

St Paul's Ginninderra Digest



Rev Doug Newman

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**September Editorial
 Deadline
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Rector's Message

I'm excited!!! When God's people pray, things happen. St Paul's is a place of much activity and people feel comfortable to bring new things forward for consideration. Graeme has proposed a newsletter to Council. A resurrection I understand of an activity previously undertaken by Shirley. Each activity has seasons and having had the vision Graeme will be the editor. I encourage you to support him in this and trust that it will help us all to see the breadth and depth of St Paul's.

As the Parish considers the opportunities before us I encourage you to pray, to meet together, and share fellowship in each others homes and look for the many ways in which God is present amongst us.

Doug

Budget Review \$\$\$

During the month a complete review was carried out of the budget for 2009. Our rent, as anticipated rose in May, but, not by the anticipated \$800 per month but by \$1,047. Fortunately this increase was covered by additional income (Rectory rent) and by reduced stipend payments for the first six months of the year. As Ralph indicated during a recent sermon, 82% of our expenditure (Staff, rent and Rectory) is non-discretionary and has to be covered. This leaves little

Thought for the month

We are precious to God. Jesus said: "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over the sinners who repents" (Luke 15:10). Each one of us is precious to God. He grieves over every loss and rejoices whenever one of his children is found and brought to his kingdom. Perhaps we would have more joy in our churches if we shared Jesus' love and concern for the lost. Do you rejoice when you hear someone has really given their hearts to Jesus, or do you just grunt and go on your way?

September Spring Fair

It's here again. With what we hope will be almost the end of the first month of beautiful spring weather we will again be gathering at St Paul's for our annual fair.

The committee is hard at work putting the many jigsaw pieces together. As we get close to the date, 19th September, it is time to pot plants, bake cakes, make craft and go through our treasures to again cull out the items such as books we will no longer read or other items that will not be used. Have them ready to deliver to the centre when asked to do so. Not before then please and no junk either please.

Budget Review Cont

to work with as far as other activities are concerned. Although we are in a relatively comfortable position at the moment we are unable to relax. I have already started working on the 2010 budget in readiness for discussion with Doug in October and I do not think these calculations will be easy. That said, I ask that anyone having thoughts on what we might do next year that includes a money consideration please let me know so that Council may consider it in due course.

Graeme

Who is our Bishop

Bishop Stuart Robinson told his story at the Clergy Conference on 20th February and this was written up in the Anglican News in April. An interesting read.

Combined Breakfast—Saturday 18th July

Saturday 18th July dawned as a typical Canberra winter's morning; freezing and foggy. But, it was warm in the Centre and this increased with warmth generated by the forty six attendees as they arrived. After eating we were treated to a very enlightening talk by Doug and Julie. We learnt that Doug grew up on a farm 290 from Perth and in his younger days prior to joining the Air Force, drove fast and played hard. Julie was the youngest of four girls who, after leaving school did a nursing course, part of which included a weekend trip to Melbourne. It was on this trip she met Doug, a meeting that eventually led to marriage. We learnt a lot about both speakers and the talk was very timely so soon after Doug taking up his position as our Pastor.

Thanks to all those who assisted in setting up and clearing up afterwards. The full informative talk is available from Graeme on request.



Above: Doug and Julie

Right and Above Right :
Some of the attendees

UNOH Dinner—The McCartneys—19th July

What a wonderful night with about 60 people in attendance. The Thai food supplied by Rose and Maneerat and other helpers was excellent. The meal was followed by a most thought provoking talk by both Chris and Jodie. Much has happened to them in Bangkok in the two years since they last spoke with us at the Breakfast on 07/07/07 to influence and change their lives. To many of us the thought would have gone through our heads "could we have survived some of the things described by Chris and Jodie".

The original house occupied by Chris and Jodie in the slums of Bangkok when they first arrived is now a home stay house run by their then neighbours whose daughters accompanied them on this trip. They work hard and long hours to ensure the house is kept at a high standard and Chris and Jodie extended an invitation to those in attendance to stay there if visiting Bangkok.

The discussion closed with Jon Goode getting Jodie to add a knot to the missions rope and the presentation of a cheque for \$2,000. Anyone wishing to support the work of Chris and Jodie (as well as the

other missionaries we support) can do so through the right hand side of the giving envelope or by placing a donation in the plate in a plain envelope marked appropriately.

A warm thank you from all to Rose and Maneerat for organising and to all those who helped.



Jodie and Chris McCartney from UNOH with Rose, Maneerat and Doug

Kidz Alive

Kidz Alive, which is the special ministry time for the younger members of the Sunday 9.45 congregation, has some great news. We are now Kidz Alive and the "??Group". This new group is for young people in Years 7 - 10. Thanks to support from James Goode and Will Newman it has been possible for this group to form. Watch out for the next newsletter when they will announce their name and let everyone know what they do each Sunday during term time. Kidz Alive continues every week and includes our crèche age children up to Year 6. We use the Seasons of the Spirit material. This has very good background information for leaders and activities aimed at helping children learn Bible stories and understand their place in God's loving world. We always need helpers so please give this important ministry your prayerful consideration.

Where to from here— 2010 and Beyond

By Rev Doug Newman

I trust that you have found our recent survey thought provoking. I was continually challenged as I drafted it and the Council has discussed it with the sheer breadth and depth of activities in which St Paul's is actively involved. I was also conscious of the number of other activities, Diocesan and otherwise, outside St Paul's in which parishioners are living their faith. These include Kairos, Cussils, Probus, nursing homes visiting and Koolomon Fellowship. We all are blessed by the skills learned, gifts exercised and experiences that these activities bring to our corporate life. Parish Council will consider the surveys and the prayers offered and written down along with the Diocesan strategic plan and formulate a path towards 2015.

St Paul's stands at an interesting place and time in North West Belconnen. Urban renewal has started in Aranda and Jamison but not yet to our end of Belconnen. Dunlop and Gungahlin will continue to grow and expand around us. Already the traditional concept of "Anglican Parishes" with boundaries that define congregation is defunct in Canberra and I expect that each church will increasingly behave as a regional church. By this I mean our congregation will continue to be dispersed from Watson to Civic to Holt to Dunlop and to Gungahlin and that we will be drawn together not by where we live but by shared preferences for worship, practice and mission. Developing a sense of cohesion and fellowship will be a significant challenge that will need to be addressed.

We are blessed with an active but aging youth group (isn't it wonderful that they are growing up!!!) Their spiritual care and growth needs to be a priority. The work that Julia and Ben have done in gathering them and connecting them to the wider Diocesan youth community needs to be reinforced and taken on as Julia steps down from leadership later this year. Finding someone to take this role is under way and I intend to continue to encourage our youth to meet together, encourage one another and continue to participate in Diocesan activities, camps and events. Changes have already occurred during our services with a teaching time for the older youth during services within school terms.

Our local mission activities, including Coffee Corner and Helping Hand, continue to be heavily patronized. This places a heavier than envisaged workload on our volunteers and extra helpers are needed. Within each area we will need to raise additional support from outside our Sunday congregation and build these people into our parish and activities. This too is a challenging process that requires wisdom and discernment from the leaders of these activities.

Last, but most important, we will need to maintain our focus in prayer and in intercession. We need to remain a people of prayer. We will always face the risk that we become so busy "doing" that we forget our first call is to "being"; being the people of God, a people of faith.

Doug

Editors Note

The success or otherwise of any newsletter is the quality and quantity of the information supplied for inclusion in that newsletter.

It is the editor's responsibility to "edit" contributions and get them into a printable format, not to have to research and write those articles.

Therefore, I am asking everyone in the congregation to think of what they want to see in this newsletter and whether or not they are able to contribute articles. Some people will find that their arms are continually being twisted, ever so gently, while others could be requested to submit specific articles.

Please e-mail your ideas for content or your ability to help or discuss them with me personally. I look forward to hearing from you.

Graeme

Youth Group

Preparations are under way for the St Paul's youth group to host the September Synergy Youth HUB. HUBs are nights hosted by a different church every month, where youth groups from all over Belconnen meet together to share a meal, play some games and hear teaching from great guest speakers.

The September HUB will be on Father's Day, with the theme "God our Father". The youth group has songs, games and a speaker covered, but are a bit short on cooks. If you would like to help out by preparing a dish of food, see either Ben or Julia McKinley for further details.

Julia and Ben

Helping Hand Food Pantry

The other day someone in the church said to me "How did Helping Hand begin?"

"Well" I said "I'll tell you".

"You remember how a bunch of people took God at His word and walked around Spence praying for the suburb and asking God to open a way for St Paul's to meet with these people."

"Yes" said my interrogator.

"Well that's how Helping Hand Food Pantry began – in prayer, prayer and more prayer."

The answer came not in a way we expected and we could have missed it. But thanks be to God we didn't. I was attending a Weekend for Women with my wife at the farm of a very dear friend, in fact my Father in the Lord, at Alectown outside of Parkes NSW. And over a cuppa one of the ladies attending from Canberra Christian Life Centre told me of what they were attempting to implement at their church. As the conversation progressed I felt my heart strangely warmed and "I knew that I knew" that this was something we needed to do at St Pauls.

And now the leap of faith: How to convince the Parish Council that this was the provision of God. Have you ever attempted to explain what the Lord has impressed on your heart to folks charged with the good order of running a church?

Thankfully our Parish Council is receptive to God's prompting; and "Well, after all," they said "it's your money at risk. Go to it."

So we started off with a weekly budget of \$90 and with about 6 clients attending in the first week.

But good news spreads quickly and both the number of clients attending, along with the weekly budget, increased rapidly till we are where we are today.

And in no small way this has been assisted by an increasing band of dedicated and competent volunteers from within, and without the church, exercising their ministries with love and compassion.

And what a blessing Helping Hand has proven for St Paul's. All moneys have been found without drawing on church finances, many faithful folk within the congregation are reaching out in Jesus' name to the hurt, the broken and giving witness to the love of Jesus, and new folks are gradually being integrated into church life. On average 70 families (some 250 people) receive assistance each week.

We have a way to go yet; and no doubt God will stretch us to move into even greater ministry. But it is a privilege to observe what the Lord is doing: *Isaiah 61*.

PRAISE YE THE LORD

Council Jottings 21st July

Parish Council met on Tuesday 21 July 2009. The major decisions and issues discussed were:

The Parish used to have a newsletter, and it was agreed that this would be recommenced. The newsletter will help let people know what is going on around the Parish and decisions from Parish Council. The Newsletter will be published every couple of months.

Parish Council is to have a Strategic Planning Day on 22nd August 2009. A key input will be the findings from the Parish Survey. If you haven't already filled in and handed in, please do so. It will assist Parish Council to discern where God is leading us over the next 5 years.

Back-to-Church Sunday is a Diocesan initiative, planned for 13th September 2009. Due to the short time to prepare (a lot of work is required), Council decided that this year the Parish would take a low-key approach and start planning and preparing for next year.

Family Fun Fair to be held 19th September 2009 (put in your calendars). Some local businesses donate to our Fair, sometimes with gift-vouchers, or other in-kind

items. Council agreed-in-principle that this year these gifts will be distributed via a ticket draw. Tickets will be issued by stallholders to people who make purchases. Final details to be determined.

Parish Council agreed to make an application for an ACT Government Grant for our HHFP and CCC ministries to purchase new refrigerators and freezers.

This month the Parish received more correspondence than usual. Much of the correspondence was either reporting to Parish Council or making requests for assistance. Main correspondence and decisions were: Council decided to continue to support Russel and Helen Bielenberg CMF ministry; a positive report was received in relation to the Soiree, with some of the proceeds going to the McCarthys; Council agreed that OCC will be processing in October and November; and Council decided to support Clem Watt's Hospital ministry by contributing to the purchase of a mobile communion kit.

The Treasurer's Report included the half yearly review discussed on page 1. The Council considered the adjustments required to take us to December and passed the adjustments. No additional funds are required.