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ESSAY

NEWSLETTER OF ST SILAS & ST ANSELM ALBERT PARK

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FROM THE EDITORS

The first quarter of 2011 has been a litany of natural disasters, some very close to home, others in a more distant country.

Our hearts and prayers are with all those affected. One of the most moving images from the tsunami recovery effort in Japan was that of the workers who, on discovering a body, stopped and offered prayers before retrieving it.

We join our prayers to all those being offered, and we also offer more tangible support in the donations to the various relief appeals. Here at St Silas the month of February was marked with a retiring collection after each Eucharist, the amount raised being donated to the Archbishop's Relief Fund.

It is indeed a sombre time, as we mark in the church calendar the season of Lent leading to the commemoration of the events of Good Friday. But we remember that Easter Day proclaims the Resurrection. This gives hope to us and those still suffering from the loss of their families, friends and homes in these tragic events.

Lee & Ray

WHAT'S UP WITH SYDNEY ?

There was a packed house in the Upper Room on 1 March to hear Dr Muriel Porter AM (pictured) deliver a frank and fearless address entitled 'What Sydney Did Next'. She has kindly provided a summary of this, which appears below.

Concerns about the Puritanical style of Anglicanism being promoted by the Diocese of Sydney were the topic of a lively presentation and discussion at the March Upper Room at the Pacific Rim Thai Restaurant.

Author and journalist Dr Muriel Porter spoke about her new book on the diocese, which will be published by Ashgate (UK) in August this year.

Dr Porter outlined her major concerns, which included Sydney's growing international role. Archbishop Peter Jensen, who claims on his webpage that he is "recognised as a key leader in the worldwide Anglican Church", was one of the organisers of GAFCON, the Global Anglican Future conference held in Jerusalem in 2008, effectively as an alternative to the Lambeth Conference of Bishops.

Though he is not a Primate, Archbishop Jensen is honorary secretary of the GAFCON Primates' Council, while his diocese provides the secretariat for the GAFCON offshoot, the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans (FCA). These new bodies are contributing to the destabilisation of the worldwide Anglican Communion, she said.

There was concern too for women's ordination, even in supportive dioceses such as Melbourne, she continued, with numbers of young men now being ordained who are hostile to women in ministry. The view that God has put men in charge of the church and the home — the principal Sydney argument against ordaining women — has increased in Melbourne in recent years.



It comes from a growing hard-line neo-Calvinism among Evangelicals in the United States, which is spilling over into Australia.

Dr Porter also expressed concern about Sydney Diocese's refusal to accept the recent decision of the Appellate Tribunal that allowing deacons to celebrate Holy Communion was against the national church's constitution. The 2010 Sydney Synod had treated the Tribunal decision as merely advisory, she said. This undermined the church constitution and "such goodwill as continues to exist between the dioceses".

She continued: "The Tribunal is the body that interprets the constitution; it is the final arbiter. If it is to be ignored, then the constitution itself is being ignored. The Australian church is facing a real crisis that may yet prove to be the 'bridge too far'."

Finally, she noted that Sydney Diocese was facing a significant retraction of its central services after suffering major losses in the Global Financial Crisis, as a result of borrowing heavily to invest. It was still too early to say what the long-term effects of this would be, she concluded.

INTRODUCING...

Theological student and newly-appointed St Silas intern Mathew Crane (pictured) was interviewed by ESSAY.

SA: How long have you been a theological student?

MC: This is my first year as a Theological student, and my second year as a Candidate for Ordination in the Diocese of Wangaratta.

SA: Where are you studying?

MC: I am part of the Theological School at Trinity College, where I also live. I am studying my degree (Bachelor of Theology) through the United Faculty of Theology, just opposite the Melbourne General Cemetery in College Crescent.

The Trinity College Theological School is the Provincial Seminary for Anglican candidates in Victoria (although some people choose to go to Ridley). They are responsible for the formation of candidates for ordination, while the United Faculty of Theology (a recognised teaching institution of the Melbourne College of Divinity - the awarding body) is responsible for academic studies.

SA: What other study have you done towards your career?

MC: I have a Diploma of Liberal Arts from the Australian Catholic University, which includes study of Theology and Literature. I am particularly interested



in Australian literature, especially the works of Thea Astley. I am interested in how the classics like Henry James influence modern writers. I am also a VCC Emergency Chaplain which means that I am able to assist with pastoral care in disaster situations, e.g. the recent floods/fires.

SA: Is St Silas your first parish internship? If not, where else have you served?

MC: This is my first formal parish placement. I was formerly a Verger at St Paul's Cathedral and a member of the Servers' Guild. I also have experience on Vestries; I was on the Vestry of St Peter's Eastern Hill and Holy Trinity Lara. I am a Synod representative for the North West Region. I am also a member of the North West Regional Council, Social Responsibilities Committee and the Micah Challenge Working Party.

SA: What is your home parish? Were you involved in its activities there?

MC: I grew up in the Anglican Parish of Lara with Little River, down near Geelong. There I was a Server, Sunday School teacher, Assistant Sacristan, Mission Outreach Co-ordinator, Vestry member, Communion Assistant, reader, and on various other committees for the parish. When I moved to Melbourne at the end of 2009, I became a member of the congregation at St Peter's Eastern Hill, and more recently a congregation member at the Cathedral.

SA: Are any other members of your family involved in the Anglican Church?

MC: My immediate family are not Christian. My grandfather was a lay reader in the local Anglican church in a small town called Gunbower, about 45 minutes west of Echuca.

SA: What is your ultimate ambition within the church community?

MC: My ultimate ambition within the church community is to serve as an Anglican School Chaplain, while working part-time in a parish, or as an intentional locum in the Diocese of Wangaratta. I would eventually like to be a full-time parish priest, but some years after I've had fun working in schools and building up a teaching portfolio. On completion of my degree I hope to start a Graduate Diploma in Education so that I can work as a teacher — I will, God willing, be a Priest and Teacher!

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

Our pilot program for 'Change for the Better' has now had a test run of approximately four months. We have tested the program at Toorak as well as Albert Park.

The pillar boxes have been cleared twice and we are able to report that the proceeds exceed \$1,000 for both parishes.

This is an excellent start for the project. It will now be up to Anglicare to crank it up in order to raise the profile across the wider church and the community.

The project is about collecting currency old and new, international and Australian. It aims at collecting old money that has been stored away in the desk drawer or in a container, perhaps with the intention of using it on another overseas trip or giving it to the grandchildren to start a collection

All currency is acceptable and as you will note from our two clearances, it has the potential to be a great asset to the work of the Gospel.

Anglicare have indicated that if the program is successful, the funds would greatly assist their Parish Partnerships Program, and in particular Emergency Relief.

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The Gallery

The first St Silas Art Exhibition was held in the Kath Hall Centre from 17-19 March, in conjunction with the Albert Park Carnivale.

Curated by artist Trudy Rice, of Artists on the Move, there were 53 works on display, in a selection of media. The exhibition was opened by the Vicar on Wednesday 16 March to an appreciative audience at the Preview, who were also regaled with fine wines and other tasty refreshments.

Most of the 11 artists exhibiting were local, including Valerie Sear Bennetto, a St Silas parishioner who will be known to our concert audiences as a reader of poetry.

We hope that this is the first of many art exhibitions at St Silas, and we thank our sponsors Hocking Stuart, getwinesdirect.com and Tony Rich Art Conservation Framers and Gallery.

HELP!

No, not the Beatles song or even Bananarama, but help with our Welfare programs.

Volunteers are needed for our weekly Sunday Suppers program. These are now so popular, thanks in no small way to chef Geoff, and also for the weekly food parcel distribution on Tuesdays. The commitment is not onerous and goes a long way to alleviating hardship in our community. If you'd like to know more, please contact Welfare Co-ordinator, Geoff Roberts, on 9696 3434.

MORE TO COME

Our regular monthly discussions, known as the Upper Room, and very satisfying visits to Malvern Theatre Company performances have not been disrupted by the lift project, but once this is completed it is full steam ahead with an exciting Events program in the church building.

We are planning a series of celebratory concerts in June/July to 'launch' the lift into regular use; there will be our popular Trivia & Quiz Night; a Spring concert in September and later an excursion to a place of interest on the Mornington Peninsula.

Watch this Space.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- ★ Hocking Stuart for providing event billboards
- ★ Pacific Rim Thai Restaurant – the venue for Upper Room and food donations for Sunday Suppers program
- ★ Taco Bill's, South Melbourne, Albert Park Deli and Brumby's, Albert Park, for food donations for our Sunday Suppers program
- ★ Craig Pitt and LitSupport for printing assistance
- ★ Freehills Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys
- ★ The Avenue Bookstore, Albert Park



Easter Services

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 17 April | Palm Sunday
9:30am Sung Eucharist
7:00pm Evensong |
| 21 | Maundy Thursday
8:00pm Sung Eucharist |
| 22 | Good Friday
9:30am Good Friday Liturgy
2:00pm Stations of the Cross |
| 23 | Easter Vigil
8:00pm Choral Eucharist |
| 24 | Easter Day
8:00am Holy Eucharist
9:30am Sung Eucharist |

LAW AND ORDER IN THE UPPER ROOM

The first Upper Room gathering for 2011 was addressed by Luke Cornelius (pictured on right with Paul Lynch), Assistant Commissioner of Police, responsible for the Southern Metropolitan Region. This, he told us, is the largest region in terms of population and therefore of crime.

His theme was 'Vocation' and he spoke of a journey from his boyhood to the position he holds now.

He comes from a 'priestly' background, his father being an Anglican priest, as is his wife's father. Although he considered the possibility of going into the priesthood, he realised he had led a protected life and needed to seek out a profession which gave him an insight into another side of life.

He studied and qualified in law, and was appointed a barrister, but chose policing. Why? Because of its tradition of working with the community.

He joined the Australian Federal Police before transferring to Victoria Police. He commented that having worked internationally, in East Timor, 'you have a feel for how we should police in this country'.

He believes policing should have a regard for fundamental dignities and regards for rights of others, and this goes back to the New Testament 'Love your neighbour'.

Quoting from philosopher Raymond Gaita, Asst Commissioner Cornelius emphasised the importance of showing 'fully revealed compassion'.

PROJECT ASCENSION TO LIFT THE FAITHFUL

As we go to print, our builder (Bailey Heights) and architect (David Moody) assure us that the lift and toilet projects are on time.

The Archbishop, the Most Revd Dr Philip Freier, will join us for a Eucharist of celebration and to dedicate the lift on Ascension Day, Thursday 2 June.

We will also be joined by local politicians, past parishioners and the wider Church family.

Catering arrangements are being organised so that we mark this occasion in a really memorable way. We hope by then to have our new choir on board and even to perform during the meal.

He tells recruits, he said, that when they are tempted to act without compassion, they should first ask themselves 'what would your mother think?'.

There was a lively question time, with questions ranging from combating street violence, to the direction of community policing.

Replying to the first, he said that it has declined over the past 12 months, with an increase in visible policing and raised community awareness.

On the contentious subject of the release of registered sex offenders, his view is that while steps are taken to protect the community, you can't build the program around the lowest common denominator.

He believes the strongest challenge is to the direction of community policing. The community is losing sight of what it means to be a community, and the single biggest challenge is increased disconnection because of social networking – Twitter, Facebook, Youtube. So the police must use social media to their own ends.

Neighbourhood Watch, he said, while a great initiative when formed, is now 'how dinosaurs do business'!

Assistant Commissioner Cornelius concluded by stating that 'law versus morals' is very much a live issue. The real test of law is how it is applied, and the police are the primary gatekeepers of the justice system.

This project comes in the 50th anniversary year of the church being relocated to the upper level of St Silas Church. As one of our longest serving parishioners, Mrs Joyce White, has said 'Phil [her husband] would have loved to have seen this day.'

The lift will be a great blessing to many people who currently struggle with the two flights of stairs or need to use the chair-lift, but even better for those who find them impossible, like those in wheelchairs or suffering some disability, either permanent or temporary. It will be a great help to us for funerals. No longer will it be a challenge transporting



As he was presented with a book voucher as a thankyou for his enlightening talk, he introduced a lighter note by telling the gathering that he would most likely have to declare it under Freedom of Information, as he did for a gift on a previous occasion – a teatowel!


The subject for the Upper Room on 5 April is 'Rebuilding Communities after Natural Disasters', speaker Professor Ruth Webber (Director, Quality of Life and Social Justice Flagship), could not be more topical given the recent spate of natural tragedies worldwide. To book call 9696 5116.



coffins.. Also we can bring up to church level the scissor lift for changing lights and for working on high.

There are many benefits around the corner from this elevator project; some perhaps we are yet to discover.

This will be a red letter day in our Church Calendar. I hope you and your family and friends can join the Archbishop and Mrs Freier for the unveiling of this significant project.



Jesus is the
STILL
POINT
in a
changing
world.

Share the
experience
this Easter
at St Silas
Anglican
Church,
Albert Park



Holy Week & Easter 2011
at the Anglican Parish of the Parks

17 April	Palm Sunday	9:30am Sung Eucharist
		7:00pm Evensong
21 April	Maundy Thursday	8:00pm Sung Eucharist
22 April	Good Friday	9:30am Good Friday Liturgy
		2:00pm Stations of the Cross
23 April	Easter Vigil	8:00pm Choral Eucharist
24 April	Easter Day	8:00am Holy Eucharist
		9:30am Sung Eucharist

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