

AUTUMN 2018



# The Grapevine

VICAR

Rev'd Jennie Savage

FAMILY MINISTER

Sam White

LAY PASTORAL  
MINISTERS

Libby Paterson

Clive Butler

*Seasonal News of the Anglican Parish of Mount Eliza*

## FROM THE VICAR



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Vicar	1-4
Community Fete	5
Easter Services	6
5 Gardeners' Gardens	7-10
Lampost Gallery	11
Family Ministry	12-13
Wardens' Financial Update	13-14
Dates for the Diary	15
Registrar's Notes	15

The year has started with much activity that you will read about in the following

pages. One piece of news is that we have finally installed new projection and screens in the church with much better visibility and vibrancy for all to follow along the service. The installation happened just a couple of days before Christmas Eve!

We launched and had a good sign up of people to our Bible Study groups, increasing their number. Clive Butler is now the coordinator of those and the go-to person for any who are interested in joining a group. I am running a six week course called Pilgrim which is looking at the basics of the faith. Out of this course it is expected a few participants will be baptised and confirmed.

The number of services at aged care residences has increased. Libby Paterson, Lay Pastoral Minister, conducts services with Reserved Sacrament at Peninsula Views (Baptcare) on the third Monday of the month at 10.30 and 11am; Eliza Terraces the same day at 2.30pm; and a service at the George Vowell Centre on the first Thursday of the month at 2.30pm.

I would like to thank Di Horscroft and all her helpers for putting on 5 Gardeners Gardens last October, you will see some lovely photos of that weekend in this Grapevine. I was overseas at the time, but was glad to hear how well it went. Many of those same people are now working hard with convener John Welsh for the Community Fair which is coming up on March 17. I



pray all efforts will be blessed once again, and ask all our readers to come along and support the fete and enjoy a great day out.

Also come along and worship with us as we journey through Lent, then Easter and toward Pentecost. You will find normal and special services listed here.

*May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, equip us with everything good that we may do his will, to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

*see Hebrews 13.20, 21*

## REFLECTION FROM THE VICAR

*Ash Wednesday Sermon*

*Readings: Romans 7:18-25; John 6:63-71*

I have been reading a book by Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest, called 'Breathing Under Water'. Rohr links the wisdom of the Twelve Steps program that is used by AA with what St Francis called 'the marrow of the Gospel'. The Twelve Steps in this book offer some underwater breathing lessons for a culture and a church, that often appear to be drowning without knowing it.

You probably know that AA stands for Alcoholics Anonymous, and is an international mutual aid fellowship founded in 1935 to help alcoholics stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety through the Twelve Step Program. Various other 'Anonymous' groups following a similar program have been set up, like Narcotics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, Overeaters Anonymous and heaps more.

Richard Rohr suggests, and I think this is a truth, that 'addiction' is a very helpful metaphor for us to understand what the Bible calls sin.

Medieval Christians often called sin passions, or attachments, as in those things that drive us, and what we cling onto.

Tonight's text from Romans bewails compulsive behaviour we often fall into. Paul writes: *For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.*

Addiction is not only about alcohol and drugs, it is not only what is visible, but also many internal processes like our defences, patterns of thinking, and the way we process our reality. And these habitual practices are ones we are likely to be fighting for the rest of our lives.

We cannot stop the pressures of life, the *drowning waters* that rise, but we can see our reality for what it is, as Rohr says, seek to properly detach from it, and learn to breathe under water.

We remain blinded until we recognise our habits for what they are. Jesus said to the demon at Gerasa, *what is your name?* Did you ever think that a strange question? What is your sin? What is your addiction? If you cannot name it, it cannot be healed.

Over Lent and through Easter, we are having a sermon series called *Characters Around the Cross*. As we look at each character, dig into their humanity and observe their response to Jesus, we can learn some lessons about ourselves.

None of us are in a bubble. And we learn through these stories of

## REFLECTION FROM THE VICAR (CONTINUED)

various factors that influence these people as to why they behave as they do, and how Jesus may liberate them.

Gerald May wrote that *addiction uses up our spiritual desire*. It drains away our deepest and true desire, that inner flow and life force which makes us *long and pant for running streams* (Psalm 42). Addictions are when that desire gets displaced onto the wrong object. Addictions mean we just treat the symptoms rather than the cause. The quick fix or distraction.

The truism, *You cannot heal what you do not acknowledge* is exemplified positively as an economy of grace in Desmond Tutu's 'Truth and Reconciliation Commission' in South Africa after the fall of apartheid. There, all sides, had to take proper and public responsibility for their mistakes, not for the sake of any punishment, but for the sake of truth and healing. The healing, in fact, was accomplished by the very baring – and the bearing (shouldering) – of the truth publicly. And this is what the Church, I know the Anglican Church, is trying to do now in this era of the Royal Commission.

In this text from Romans, Paul sounds like he is at one of these Twelve Step meetings as he admits, *Hi, I'm Paul, and I am a sinner*. In these meetings, one admits they are powerless in the face of their addiction. One surrenders oneself to a higher power. One confesses their mistakes and finds welcome and support in the company of others, one day at a time.

Paul assures us in the Romans text, that doing the right things apart from God's grace is a losing battle. It is not that we are simply weak, or lazy, or not trying hard enough. There are forces at work in us with which we, on our own, cannot contend.

Thanks be to God though, we are not alone. The very power of sin over us, Jesus takes on in our stead. *Wretched though I am ! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

Romans is a remarkable epistle in the way it talks about the seemingly insurmountable problem of sin, and the amazing grace of God that counters the sin. In chapter 5, God proves his love for us, that while we were still sinners, Jesus died for us. God does not love us when we change, God loves us *so we can change*.

Stories in gospels tell of the wrong one who became right, because they were honest about it! (think for example of the prodigal son, and the humble publican praying in the temple). Jesus, in teaching us to look out for the log in our own eye, knows that if we see rightly (and we need his help for that), our actions and behaviour eventually take care of themselves. Evil succeeds only by disguising itself as good, or necessary, or helpful.

God does not simply destroy evil as we hope he would. God is much wiser, wastes nothing, and includes everything. The God of the Bible is best known for transmuting and transforming our very evils into our own more perfect good. (See Romans 8) God uses our sins in our own favour! God brings us—through failure—from unconsciousness to ever-deeper consciousness and conscience.

## REFLECTION FROM THE VICAR (CONTINUED)

And all this is not just for our personal self-development. It is a transformative ripple. It is interesting that the 12th step in the program asks those who have had a spiritual awakening, by going through the program, should carry the message to others, and to practice the principles in all their affairs. In Luke's gospel, when Jesus predicts Simon Peter's denial, he says, *Simon, Simon, you must be sifted like wheat, and once you have recovered, you in your turn must strengthen your brothers.*

Lent is a time where we reckon with our sins and mortality. In the liturgy tonight, we acknowledge that *the knowledge of our sins are laid bare before the cross of Jesus Christ.* On Good Friday, the wording is more extreme: *we are stripped bare by your suffering. You see our dreams, our demons, and the secrets we keep even from ourselves.*

Yet Jesus has known us from the first, and while we were still weak, at the right time, *Christ died for the ungodly*, Romans 5 again.

Tonight's gospel reading reiterates Jesus knowing us fully. Knows our inadequacy, knows that we are unable to even come to him for help without God willing it. And God does! We might read that passage as sounding restrictive. But all those disciples did come with their beliefs and their doubts, with their faith and their apostasy. They still had freewill to leave, and some did, and one stayed and yet betrayed, as another denied, and others deserted.

It is said that the characters in the Bible are presented warts and all. It is true. There is an honesty in their stories which we do not have to explain or justify, but be encouraged that: *wretched though they or I may be, and, Who is it that will rescue us from this body of death?* We can raise our voices saying: *Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Amen.*

The **Parish Picnic** took place on Sunday the 25th of February at Devilbend reservoir picnic area.

Around 30 parishioners braved the wind and enjoyed an afternoon in the beautiful surroundings spending some time chatting and eating the various foods we had brought. We had people from 8 to "over eighty" gathered together and enjoying each other's company.

We will plan another activity for the middle of the year.

CARITAS meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 10am.

For enquiries, please contact  
Joan Mitchell: 5914 0079 or  
[joanmitchell272@gmail.com](mailto:joanmitchell272@gmail.com)



## COMMUNITY FETE



KIDS ACTIVITIES CRAFT POP-UP OP SHOP JEWELLERY CAKES FOOD PLANTS

**Mt Eliza Anglican Church**  
**Fete**  
**Saturday 17 March**  
[mteliza.melbourneanglican.org.au](http://mteliza.melbourneanglican.org.au)

**Wish you were here!**  
**Anglican Parish of Mount Eliza**

JOIN OUR WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

We are a vibrant community that offers many ways to connect.  
Contact our ministry team for more information:

**Sunday 8.30am** Traditional Service  
**Sunday 10.30am** Contemporary Service with Children's Program  
**Wednesday 9.30am** Play and Pray service  
**Wednesday 10.30am** Traditional Service in the historic church

Playgroup, Children's Church, Youth Small Group, Caritas, Bible Study Groups, Bible Study @ Church, Prayer Chain, Pastoral Care, Hospital Visiting, Frankston Community Support—Food Donations, MECCS Transportation, Community Fete, Lamppost Gallery

[mteliza.melbourneanglican.org.au](http://mteliza.melbourneanglican.org.au)



## IMPORTANT SERVICES SOON

**MAUNDY THURSDAY: 7.30PM**

Taize Style Service with The Washing of the Hands and Feet, Communion, the Stripping of the Sanctuary, and Hour of Prayer

**Sunday May 6**

**10am Combined Service** to welcome Bishop Paul Barker. There will be a shared lunch in the hall following the service.

**Saturday May 12**

**Parish Quiet Day** 10am-2.45pm. Theme: 'Soul Friends and Prayer Ministry for the Journey'.

Spend the day in the churches of St James the Less with a couple of addresses and plenty of quiet time for personal reflection. BYO lunch. Morning tea and refreshments provided.

**Dedication of the gifted sculpture of Hannah and the Prayer Ministry Space at 3pm.**

Following the quiet day there will be a dedication and afternoon tea in celebrating the gift of the sculpture 'Hannah' by Julie Edgar who will be our guest. 'Hannah' is being installed over a space that will be dedicated for Prayer Ministry, by the side of the Leonard French window.

You are welcome to either or both events of this day



FIVE GARDENERS' GARDENS—OCTOBER 2017





FIVE GARDENERS' GARDENS—OCTOBER 2017





FIVE GARDENERS' GARDENS—OCTOBER 2017





## FIVE GARDENERS' GARDENS—OCTOBER 2017



## LAMPPOST GALLERY

*Beautiful Ashes:*

Lampost curator and artist Rebekah Pryor began installing her *Beautiful Ashes* artwork from Ash Wednesday - a developing series of ashen vessels and accompanying audio clips that reflect on the relationship between the Biblical stories of Lent and Easter and those of the people who celebrate them. The installation, which began on Ash Wednesday, will continue to be developed in the space until 29 April, providing another creative exploration of the liturgical seasons.

Rebekah explains the background to the work: 'The choice to investigate the related ideas of lament and hope through the materials of charcoal (ground to ash) and clay was informed by the Ash Wednesday prayers that acknowledge our mortality that began as dust, beloved and brought to life by God's own breath, and seek our own repentant shift from 'worthily lamenting our sins' to being forgiven and restored to God through Christ (A Prayer Book for Australia, 1995, p. 481.). This language of lament also led me to imagine the experiences of Jesus's closest family and friends who, at the time of his death, must have been overcome with mourning and deep lament at their loss. Through the gospel accounts, we know that their grief was turned to joy and hope with the resurrection of Jesus, and that, as we celebrate Lent and Easter in faith and the knowledge of God's love and mercy, this transformation can be our experience too. In the words Isaiah 61 - words that Jesus reads in the Nazarene synagogue to describe his own life and ministry (Luke 4:18-19) - the servant of God comes to proclaim 'good news to the oppressed', 'liberty to the captives' and 'comfort to all who mourn': 'to give them a garland instead of ashes' (Isaiah 61:1-3). Beauty for ashes. *Beautiful Ashes...*'

Church members (over 18 years of age) are invited to participate in the work by having their own thoughts and stories of lament transformed to hope included as a voice recording. These recordings will be made in the gallery space, at a time convenient to participants and the artist. Once complete, they will be included in the installation and made accessible for people to listen to through a number of headphone sets included in the artwork. More details about the process are available in the gallery or by contacting Rebekah by email: [contact@rebekahpryor.com](mailto:contact@rebekahpryor.com)

## FAMILY MINISTRY

**Playgroup** this term has been exploring ideas around God, being friends and Easter. We have created beautiful rainbow fish, broken through a cardboard box roof so that friends could help their friend see Jesus and we will be making amazing pom poms and Easter eggs over the next month. Numbers are steady with around 14 children each week but there have been several new arrivals this term with a few more due in the next couple of months so numbers are growing again. Created for parents and carers of babies and preschool children, this program runs on Monday mornings during school term times, from 9.30am to 11am.

Contact Sam White for more information if you would like to join.



### Youth Small Group

meets monthly. If you are a teenager (or parent of a teenager) and would like to find out more or join us then contact Sam White for details of our next meeting.

In March we will meet with Bek Pryor and explored the Beautiful Ashes installation in the Lamppost Gallery space and collaborated on part of the installation, thought about our own ideas of lament and prayed together.

Wednesday mornings during term time

In the main church

From 9.30am—10.30am

Starts  
March 7th

(including refreshments)

Join us for a fun and simple, 30 minute service where we will sing, play, pray, hear a story and have fun together.

Specially created for parents and carers of pre-school children from babies to 5 years old.

[mteliza.melbourneanglican.org.au](http://mteliza.melbourneanglican.org.au)



**Play and Pray** starts in March and is a 30 minute service created for parents and carers with small children (babies to pre-school.)

Starting at 9.30am on Wednesdays in the main church, this is a space where we meet God through singing, craft, wondering and praying.

Contact Jennie or Sam for more details.



## FAMILY MINISTRY

**Children's Program** in the 10.30 contemporary service this month has been following the sermon series on characters around the cross and using some of the Lost Sheep Easter resources. We also made slime as part of our exploration around the idea of transfiguration.

Children's program runs during term time and during holidays there is a space in the main church for the children to use some resources related to the weekly gospel readings.

See Sam White for more details.



## WARDENS' FINANCIAL UPDATE

Overall we are on track for the four (4) months to end Jan'18 with key areas of Income and Expenditure are at or close to budget. Highlights have been the increasing commitment to giving through automatic deductions via the Anglican Development Fund and the very good fundraising result from 5 Gardeners' Gardens event held last October.

The twelve (12) month forecast for 2017/18 shows the importance of both fundraising and property income, which together represent 30% of our total income and assumes a good result from our Community Fete on Saturday 17th March.

Total expenditure for the year provides for a catch-up in Maintenance works, allowing for volunteer support, repayment of the Projector loan in full, of approx. \$3,500 (after the appeal raised almost \$11,600), and the allocation of 5% Offertory to Mission.

## WARDENS' FINANCIAL UPDATE

The forecast cash position at year end, 30th Sep'18, sees us in positive territory after providing for expected liabilities.

Should you require any further information please contact a Warden, i.e. Sarnia Birch, John Paterson or Steve Swanwick, or alternatively the Treasurer, Ross Hunt.

### Summary (\$'000s)

Budget YTD Jan'18	Actual YTD Jan'18	Description	Budget 12 Mths 2017/18	F'cast 12 Mths 2017/18	L.Yr 12 Mths 2016/17
		<b>Income</b>			
62	66	Offeritory	182	184	199
6	4	Other (ADF, Donations)	9	6	10
10	10	Property (105A Koetong)	29	29	29
8	6	Property (Hall)	22	21	21
14	16	Activity (Fete, 5GG, Services)	30	32	21
<b>100</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>280</b>
		<b>Expenditure</b>			
44	46	Staff	124	127	181
12	12	Ministry (incl. Assessment)	36	38	41
9	7	Administration (incl. Projector)	22	20	18
3	2	Occupancy (Utilities)	14	14	9
10	11	Maintenance	31	31	11
2	1	Property (105A Koetong)	9	9	8
6	6	Hall Loan	19	19	19
4	5	Mission (min.5% Offeritory)	10	11	2
<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>289</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Surplus (Deficiency)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>(9)</b>

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please check the monthly pew bulletin and updates on the web site for more details closer to when events are to happen.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
17 March	Community Fete	Parish Grounds	9am –1pm
21 March	Parish Council Meeting	Meeting Room	7.30pm
29 March	Maundy Thursday Service	Main Church	7.30pm
30 March	GOOD FRIDAY	Main Church	10.00am
1 April	EASTER DAY	Main Church	10.00am
18 April	Parish Council Meeting	Meeting Room	7.30pm
25 April	ANZAC DAY		
6 May	Combined Service & Confirmation Bishop Paul Barker	Main Church	10.00am
12 May	Parish Quiet Day	Both churches	10.00am—2.45pm
	Dedication of the Hannah sculpture & the Prayer Ministry Space	Main Church	3.00pm
16 May	Parish Council Meeting	Meeting Room	7.30pm
11 June	Queen's Birthday Holiday		
20 June	Parish Council Meeting	Meeting Room	7.30pm



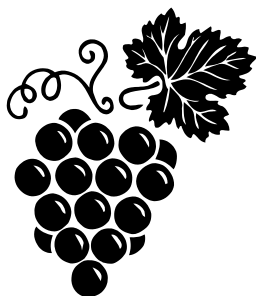
### REGISTRAR NOTES

**BAPTISMS:** *Flynn Hardy Hansen  
Lauren Carol Mansi  
Kimberley Joyce Lawson*

**IN MEMORIAM:** *John Charles Ingram  
George Stanley Brian Bartholomeusz*

*Please continue to pray for these people and their families.*

## *News of the Anglican Parish of Mount Eliza*



**To know Christ and to make Christ known**

105 Koetong Parade  
Mount Eliza VIC 3930

Phone: 9775 3301

E-mail: [anglicanmounteliza@gmail.com](mailto:anglicanmounteliza@gmail.com)

Web: [mteliza.melbourneanglican.org.au](http://mteliza.melbourneanglican.org.au)

*We are a community of Christians who strive to know Christ and to make Christ known, in our church, in our families, in our communities and in the world. We worship in the wide variety of styles offered by the Anglican tradition, from sung Eucharist to Sunday school, from traditional service to contemporary praise, for seniors and children, for youth and adults. There is something for everyone ~ whoever you are, wherever you come from, you are welcome to join us as we meet God here.*

### **SERVICES AT MT ELIZA**

#### **Sundays in the Main Church**

**8.30 am Holy Communion**

**10.30 am Contemporary Family Service**

5.00pm Choral Evensong ~ 4th Sunday

**St James the Less Historic Church**

**Every Wednesday**

10.30am Holy Communion    **St James the Less Historic Church**

