



# ESSAY

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## NEWSLETTER OF ST SILAS & ST ANSELM ALBERT PARK

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### FROM THE EDITORS

This issue carries a story of an innovative program in which St Silas is participating together with other Anglican parishes, to benefit the Parish Partnerships program of Anglicare (Victoria).

There is a reflection from our elder statesman, parishioner Dr Harry Ward, on a topic that is often raised in discussion groups – the compatibility of a belief in God and in scientific thought.

Elsewhere our stories give you an idea of the very active life of the St Silas community.

*Lee & Ray*

### CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

Most of us have a few old coins and even banknotes lying around in the drawer of our bedside tables. We might even have some currency brought home from overseas. Have you ever wondered if these coins or currency still have value? Have you thought about taking them one day to a collector or dealer and converting them into real money? Or perhaps you were keeping them for the grandchildren, but it turns out they're not all that interested. They have probably been overseas anyway, so foreign money is not all that special.

Currencies change and when they do, it's often difficult to find a way to redeem their value. You need to have a large amount and deal with a broker in the wholesale money market, perhaps in Hong Kong. So foreign currency becomes in small quantities simply a nuisance. Old Australian coins and notes can be traded with dealers but invariably they will offer a small fraction of the item's face value.

Anglicare (Vic) and the Parish of the Parks are part of a new network that could be a win-win. With your help we have the potential to be a great new force for good in our local community. It is called *Change for the Better* and will benefit the Parish Partnerships program of Anglicare (Vic) and local Anglican parishes.

The Reverend Graham Reynolds has recently been appointed as Manager of Parish Partnerships within Anglicare (Vic). He brings a long history and experience of parish life to this role. He is keen to help parishes at the coalface to develop strategic responses and practical ministries at a level the parish can manage.

Already there are about 30 to 40 programs happening in parishes across Melbourne and other Victorian Dioceses. These range from homework clubs, financial counselling, Sudanese welfare support, emergency relief in many parishes, including the Lazarus Centre, various programs at Dixon House at Clayton and much, much more.



The potential for growth in parish-based welfare and social support is enormous. As parishes (clergy and vestries) identify particular needs in their local community, they turn to Anglicare for advice and support. What a Godsend it would be, to be able to respond in more meaningful and tangible ways. Finance will be the key to this and *Change for the Better* will be able to help.

All this requires funding, drive and initiative. The Parish of the Parks approached Anglicare (Vic) with the concept of turning currency into a resource. This project has quickly developed since the first meeting in May 2010. We are grateful to **Marcus Alexander (pictured above)** who instigated the idea and, as a gold and currency dealer, is offering generous support to get the project going.

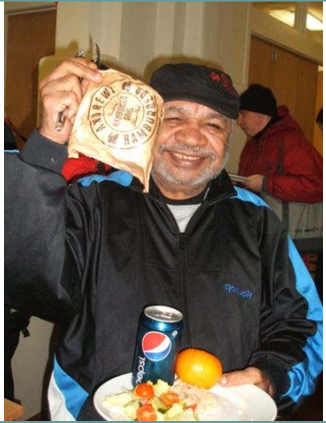
The next step is vital. There will be a pilot program of just two months in a few Melbourne inner city Anglican parishes. The program will be professionally rolled out with quality printed envelopes (for receiving donated coins and notes), posters carrying the Anglicare message and a very smart post with a clear Perspex box on top to receive the envelopes.

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Our thanks to Andrews Hamburgers for their generous donation of food which went down a treat with our Sunday Suppers clients.



## The Gallery

A different sound was heard on Sunday 15 August – the feast of Mary Mother of our Lord. A Family Eucharist was held and hymns were accompanied by Frankie Oakley on guitar and Hume McGrath at the piano.



More than 30 people have now finished their guide training at St Paul's Cathedral and are (rather nervously) embarking on their guiding duties at this magnificent building. Among them are three St Silas folk: Judy Read, Ann Jackman and Lee Palmer. Pictured is a group of hopefuls with the cathedral's Surveyor of the Fabric Richard Falkinger. Judy is on the left of the photo, Lee on the right. Stand by for stories of their experiences.



Regional Bishop Paul White visited in July to confirm three candidates, among them a member of our own parish and occasional cantor, Theresa Dau (centre).



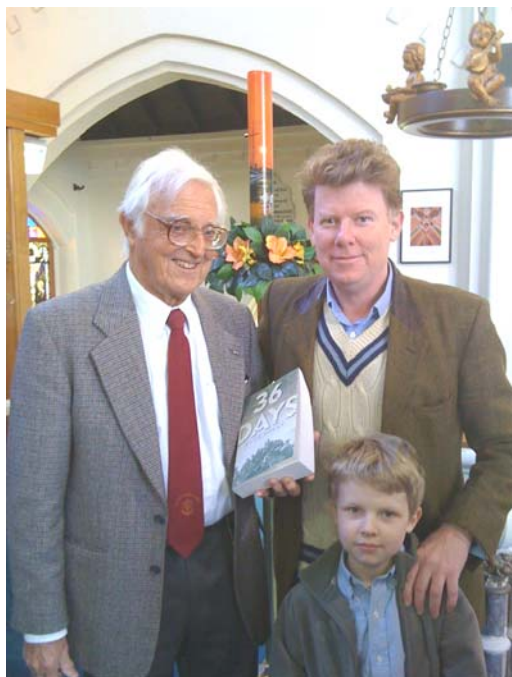
Members of the recent "Walk This Way" Bible study group, led by Raymond & Bobbie Moore.



### 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 Sunday Suppers program
- ★ Craig Pitt and LitSupport for printing assistance
- ★ Binks & Associates
- ★ Freehills Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys
- ★ The Avenue Bookstore, Albert Park

## AUTHOR! AUTHOR!



**Hugh Dolan and his son Thomas with Fr Donald Johnston.**

Parishioner Hugh Dolan has written and had published a book titled *36 Days- the untold story behind the Gallipoli landings*, which he says gives readers a different side to the Gallipoli story.

He calls it one of the most complex and daunting operations in the history of warfare – the planning leading up to the campaign. A former intelligence officer in the Australian military, Hugh used previously unpublished material and research to show a very different side to the Gallipoli story. The book was launched at Readings in Port Melbourne on 18 August.

However there was a special pre-launch at St Silas when Hugh recognised a familiar face – Fr Donald Johnston, who had taught him at Melbourne Grammar. It was Fr Donald, Hugh said, who gave him an appreciation of English language, and as a thankyou he presented a copy of his book to his former teacher.

## LADIES WHO LUNCH

Sixteen ladies met for a ‘chat and chew’ luncheon at Pagoda Restaurant in Albert Park on Wednesday 18 August.

Co-convened by Rosa Jepsen and Judy Read, the social occasion arose from conversations after the last pre-theatre dinner at Zagame’s that it would be good to have an occasional daytime get-together. Pagoda has a wide-ranging menu, and the attendees agreed that it was worth continuing the experience.

The next LWL will be on Wednesday 17 November at 12 noon.

## BRAVO!

### Opera a hit

Around 180 people attended the two performances by Shoestring Opera of Purcell’s *Dido & Aeneas* in early August.

Directed by Greg Eldridge and starring Tracey Hendy and Adam Wood (all three of whom featured in the previous highly successful production of *Bastien & Bastienne*), the opera was accompanied by the Amadeus Chamber Orchestra, which opened the program with a spirited rendering of Tchaikovsky’s *Serenade for Strings*.

Hearty congratulations to all involved in putting this excellent production together.

Congratulations also to the conductor, Matthew Toogood, who embarks shortly on an international career, working with Berlin’s Komische Oper as a répétiteur. This is a challenging role, playing piano during rehearsals in place of the orchestra and helping the singers prepare their performances.

Best wishes, Matt, and we look forward to hearing more as you pursue your ambition of eventually working as a fulltime conductor.



## GOD & SCIENCE

by Dr Harry Ward



Genesis, Chapters 1 & 2 can be seen as attempts by the writer(s) to explain the Earth, Sun, Moon, plants, animals, humans – their origins and development. It is interesting to note how close the sequence in Genesis, Chapter 1 is, broadly, to what is accepted through scientific observations. However, the scientific view of how it happened is vastly different.

The time for the beginning — approximately 6,000 years ago – deduced from the Old Testament text, is shown to be untenable in the light of scientific observations, e.g. by radioisotopic and geological dating. A view generally accepted is that the Universe originated from the explosion (“Big Bang”) of highly condensed matter about 12.7 billion years ago. Emergence of hominid life, which includes man, occurred over the last few million years. Evolutionary development is now accepted by many Christians. Dr. David Young (Dept of Zoology, University of Melbourne): ‘By showing that natural laws prevailed in biology, just as they did in physics and chemistry, Darwin had restored the unity to be expected in God’s creation.’ *The Melbourne Anglican (TMA), August 2010.*

In the book, *The Dawkins Delusion*, Alister McGrath (doctorates in molecular biophysics and divinity) cites two surveys of active scientists about belief in God, specifically a God who actively communicates with humanity and to whom one may pray ‘in expectation of receiving an answer’.

In a 1916 survey roughly 40% did believe, 40% did not, 20% were not sure. A repeat survey in 1997 gave very similar results but a slight rise in those who did not believe.

John Polkinghorne, professor of Mathematical Physics at Cambridge until the age of 50, when he resigned and entered the Anglican ministry, has written extensively on theology and science. Dr Colin Goodwin reviewed several of his books in TMA, (*September 2009*). Polkinghorne sees no incompatibility in belief in God and in use of the scientific process to gain understanding of the world, the Universe.

## FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Our popular theological student Angela Stanfield has asked to be released from her commitment to St Silas in order to attend more courses and interviews in preparation for fulltime military chaplaincy service.

While we will be very sorry to lose her cheerful presence, we do not want to stand in the way of her future career, and so we will bid her farewell on Sunday 3 October.

Welcome to our new Sunday Suppers Co-ordinator Lyn Findley. We look forward to working with her as she finds her way into the role.

The Sunday Suppers program is a project of which all at St Silas should be proud, as we serve the needy in our community.

## ST SILAS PILGRIMS

Almost two years ago a number of us were in Spain in the Cathedral Church of Santiago de Compostela or in English, “St James in a field of stars”.

We worshipped there with hundreds of other pilgrims who had also walked one of the ancient Spanish trails, some longer distances and others much shorter.

After 180km it was a great joy for us to get to this place which tradition tells us is the final resting place of St James (the Great). Many pilgrims in years gone by would walk on another 100km to the coast (Finisterre, the end of the known world) and pick up a scallop shell to prove they had made the journey to Santiago and on to the coast. The scallop shell then became associated as the symbol of St James.



**The Vicar and Glenys on the road to Santiago.**

One of the highlights of worshipping in the Cathedral at Santiago was to witness the giant thurible, full of burning incense swinging from side to side across that massive building. It was high drama, that took our breath away. Apparently the reason given for such a large thurible was that the pilgrims and the local homeless people once upon a time would camp in the Cathedral — so it was full of fragrances of home, especially cooking smells and ‘people’ smells. The fragrance of the incense was not only pleasing to God but also to everyone who came to worship.

St James is the patron saint of Spain and seen to be a mighty help to the folk of the north-west, especially as the Moors conquered the country bit by bit. However, the Muslim invaders were never successful in Galicia and the locals ascribe their fortune to the apostle. The pilgrim trails are marked with scallop shells, there are pictures and statues of the saint along the way and at Santiago the superb Cathedral is a platform for the statue of St James that towers over the city.

Next ‘cab off the rank’ will take a group of St Silas ‘pilgrims’ in October to the other end of the Mediterranean – to the bible lands of Israel and Jordan. Here we will tread in the footsteps not only of Christ and his apostles but of all the great civilisations before, during and after the period when Jesus walked among us.

But before then will be our ‘parish pilgrimage’ to the Benedictine monastery of St Mark’s in Camperdown on Saturday 11 September. An all-day bus trip to this lovely place will cost \$25 per person for a bus ticket. BYO lunch. Book now at the parish office 9696 5116.

## Change for the Better continued from page 1

A launch date will be arranged once it is clear which parishes are to be involved in the pilot program. An evaluation will be undertaken by the organising committee and the Management and Board of Anglicare (Vic.). Then the program could be rolled out across the state in parishes that indicate a willingness to get involved. If the pilot is successful a number of corporate entities may be encouraged to support the program.

Obviously, we are aware that this program closely resembles the UNICEF "Change for the Good" initiative, but there are significant differences; our focus is not travellers but rather those back at home with coins and notes still in their care. We are also interested in old Australian currency.

This program is also about local welfare and especially the way Anglicans can support other Anglicans in cutting edge ministry. We would greatly value your support in these early days, as together we assist the wider practical work of our church and make *Change for the Better*. Your comments and suggestions would be most welcome.



## LIFT PROJECT ON THE UP AND UP

All systems going up! We have now received the necessary approvals from the Diocese and City of Port Phillip.

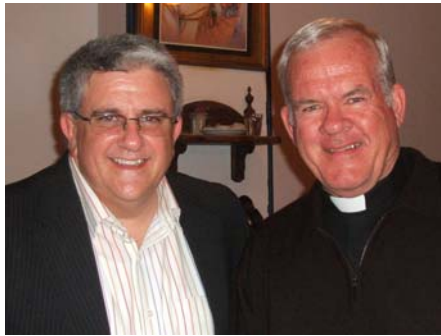
The architect, David Moody of Whitefield McQueen Irwin Alsop, has put the contract out to tender now that drawings, specifications and the contract with all its schedules have been prepared.

Once we know who the successful tenderer is, documents will be signed, the tender let and building works will commence as soon as practicable.

The project will take five to six months to complete; most of that time will be spent waiting for the lift car to be made overseas and delivered. There is likely to be some inconvenience at the time with partitioning and barriers around the entrance to the church, but that's down the track.

It's a very exciting project and one which will greatly benefit St Silas and its activities.

## TOPICAL SUBJECTS CONTINUE ...



### Archdeacon Richard Condie with the Vicar at a recent Upper Room

The Upper Room continues to provide thoughtful and thought-provoking speakers each month.

On 3 August, the Vicar of Carlton, Archdeacon Richard Condie, unpacked his thesis on the subtleties and sub-cultures that exist in organisations and especially in the parish community. He spoke about the culture or the assumptions within the group learned over time, and the tension when change is perceived to be required to meet the demands of relevance. It was an erudite and thought-provoking journey.

September's speaker will focus on a different kind of culture, one within Melbourne's second religion and perhaps one of the most powerful – an AFL club. Chaplain of the Carlton Football Club, the Reverend Steve Webster, will discuss *Spirituality and Sport*. So no matter what the colours of your footy scarf, wear it and come and hear his views on Tuesday 7 September.

Tuesday 28 September falls in the WAGF – Week After the Grand Final — and Sisters Josephine Margaret and Carol of the Community of the Holy Name in Cheltenham will tell us about *Living in a Religious Community* – which may well have nothing to do with football at all.

The Upper Room discussions are held in the convivial atmosphere of the Pacific Rim Thai Restaurant (opposite St Silas). You can come for dinner at 6:15pm or arrive at 7:30 for discussion and coffee. But please do book – call the Parish Office on 9696 5116.

## SPRING MUSICFEST: from Bach to Broadway!

Get your tonsils into trim as there will be a fair bit of audience participation in this year's MusicFest.

We plan to open the concert with a contribution from the Kids Community Choir. There will be lovely poetry readings by Val Bennetto, soprano solos by Tracey Hendy and choral offerings by the Bayside Singers. Hume McGrath will add a touch of "organ-ic" Bach to the program. There will be some popular Broadway hits for you to sing along with. And of course there's the scrumptious afternoon tea to follow

Sunday 26 September is the date; 2:30pm is the time; tickets are \$20/\$15 and \$40 for a family booking (for example 2 adults, 2 children). Please book with Catherine at the Parish Office on 9696 5116.



## EVENTS CALENDAR

4 Sep	9:00am Working Bee
7	6:15pm Upper Room
10	"The Subject was Roses": Malvern Theatre Company
11	8:00am Coach trip to Camperdown
26	Spring MusicFest
28	Upper Room
3 Oct	Pilgrims depart for the Holy Land
17 Nov	Ladies Lunch, Pagoda
19	"The Drawer Boy": Malvern Theatre Company
26	Vicarage Barbecue
28	AGM
4 Dec	9:00am Working Bee
12	Festal Lessons & Carols Service, Parish Dinner



*The Parish of the Parks presents*

# *Spring Music Fest*

*from Bach to Broadway*

*Sunday 26 September 2010*

*at 2:30pm*

*A feast of words, music, poetry,  
song and organ solos*

*Tickets \$20 adults, \$15 concession*

*\$40 families*

*Includes afternoon tea*

**Bookings / Enquiries:**

**Parish Office 9696 5116**

**St Silas Anglican Church**

**99 Bridport Street, Albert Park**