod, Bishop alongside Aboriginal Peoples
The Right Rev'd Garry Weatherill, Bishop, Diocese of Ballarat

Editor's note 16/06/2021: Following publication of the above, three additional Bishops have added their signatures to the open letter, these being:

The Right Rev'd Dr Murray Harvey, Bishop, Diocese of Grafton
The Right Rev'd Prof Stephen Pickard, Executive Director, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture
The Right Rev'd Sonia Roulston, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Newcastle

Editor's note 17/06/2021: The following was added:

The Right Rev'd Tim Harris, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Adelaide

Note from Bishop Jeremy Greaves

The open letter may be [downloaded](#).

Here are four things you can do to help support this young family:

1. Pray for Priya and Nades and their daughters and all involved in making decisions that affect their lives.
2. [Visit this webpage](#) and write a polite email to your elected representative asking them to advocate for Priya, Nades and the girls to be brought home to Biloela.
3. [Visit this webpage](#) and then call your elected representative asking them to advocate for Priya, Nades and the girls to be brought home to Biloela.
4. Join in vigils in [Brisbane](#), [Canberra](#) and [Sydney](#) on Saturday 19 June.

Q&A with Diocesan Mothers Union President, grandmother, St Margaret's old girl and clergy spouse, Bev Perry



Bev and Robert Perry on their wedding day in March 1970

Bev Perry is the dedicated and inspiring Diocesan President of Anglican Mothers Union Australia. She is a cradle Anglican, the wife of a retired clergyperson, a loving grandmother and a St Margaret's Anglican Girls School old girl.

Where do you currently live and where do you worship?

Since my husband Robert retired from full-time ministry in 2011, we have lived in Bundaberg and worship at Christ Church, Bundaberg.

How long have you been involved in the Anglican Church and in what roles?

I grew up in a farming community in the Monto district with my family attending the Anglican church in the small community of Abercorn, and from this background I caught a simple faith and a desire to go to church.

As the wife of a clergyperson, I have exercised many roles as we moved from parish to parish, but the children's ministry was one I exercised in every parish. I enjoyed teaching and coordinating Sunday School and Religious Education in schools for over 40 years.

What is your current role, and what does your role involve to serve our Diocese?

I am the Diocesan President of Anglican Mothers Union Australia (AMUA) and my husband Robert is the Diocesan Secretary. I am also the Branch President of Bundaberg AMUA and Robert is the Secretary.

My role is one of leadership, providing guidance, spiritual leadership and encouragement to members to live out the Aim, Purpose and Mission of AMUA. It is an organising role which arranges and chairs Diocesan meetings and events. It also involves much communicating with members regarding the practical details of running the organisation, visiting branches to present long service awards, and a speaking role to inform branches on the work of AMUA. As Diocesan President, I am a member of the Australian Council of AMUA.

Can you tell us a little about Mothers Union?

Mothers Union is a worldwide Christian organisation that has been supporting families for 145 years and has grown to over four million members in 84 countries.

Prayer and worship are at the heart of all that Mothers Union does. Mothers Union is open to all who believe in the importance of family life in its many forms, including women, men, married and unmarried people, and parents or not. For those who desire full membership, it is necessary to be baptised in the Name of the Holy Trinity and declare their support for the Aim and Objectives of [Mothers Union](#).

What activities have you been involved in during 2021 so far?

AMUA always organises a retiring collection in their Parishes on Mothering Sunday (or Mother's Day) for an overseas project, with this year's project being 'Parenting Program for Papua New Guinea'.

Members are passionate about issues of social justice, communicating with governments, and collaborating with other charities and organisations to be informed and to bring a united voice for change. Mothers Union worldwide supports the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' campaign and at our AGM in March the guest speaker from the Red Rose Foundation informed us of their work towards eliminating domestic and family violence related deaths through education and community awareness.



Bundaberg members who participated in the 16 Days of Activism Prayer Service

What projects and activities are you currently working on?

Each Branch actively supports projects or activities within its own local community, as well as supporting Diocesan projects and national and global projects. Branch projects are many and varied, but all with the aim of sharing Christ's love to others.

The AMUA Bundaberg Branch is currently raising awareness, support and participation for the two prayer services and dinner events to be held during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence between 25 November and 10 December. We have invited ZONTO Bundaberg, Anglican Men's Society, the Catholic Women's League, and the Church of Christ Women to a time of fellowship, with the intention of raising awareness about the campaign and the forthcoming prayer services to create a combined community event.

What have been the highlights of your time as Mothers Union President for our Diocese so far?

In 2017, the first year of my Presidency, the 125th Anniversary of Mothers Union in Australia was celebrated with a three-day Conference in Launceston, Tasmania with the theme, 'Faith, Hope and Prayer'. In 2018, The State Conference in Rockhampton, with the theme 'Befriend' was held. And, the MULOA (Mothers Union Listening, Observing and Acting) Conference was held in Auckland in 2018, with a follow-up MULOA Conference held in Brisbane the following year. These are some of the

highlights where friendship and fellowship, plus learning and sharing experiences, show what a powerful bond we have.

What have been the key challenges of your roles so far and how have you worked through these?

The key challenge for me is living in Bundaberg, at the northern end of our Diocese and having to travel long distances for meetings and to visit branches. But, with the support of my husband, a good train service and the support and generosity of my Vice Presidents, I have been able to work through these.

Can you tell us a little about your personal faith journey?

My spiritual life began in my childhood and grew in my high school years at St Margaret's Anglican Girls School. But it was not until I was 27 years of age that I came to a personal life changing faith.

Two years after I met my husband in church, we were married and both ready to serve God in the parish where we made our home. In the following years through Bible study and various avenues of spiritual teaching, we grew in our personal faith until in 1980 Robert felt God calling him into the ordained ministry. In 1983 Robert was ordained in Christ Church Cathedral.

What is your favourite scripture and why?

[Philippians 4.13](#): "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

This verse has always motivated me to put my faith into action by stepping out to serve God in many and varied ministries during my 50 years as a committed Christian.

What person of faith inspires you the most and why?

One of the many people who has inspired me with her faith and courage is Mary Sumner, a clergy wife who was passionate about transforming the home-lives of parish families by helping women support one another in raising their children. In 1876, as a young grandmother, she founded The Mother's Union which, by 1892, spread to Australia and other parts of the Commonwealth.

What are the primary strengths of the Church and what is the best way to make the most of these for the benefit of our communities?

The primary strength of the Church is the Good News of Jesus Christ and the faithful witness of his present-day disciples, who through their faith and loving care witness God to our communities. The best way to grow and strengthen these disciples is by gathering together in small groups to learn from God's Word to pray, share and encourage one another to serve our church and community in Jesus' name.

What are the primary challenges currently encountered by the Church and what is the best way to overcome these for the benefit of our communities?

The primary challenge is that we have ageing congregations and many half-empty churches with the younger generations sadly missing. The Church needs the Holy Spirit's power to equip and empower

faithful men and women to show to the missing generations a Church that is alive, welcoming and supportive, one that reaches out into the communities showing Christ's love in all we do.

What is the kindest gesture you have ever received or witnessed?

All the country parishes we have served in have been extremely hard to leave, so it was like saying goodbye to family. Gilgandra in Western NSW is the parish that we will always remember for its many kind gestures with love and support, and the many times we were included in their special family gatherings.

What is the best piece of advice you have ever received and who gave you this advice?

I always remember my dad's advice to me as a young woman leaving home: "Don't ever buy anything unless you can pay for it."

What do you do in your free time to recharge and relax?

Listening to the birds during my early morning walks, reading Christian books, gardening and visiting family and spending time with the grandchildren.

If you could have a billboard with any text on it, what would it say and why?

"Wise people still seek Jesus."

So many people today go seeking after many worldly things when life in Jesus gives us all we need.

What book have you given away most as a gift and why?

A copy of the Bible, with aids to help reading it, has been given to many, with the hope that they too might discover the love and grace of our Heavenly Father.

Where do you do your best thinking?

Early morning soon after waking or during my early morning walk.

What's your best childhood memory?

Christmas Day at my grandparents' was a big family gathering, including aunts, uncles and cousins, totalling about 30 people.

If you are having a bad day, what do you do to cheer yourself up?

If I were having a bad day, I think I would pick up a Barnabas Fund magazine and read about the global persecuted Church and remind myself just how blessed I am.

St Hilda's Pre-Prep girls go wild for Australian fauna



St Hilda's School Pre-Preparatory children holding the carpet python on National Wildlife Day 2021

National Wildlife Day was celebrated on Monday 22 February at St Hilda's School with a visit from Wild Rangers. Pre-Prep girls had the opportunity to meet and touch Australian animals and learn about their habitats, how they protect themselves and how we can care for them and their environments.

Providing educational opportunities to learn about wildlife and how to care for them is part of St Hilda's Environment and Sustainability Plan for this year. Education helps to build knowledge and understanding of our natural environment and its long-term conservation. It is also linked to our knowledge and understanding of our local Kombumerri Traditional Owners and Elders and their connection to Country.

Patting and holding the squirrel glider, tawny frogmouth, saltwater crocodile, carpet python, blue-tongued lizard, bearded dragon and freshwater turtle was a Semester One highlight for St Hilda's Pre-Prep girls.

Madeleine from Pre-Prep 1 said: "The kangaroo is my favourite Australian animal because it has a pouch and the mummy jumps with it really high. The babies are really cute."

Ocean from Pre-Prep 3 said: "I like lorikeets because they are rainbows. Koalas are so fluffy, and they eat gum leaves. I saw kangaroos at North Straddie and I saw a wallaby."

Sienna from Pre-Prep 3 said: "I like kangaroos because they bounce and they have a pouch. They put their babies in their pouch. The babies are called joeys and they are fun to play with."

Eliette from Pre-Prep 1 said: "I like the possum because it is soft, and they live in trees."

Grace S from Pre-Prep 2 said: "I like the kangaroo because they hop. They keep their joeys safe in their pouch."

Grace G-P from Pre-Prep 2 said: "Possums are my favourite because they make squeaks, and they are so soft."

St Hilda's families demonstrated the School motto – *Non Nobis Solum*, meaning "not for ourselves alone" – by generously donating money towards sponsoring a koala (*Borobi*), echidna (*Buneen*) and wombat at Australia Zoo. This money contributes to the care and rehabilitation of these animals at the zoo.

St Hilda's School's Pre-Prep classes also acknowledge and actively participate in other initiatives, such as World Environment Day, World Ocean Day, Clean Up Australia Day, National Tree Day, National Recycling Week and the Aussie Backyard Bird Count which build both the girls' and their families' understanding of our environment and the importance of sustainability.

Features • Tuesday 15 June 2021 • By Josh Poulton

Agile and ambitious Flinders students upcycle old petrol vehicle



Year 12 Matthew Flinders Anglican College student Josh Poulton and friend working on the Flinders Electric Vehicle Project in November 2020

Matthew Flinders Anglican College began upcycling [an old petrol vehicle](#) into an electric car of the future in October 2020. Nine Year 12 students and three Year 11 students began the restoration after Flinders introduced the project into the Senior Industrial Technology Skills curriculum. The College also offered it as a co-curricular technology project and invited students, staff, parents and community members to get involved.

The group of Flinders students who have committed their time to providing a full conversion continue to work on the project during lesson time weekly. Industrial Technology students have been mentored by local mechanics who visited the College in the early days of the project, to help with the initial planning and innovation stages.

Students are working to replace the vehicle's petrol engine with an electric motor and battery. Once completed, the new electric vehicle will be able to be charged using the school's own solar panels.

This multifaceted project has drawn on the resources of many subject areas at Matthew Flinders Anglican College, allowing students of diverse backgrounds and interests to contribute to the many different economic, business, design, production and marketing tasks associated with the restoration.

It has been recognised that the enrichment of collaboration between students, design and technology staff and community members is a stark highlight of the project so far.

Students interested in engineering and industry have been working on mechanical restoration; students interested in graphic design are working with the latest computer design technologies to create logos, badges and finished paint effects; and, there are students working behind the scenes running marketing campaigns for sponsorship and working with the College's finance team on budgeting and purchasing.

This project has taught me to be an agile thinker and to come up with innovative ideas to solve problems. It has also taught me how to engage in real issues of sustainability and future power sources. I have also learnt about mentoring partnerships with representatives from local Sunshine Coast businesses.

A highlight of the project for me has been realising the electric vehicle project has provided the perfect testing ground for me to practise new skills.

Upon completion, we are hoping to get the new electric vehicle roadworthy compliant and registered. We are also brainstorming ideas for how the new vehicle might be implemented into the school community. There has been talk about using it as a marketing vehicle for the College, using it as a coffee van for sporting events or simply selling it and then starting another project.

This project enables us as students at Flinders to have ownership over our learning. It's also an opportunity for us to employ 21st century skills such as creativity, collaboration and critical thinking, which we can then apply to solve any problem in learning and life.

It is early days, but it is exciting to be a part of a student and staff team. We are working effectively together, and everyone is engaged and eager to show pride in their work.

Editor's note: To find out more about Matthew Flinders Anglican College's student projects, visit the [College's website](#).

“Our spirituality lies in the sea, sky and land”



"While I am looking forward to The Coming of the Light celebrations, it is important for all Anglicans to understand that Jesus was present in my people before the Bible came to the Torres Strait Islands" (Aunty Dr Rose Elu, 2021 Queensland Senior Australian of the Year)

My community is currently preparing for the historic 150th anniversary of 'The Coming of The Light' when The London Missionary Society and Melanesian leaders landed on Erub in 1871, introducing the Bible to my people.

I, along with other members of Brisbane's Torres Strait Islander Anglican Non-Geographical Parish, based at Holy Trinity, Fortitude valley, are busy planning the local festivities, and we warmly welcome everyone to join us.

The Coming of the Light is celebrated as a public holiday in the Torres Strait Islands and is one of the most significant days in the Christian calendar as it commemorates the bringing of the holy Gospel message to our people.

While I am looking forward to The Coming of the Light celebrations, it is important for all Anglicans to understand that Jesus was present in my people before the Bible came to the Torres Strait Islands.

Our spirituality lies in the sea, sky and land and since time immemorial our people have believed in a Creator, but we did not know that the Creator was the Christian God.

The Coming of the Light commemorates the Gospel coming to us and giving us a name for the Creator.

The Coming of the Light made that connection, but we had already received God before the arrival of the English missionaries, as God was already with us.

As the custodians of the land, sea and sky, we had already conceived that there was a Creator God.

As July approaches, I am most looking forward to celebrating our unity as one Body of Christ and learning from each other, along with the local traditional custodians of the land in Brisbane.

Editor's note: Please consider making a donation to support The Coming of The Light festivities. Donations may be remitted to the Torres Strait Islander Anglican Non-Geographical Parish ANFIN Account: BSB # 704901 and Account # 00004190, referencing 'Donation' and your surname or sent by cheque payable to 'Torres Strait Islander Min Grp' to PO Box 1220, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006. Please contact Rodney Wolff on 07 3852 1635 or via priest@trinityvalley.org.au if you have any questions re donations.

Features • Wednesday 16 June 2021 • By Frances Thompson

The night the Zeppelin bombs fell



"Photo taken by The Rev'd Edmund Machell Cox of the bomb damage of St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, Hallam Fields in January 1916 and of two officials inspecting the damage, including a middle-class gent wearing a hat and a black mourning armband and a working-class gent wearing a flat cap"

The old retired Vicar sat in his chair, remembering the cold nights of the Great War when he wore two overcoats, and the evening when 23 bombs fell and one landed on his church. He can still hear the humming of the horrid Zeppelin overhead and bring to mind the acrid smell from the fires. His young granddaughters often ask him questions about the War.

In January 1916 he had recently returned from a visit to Plymouth, where he went to embark his 6-year-old son on his first term at prep school. His wife cried, but the boy settled down quickly, with the Headmaster, his brother, declaring the boy to be "a fine lad".

The man was situated at St Bartholomew's in the village of Hallam Fields, for 47 years, not so far from Derby. A poor area, largely ironworkers and farmhands and no one of his class at all, save perhaps the doctor.

There had been widespread indifference among the population of Hallam Fields – many did not seem to realise the seriousness of war. The man had preached a sermon, saying people “wanted waking up”, they would not realise the consequences of war until a few bombs fell nearby. People wished the war to be over merely because things cost a little more in the shops.

He sat in his chair and remembered that night. 31 January 1916 was a Monday. There were no warnings, no sirens howled. The furnaces at the Stanton Ironworks flared away, so Hallam Fields would have been an easy target, visible in the night sky like a roman candle. The man’s wife was at a meeting at the Parsonage, next door to the church. There was a visiting speaker and 20 to 30 Sunday School teachers present. The man was supervising drill with the Church Lads’ Brigade at the school, just down the lane, next to the ironworks.

The first bomb fell at about 8.30pm; the Brigade had finished drill and the man was about to join the meeting at the Parsonage. It shattered the big windows on the East side of the school, next to the ironworks. He thought it was an explosion at the works, but then two more bombs dropped – he saw the flash and realised what it actually was. The Zepp was humming overhead. He put out the lights and the man and boys huddled in what he determined to be the strongest part of the school, the passageway, clear of the windows. More bombs fell, this time further away. They ventured outside to see if the coast was clear.

The dirigible blimp was circling round before coming back again. The Vicar hastily called the boys back inside and shut the door. Three more bombs fell and the windows at the end of the passage shattered. The airship seemed to drop all of their bombs in strategic threes.

Then the Zepp went further away, and he told the boys to run home, whilst he hurried back to the Parsonage. But suddenly it was right overhead again and three more bombs fell; one fell into the railway cutting, about 30 yards away. A piece of the railway line flew up and hit the school door, which the man had just locked. It broke the door in, and parts of the roof fell, just where the man and boys had been sheltering. Opposite the church, the shop windows were broken.

Everyone was glad to see him at the Parsonage. His wife had managed very well with the Sunday School teachers – some had screamed and fainted. The noise and shock had, of course, been traumatic, but nothing was broken.

The man later discovered that a bomb had fallen on the roof of the Parish Room and exploded, wrecking it completely. The church walls did not suffer much on account of their thickness. All the stone tracery of the beautiful East window was destroyed, as well as the lovely stained glass. The clock dials in the Clock Tower were shattered and all the church windows were broken.

He was not able to take any photographs for the next few days, as his camera would have been confiscated by the Home Guard. But when the coast was clear, he managed to quickly take a few snaps.

Over £50 was raised for the Restoration Fund by selling photographs of the destroyed East window for three pence each, as well as selling the snaps which the man had taken. The community pulled together and raised money for the church, during a time of extreme hardship. The organ had to be taken apart for cleaning and repair; the village also raised funds for that. The Bishop came and there was much celebration and rejoicing when the new East window was eventually completed after the War.

The man recalled how only two men were killed on the night of 31 January when the bombs fell. Miraculously, no one else was injured. One man was killed at the ironworks and the other was injured while passing the church on his way home, later dying in hospital. If the man had let the boys run off from the school earlier, some of them would also have been injured, or worse, when the bomb fell on the church.

In 1916 the Vicar was thankful that no young men had perished whilst fighting for 'King and Country'. He knew them all from the Church Lads' Brigade. Despite fear, there was still hope for the future – hope that the war would soon end. Alas, that optimism was short-lived. The war memorial was constructed next to the churchyard, a place to remember the 26 young men from the village who died, a place for the families to grieve. He could name them all.

Annie May, (the Vicar's wife) and the Sunday School teachers should have been meeting in the Parish Room, but the meeting was serendipitously moved to the Parsonage, where they could have coffee afterwards. Plans altered, for no particular reason. While the Parish Room was destroyed in the bombing, tears of joy and relief came later.

Author's note: This is my retelling of The Rev'd Edmund Machell Cox's account of the bombing of his village, including his church, by a German Zeppelin airship on 31 January 1916. All historical details are accurate. He is my great-grandfather, and stayed at the same Anglican church in Derbyshire for his whole working life. The Bishop had quite a job to persuade him to retire.

News • Friday 4 June 2021 • By Freya Jetson

Former Australian of the Year Professor Ian Frazer inspires the next generation at St John's College academic dinner



Former Australian of the Year and Honorary Fellow of St John's College Professor Ian Frazer shared sage advice with St John's College tertiary students at a 17 May 2021 Academic and Professional Dinner. Pictured (L-R): Artistic Director of the Queensland Ballet and Honorary Fellow Li Cunxin AO; St John's College Warden Rose Alwyn; Professor Ian Frazer AO FRS; and, Vice Chancellor of the University of Queensland Professor Deborah Terry AO FASSA

Former Australian of the Year and co-developer of the human papillomavirus vaccine Professor Ian Frazer AO FRS offered sage advice to St John's College tertiary students at a recent Academic and Professional Dinner, held onsite at St John's College within the University of Queensland.

Key-note speaker Professor Frazer encouraged students to trust that their future will unfold if they make the most of the different opportunities that come their way.

"Don't worry about it too much. You'll be doing many different jobs in your lifetime and the right things will come along at the right time. Don't try and plan your entire life when you're 20," Professor Frazer said.

The 38th annual St John's College Academic and Professional Dinner was nothing short of spectacular, as all attendees were both inspired and moved by the words of the award-winning immunologist and Honorary Fellow of St John's College.

Vice Chancellor of the University of Queensland Professor Deborah Terry AO FASSA and Artistic Director of the Queensland Ballet and Honorary Fellow Li Cunxin AO were also in attendance.

Speaking from his wealth of knowledge and experience, Professor Frazer encourages students to seek new challenges and meet a wide variety of people.

"I think it's very important for young people who are planning their future to find out how the world really works and that means you've got to experience as many different parts of life as you can manage," he said.

"They are the future of how Australia's going to develop, and it's nice to hear how they are really engaged with the idea of what the future holds for them."

Professor Frazer acknowledged the influence that his broad life experiences had on enriching his worldview and fueling his passion for wanting to help people.

"I really enjoyed all the jobs where I worked with people. Working as a barman was always interesting because you always met interesting people...but equally was the time when I was working in the Porsche car factory in Germany," he said.

"That was really interesting because I saw a whole side to life that I'd never seen before.

"Without a wealth of experiences, it's very difficult to engage across the whole community and understand how they're thinking and how they might see the future develop for them."

The opportunity to engage with Professor Frazer was incredibly influential on St John College's medical student Mehrbano Malik.

"It can be hard to envision your life after graduation when you don't have a strict plan of where you want to go and what you want to do," Ms Malik said.

"Speaking to people in the field opens your eyes to what is possible in the future, and how you can best prepare to get there.

"I was very excited that Professor Ian Frazer was a guest speaker. The result of his research is taught to us in our first year of medical school and getting to meet and speak to the person behind it was awesome."



St John's College UQ held an Academic and Professional Dinner for students, academics and other professionals on 17 May 2021. Pictured (L-R): Henry Yang (Bachelor of Science, 2nd year); Mehrbano Malik (Doctor of Medicine, 2nd year); Sophie Franklin (Bachelor Exercise Physiology and Nutrition, 1st year); Bishop John Roundhill; Tim Reid (ACSQ General Manager); Ruby Russell (Bachelor of Biomedical Science, 1st year); Sam Bereza (Doctor of Medicine, 1st year); Rose Alwyn (St John's College Warden); and, Cole Suter (Bachelor of Advanced Finance and Economics, 1st year)

St John's College Warden Rose Alwyn said the College's new initiative to allow all students to attend the evening created the opportunity for them to be seated with industry professionals, university academics and 'Old Johnians'.

"We opened the dinner to any students who wished to attend, rather than just inviting those students with high marks," Ms Alwyn said.

"This is because the dinner is not just a celebration of the students who have done well in their studies; it is also a night for all students to meet people who will have an influence on their careers and success."

Anglican Church Southern Queensland General Manager Tim Reid said he was pleased to attend his first Academic and Professional Dinner at St John's College.

“The address by Professor Ian Frazer was both entertaining and inspiring in its simple message of ‘do what you enjoy and collect plenty of life’s experiences along the way,’” Mr Reid said.

Celebrating a history of 110 years, St John’s College within the University of Queensland, has progressed from a single-sex College to a co-educational College, maintaining its strong connection to the Anglican Church.

St John’s College board member Bishop John Roundhill highlighted the importance of the College’s connection to the wider Anglican community.

“The College has always had a close connection to the Church as it is part of the Anglican Church Southern Queensland,” Bishop Roundhill said.

“This Diocese is made up of parishes, Anglican schools, Anglicare...but the one tertiary residential college we’ve got is this, so it’s really important for us to be serving this part of the community and it’s really important that there is an Anglican presence here.

“The recent dinner was stellar. I thought it was really good that there were quite a few Anglican leaders present. It was really lovely from my point of view that in all of these professions that were present, you’re actually seeing that Anglicanism is involved of all these things.

“I thought Ian spoke fantastically. He was really engaging, and I loved the fact that even though we are celebrating academic success – and, he is a person that has got academic status like no-one else – he talked about failure at the beginning...I thought that was awesome.”

News • Wednesday 16 June 2021

Government must rule out attack on charities

Anglicare Australia is calling on the Government to rule out introducing rules that target charities. This follows media reports that the changes are set to be introduced in the next sitting period.

“The Government is looking at rules that would attack charities – and democracy – in an unprecedented way,” Executive Director Kasy Chambers said.

“The changes will mean that charities could be targeted and shut down for subjective reasons.

“We could be targeted if our Board, staff or volunteers join protests. We could be held responsible for how other people use our materials. We could even be shut down if the Commissioner thinks it’s ‘more likely than not’ that we’ll do something wrong.

“All of this will make it harder for us to do our work – and throw up more red tape when we’re trying to respond to respond to emergencies and disasters.”

Ms Chambers said the changes are designed to target charities.

“These changes won’t stop illegal activity. There are already rules and laws for that. Instead they are designed to stop charity protest and advocacy,” she said.

“The consequences are enormous. Our Boards could be stood down, we could be publicly threatened with action, and we could even be shut down. That would hurt the people we serve, leaving them without our help – and without anyone to speak up on their behalf.

“Rules like these would be unthinkable for businesses, but they are the latest in a long line of attacks on charities.

“We’re calling on the Government to rule out these changes and support us in our work – building a better Australia.”

News • Monday 14 June 2021 • By Michelle McDonald

New Criminal Code Offences – Failure to Protect and Failure to Report

On Monday 5 July 2021, two new offences commence under the Queensland *Criminal Code* in response to recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

These new offences are:

Section 229BB – Failure to protect child from child sexual offence.

Section 229BC – Failure to report belief of child sexual offence committed in relation to child.

Anglican Church Southern Queensland (ACSQ) Director of Professional Standards Greg Milles said that these new offences will help ensure children in Queensland are better protected from those who intend to cause them harm.

“The new offences are part of an ongoing range of legislative enactments aimed at helping to improve and ensure the safety of all children in Queensland,” Mr Milles said.

“The best way for people to support the new laws is to be aware of them, particularly if they are engaged in any ministry to children.”

Failure to Protect Offence

Section 229BB obliges all Queensland adults in positions of responsibility within institutions, such as the ACSQ, to take reasonable steps to protect children in their care from a known “significant risk” of sexual abuse.

This will mean that any Church worker or volunteer who is in a position to protect children from a known risk of sexual abuse must do so or they risk committing an offence under Section 229BB of the *Criminal Code*

If a person is found to have wilfully or negligently failed to protect a child whom they had the power or responsibility to protect, they may face a criminal penalty of up to five years imprisonment.

For the ACSQ, this law may apply to, among others, clergy, stipendiary lay ministers, wardens, parish councillors and other volunteers, particularly if they are involved in children's ministry. The duty to act will apply in relation to any child under the care or supervision of the ACSQ.

Mr Milles said that the best way for people to protect a child should they become aware of any risk is to immediately report that risk to their supervisor, manager or the Office of Professional Standards.

"It is essential that the risk is reported to an appropriate person in charge or the Office of Professional Standards, and if the risk is imminent they should take any reasonable steps to prevent that risk while waiting for assistance," he said.

Failure to Report Offence

Section 229BC imposes a legal obligation on all Queensland adults to report child sexual abuse to the police. A failure to report to police a belief on reasonable grounds that child sexual abuse has occurred, or is occurring, will be an offence punishable by up to three years imprisonment, unless you have a "reasonable excuse" not to make that report.

If a Church worker or volunteer is unsure whether they have information that is required to be reported, they can contact the Office of Professional Standards for assistance and advice.

Mr Milles said that these laws also apply to religious confession as those that hear confessions are "accountable persons" under the new offence.

"It is important that community members know that for both the new offences it will not be a defence that a clergy person only came to know of information about child sexual abuse from a religious confession," he said.

Mr Milles said that if the alleged offender is a Church worker or volunteer, people are also required to report the risk to the Office of Professional Standards.

"It is important for people to be aware that if the alleged offender is a Church worker or volunteer, that they are also required under ACSQ policy to report that information to the Office of Professional Standards for potential investigation purposes," he said.

Examples of "reasonable excuse" are given under Section 229BC(4) and include:

- Believing on reasonable grounds that the information has already been reported to police.
- Believing on reasonable grounds that someone else will report the information under the child protection provision of other specified legislation (such as the *Child Protection Act 1999*).
- If the victim is now an adult, reasonably believing they do not wish the matter reported.
- Reasonably withholding information due to a reasonable belief that disclosing the information would endanger yourself or would endanger another person other than the alleged offender.

Changes in policies, procedures and training

Mr Milles said that in response to these new laws, new and amended policies and procedures will be developed in forthcoming months to help Church workers and volunteers meet their obligations.

"This will include new safe ministry guidelines and updated child protection training," he said.

“For further information, or for assistance in relation to any matter involving child sexual abuse, please contact the Office of Professional Standards by calling 1800 242 544 or by email at professionalstandards@anglicanchurchsq.org.au.”

More information about these new laws is available on the [Queensland Government website](#).

Features • Wednesday 2 June 2021 • By The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt

“Talk of our noble sacrifice and losses to the wooden crosses”



The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt leading a Midday Prayer For Peace outside the venue of the Land Forces Expo on 2 June 2021

This week Brisbane is hosting the Land Forces Expo.

Largely unadvertised to the public, the Expo is a three-day market selling weapons and military support services.

It is happening despite there having been no public conversation about our involvement in the international arms trade.

At the end of his two-term presidency of the USA in 1961, Dwight D Eisenhower, a former General, tried to warn his nation about the potential effects of what he labelled the Military-Industrial Complex.

The Military-Industrial Complex is made up of companies that specialise in making and selling weapons. Like all businesses they want to grow. To grow they need people to use their weapons. Eisenhower could see how this market driven approach to weaponry could lead to an increased likelihood of armed conflict.

Eisenhower noted that before World War II most armaments had been produced on an as-needed basis by companies that manufactured sewing machines and other products for civilian use. These would turn their hand to making weapons when a conflict broke out in much the same way that several engineering companies have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by retooling to make ventilators.

Eisenhower's words were not heeded and so the Industrial-Military Complex has grown. Large portions of the world have been destabilised.

Our Federal Government has the aim of making Australia one of the top ten producers of armaments in the world. The Land Forces Expo is part of promoting this expansion.

The Land Forces Expo is being held against the backdrop of our withdrawal from Afghanistan. The Afghan conflict is numbered by Australian academic, Henry Reynolds, amongst the list of Australia's 'unnecessary wars'. Reynolds contends that our leaders are far too willing to send our service personnel into conflicts. He says they use war, which has long term consequences, for short-term political gain.

The allegations that war crimes were committed by service personnel in Afghanistan remind us that war is a shadowy place. A place we should be reticent to send people. Too easily the rest of us allow our Defence Force personnel to go into places we would not go ourselves.

[Siegfried Sassoon was a soldier](#) and one of the World War I poets. The war poets were highly critical of the way leaders and people alike tend to treat war in a trivialised way:

*You smug-faced crowds with kindling eye
Who cheer when soldier lads march by,
Sneak home and pray you'll never know
The hell where youth and laughter go.*

To the politicians, [Sassoon said](#):

*Go round the soldiers' cemeteries; and then
Talk of our noble sacrifice and losses
To the wooden crosses...*

[Sassoon also wrote](#) of the "impotent old friends" sitting "snug at the club" talking about how lucky their sons were to be at war.

June is PTSD Awareness Month. We still have amongst us veterans of World War II and Vietnam who are living with PTSD, and increasing numbers produced through our involvement in Afghanistan. The human cost is high and long-felt.

And yet, here we are aiming to become one of the top 10 producers of armaments in the world and hosting a weapons Expo.

On the [Sermon on the Mount](#), Jesus said that the peacemakers are blessed, and the writer of [Isaiah](#) had a vision of swords being beaten into ploughshares. The presence of this Expo in our midst and our Government's ambitions for our armaments industry suggest that we are a long way from achieving that vision.

First-ever St Aidan's First Nations sporting jersey



Young Quandamooka, Kullilli and Turrbal woman and Year 9 St Aidan's student Rhani Hagan wearing the new first-ever First Nations school jersey

St Aidan's began working on a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) almost four years ago. Encouraged by our relationships with local Elders, including Aunty Theresa Clancy-Powers and Gaja Kerry Charlton, we continue to take steps to understand what Reconciliation looks like for us.

The process is considered, as we learn more about the long history of the surrounding suburb of Corinda and all the people who have walked on this Country for tens of thousands of years. You may have noticed some of our progress, including regular Acknowledgments of Country at school events and the addition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags on campus. We continue to welcome Aunty Theresa and other First Nations Elders into our classrooms and gatherings while we are exploring First Nations cultures and traditions in a number of curriculum areas.

To coincide with the recent National Reconciliation Week, several St Aidan's RAP Working Group members designed the first-ever St Aidan's First Nations sporting jersey. First Nations students Rhani, Ella and Zara, alongside Ms Lily Bougoure, designed the jersey which celebrates the richness of our history.

Year 9 Student Rhani Hagan from the Quandamooka, Kullilli and Turrbal peoples, shares her experience growing up as a First Nations person and designing the inaugural St Aidan's First Nations jersey:

"I always think about my past and my ancestors and how much they had to go through. To be able to design a First Nations jersey that celebrates our cultures is very important to me. For non-First Nations students to be shown this starts the conversation and the education around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. Only commencing at St Aidan's this year, the support I have received

has inspired me to express my culture even more and to educate other students around me. This is just the start. I want the education and awareness around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures to continue throughout the school and I want to leave a legacy of continued education well beyond my education here.”

Ms Lily Bougoure, a proud woman of the Lardil and Waanyi peoples, shares her thoughts on the steps St Aidan’s is taking towards Reconciliation:

“As an Indigenous staff member, I see this as a positive step towards achieving Reconciliation. We plan to build on this action in the future years and hope that all Queensland Girls Secondary Schools Sports Association (QGSSSA) schools take a lead in achieving Reconciliation in Australia.”

The jerseys were proudly worn by our Open Basketball, Open Touch Football and Open Soccer teams in the final round of QGSSSA Autumn fixtures, where St Aidan’s also presented hand-painted commemorative balls to the opposing teams.

St Aidan’s staff, students and parents also attended the annual Sorry Day commemorations at the Sherwood Arboretum on 26 May 2021, with students playing an integral part by assisting Aunty Theresa Clancy-Powers with her presentation and laying native flowers at the Bringing Them Home plaque on behalf of St Aidan’s.

Our RAP is progressing well, and we look forward to the future and more learning. We want to develop a sense of pride in our shared history of this land, which has nurtured people for so long. There is a lot to learn, and a long way yet to walk.

We acknowledge the painful history of the Stolen Generations and resolve to walk with First Nations peoples into our shared future.



Residents of Kirami Aged Care Home in Hervey Bay joined in a virtual painting workshop during National Reconciliation Week 2021

Anglicare Southern Queensland Community Aged and Disability Client Liaison / Team Leader Krissie Miller painted the beautiful centrepiece and said the artwork represents the community room at Kirami and the coming together of the residents in the area.

“For some residents staff discussed the story that they wanted to tell in their painting and then assisted them with finding the correct symbols for each of the stories,” Kirami Diversional Therapist Lorna Smith said.

“Working this way we were able to assist all residents to participate in some way or another.”

Participants walked away with their very own canvas, which they painted using Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art symbols to depict a story or event that had personal meaning for themselves and their families.

Some of the braver people even tried eating a live [Witchetty Grub!](#)

Historically, witchetty grubs have been a staple for Aboriginal communities, and today is still an important food and nutritious snack for First Nations people.

Witchetty grubs act as a rich source of protein; it has been found that 10 witchetty grubs are sufficient to provide the daily needs of an adult.

Phil and Louise from our Marketing Team both tried a witchetty grub for the first time and they described the flavour as “a nutty flavour, like macadamia nuts.”

A special shout-out to our residents at Kirami Aged Care in Hervey Bay who created a beautiful [shared masterpiece](#).

You can learn more about the art symbols of our First Nations peoples and see some of the artworks produced by staff on our [Facebook page](#).

First published on the [Anglicare SQ website](#) on 4 June 2021.

News • Monday 14 June 2021 • By Dr Julianne Stewart

A journey of hope – one year on



Oliva worries as much about her family's economic future as being infected with COVID-19 (Image © IFI-VIMROD, used with permission)

Oliva is 37 and lives and farms in Bulongan, one of the barangays, or villages, in Cebu in the Philippines.

Oliva says that there is great anxiety among the local people regarding both the health impacts of the virus and its economic ramifications.

“This challenging situation has caused us so much stress and made us overwhelmingly afraid of being infected by the virus. We also are very anxious because any recovery from the economic depression caused by COVID-19 is highly uncertain,” Oliva said.

Oliva's husband, like many men in the villages, works away from home in a factory in the city. They have two children.

Before the pandemic, Oliva had taken on the leadership of her local farmers' organisation, supported by ABM's partner, Philippines Independent Church-Visayas and Mindanao Regional Office for Development. Before COVID-19, things were going well for Oliva and other members of the ABM-

supported organisation. They were learning new livelihoods and how to organise themselves to make the most of marketing their agricultural produce. And, for Oliva, her husband's work provided the family with enough money to meet their immediate needs.

But when COVID-19 came, Oliva's husband's company dramatically reduced their production and he had to cut back on his work hours. This meant the family could no longer meet their basic needs for food and health care.

And it isn't just Oliva and her family who have been affected in this way. Oliva's story is across the Philippines, and in many of the countries where ABM works.

In remote mountain villages in Myanmar where ABM's partner, the Anglican Province of Myanmar, works, they have run out of basic food items, including rice and potatoes. This is because of the dual effects of COVID-19 and the increase in armed ethnic conflict since the beginning of the coup earlier this year. This, in turn, has led to increases in the prices of food and medicines.

In the semi-arid zone of Eastern Kenya, Agnes is a farmer who, before the pandemic, was making baskets to supplement her small farm output and a small income from her husband's work as a security guard. ABM's partner, Anglican Development Services, Eastern (ADSE), had been supporting Agnes and her group of basket-weavers to connect to a big district market where they could get good prices. As a member of the group she also learned how to make and sell baskets.

This was helping her to put food on the table and pay for clothes and school fees for her four children.

Agnes explained that when COVID-19 came, the market for baskets dried up completely.

"This is a strange thing and it's causing a lot of panic and stress to us women, especially parents, as now we do not have money in our pockets," she said.

These very real human stories are playing out against a background of a frustratingly slow vaccine rollout in most of the world's poorer countries.

It's sobering to realise that the world's wealthiest countries have administered about 45 per cent of the world's vaccines, while the poorest countries have received just 1.3 per cent. In most of the countries ABM's partners work in, less than one percent of people have received their first dose.

But, there is hope.

While Agnes' district market is still closed, ADSE is now training Agnes and her friends to make woven mats instead from cheaply available local materials. They will also sell them locally, rather than going through markets which are still very unreliable due to lockdowns.

Please consider giving to **ABM's COVID-19 Tax Appeal One Year On** to support women like Agnes and Oliva to take their first steps on a journey of hope. Visit the [ABM website](#) to donate and for more information.

Refugee Week 2021

Refugee Week will be held from Sunday 20 June to Saturday 26 June.

The volatility of life in recent times has shown us unequivocally that we need to work together often merely to survive, let alone to thrive and progress. Let's take the opportunity to start afresh and rebuild our lives together. To count our blessings and to put them to work. Existing and emerging communities. Working together.

Refugee Week is an opportunity to celebrate the contribution refugees make to our society, while raising awareness, remembering and honouring the perilous journey that refugees have taken to reach Australia.

Refugee Week is a time for Australians to raise awareness about the issues affecting refugees and celebrate the positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society. Refugee Week coincides with World Refugee Day (20 June).

- **Host a Refugee Week event online or in-person** – [see full calendar of events or register your own here.](#)
- **Become a Refugee Week Amplifier** – share videos, graphics, news articles during Refugee Week to help us spread the word – [sign up here to become an Amplifier and we will send you content on a regular basis.](#)
- **Display Refugee Week posters** – [Download and display the Refugee Week poster](#) to display at your workplace.
- **Become a Refugee Week sponsor** – [check out the sponsor prospectus here](#)
- **Host a 'Share a meal, Share a story...'** event – in person or digitally, gather your friends and family together to share a special meal. With recipes and stories coming from our Refugee Week Ambassadors, this is the perfect way to reconnect with people after COVID-19 lockdown and raise much needed funds for the Refugee Council. [Register an event and donate here.](#)

In 2021 we are again encouraged to celebrate through sharing food and stories from around the world! Food is one of the greatest ways to bring people together to share our cultures with each other. In light of COVID-19, you can host your event either in-person or online. You could host a virtual meeting where you share a story from the [Refugee Week website](#) and each eat a meal in your own homes! The options can be as creative as you like!

For further information please email refugeeweek@refugeecouncil.org.au

Worship resources

- 2020 Refugee and Migrant Sunday – [download resources](#) for Worship or Personal Reflection From SA Churches Together.
- President of the Uniting Church in Australia, Dr Deidre Palmer, offered [this reflection at the Palm Sunday Peace Walk](#). She gives permission to share this message in your local church communities for Reflection.

First published on the [National Council of Churches in Australia](#) website in June 2021.

Sunday Devotions • Monday 14 June 2021 • By Angie Mooney

Sunday Devotion: 20 June 2021, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Peace! Be still! Quiet the storm within



Main Readings: [1 Samuel 17. \(1a, 4-11, 19-23\), 32-49](#) or [1 Samuel 17.57-18.5, 10-16](#); [Psalm 9.9-20](#) or [Psalm 133](#); [2 Corinthians 6.1-13](#); [Mark 4.35-41](#) [[Job 38.1-11](#); [Psalm 107.1-3, 23-32](#)]

Supplementary readings: [Psalm 9.1-10](#); [1 Peter 2.9-17](#); [1 Samuel 17.57-18, 5, 10-16](#) or [1 Samuel 17.\(1a, 4-11, 19-23\), 32-49](#); [Psalm 133](#) or [Psalm 9.9-20](#); [Mark 5.1-20](#)

“Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” ([Mark 4.40](#))

Storms can be terrifying. I was a bush kid born during a drought and can remember my first storm! I reacted to the lightning and thunder by hiding under the kitchen table terrified with my dog! As the storm grew outside, my fears intensified within. Fear, like a storm, sometimes has the power to engulf me.

This week's Gospel describes a 'windstorm' and the disciples' fearful reaction. Fear could be described as a storm within. Only God has authority over nature, as Jesus demonstrates; however, Jesus also indicates that faith has power over fear: "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

Jesus speaks to the windstorm as if it's a demon (cf 1.25). 'Satan' (meaning 'adversary' in Hebrew) attempts to prohibit Jesus' ministry of bringing in God's Kingdom (1.13, 8.33). In my life, fear is the

adversary that easily can take away my faith. Too often, my initial reactions are based on fear, rather than responding in faith.

Faith, which is a gift from God, has power over fear. When embodied, faith emanates peace and stillness. Rebuking fear through the command of "Peace! Be still!" disempowers fear and allows the Word to keep growing within.