

Ordination: five new Deacons



DEACONS: *The Reverends James Daymond, Bec Choi, Sally and Roger Phelps and Ben Mackay were made Deacons at the Ordination service at All Saints' Cathedral on February 5. (Photo: Gemma Clipsham)*

Four of the five Deacons ordained in All Saints' Cathedral on February 12 have already been serving in lay ministry within Bathurst Diocese for some time.

James Daymond is well known in the Narromine parish, where he served as a lay evangelist for three years, and in the parish of Cudgegong Valley, where he has done similar work over the past two years.

James has said he is keen to continue developing the ministry model he currently uses.

"It's a model I began using while I was a trainee minister at St Clement's, Mosman, and I've been continually adapting it through the time in Narromine and now in Mudgee."

He said ordination as a Deacon gives a stronger recognition to his ministry of

evangelism; it is a further acknowledgement of being set apart for ministry; and it enables more options for ministry in the future.

Bec Choi has been a paid lay minister in Blayney Parish, and particularly in Millthorpe where she and her husband Yooie live, for the past nine months or so. She will continue in her present ministry role.

Roger and Sally Phelps were appointed as Lay Ministers in Forbes Anglican Church 12 months ago, having recently graduated from the Sydney Missionary and Bible College while working as student ministers at St Clement's Lalor Park in Sydney.

As regular participants in annual rural missions, they have for some time had a desire to serve the Lord in a rural context

when life, study and opportunity allowed.

The couple have been warmly welcomed in Forbes, a parish which has always valued lay ministry and seen clergy as those who equip and shepherd others in their ministry.

Over that past year, they have established themselves as sound Biblical teachers and capable worship leaders, and now look forward to building on the foundations they have established in the church and the community so far.

The 'newcomer' to the Diocese is Ben Mackay. Ben, who had worked as a solicitor in Forbes for some years, has recently graduated from Sydney Mission and Bible College and has now been appointed as Deacon in Charge of the parish of Parkes and Peak Hill.

Encouraging signs of growth

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind towards each other that Christ Jesus had so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the same mind towards each other that Christ Jesus had; a humility of servanthood and of sacrifice, so that with one voice and one mind we may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom. 15:5-6)

I've been sharing those verses with you since before I began here and I think that under God we are slowly seeing our prayers answered in that regard.

I see a growing humility among us, a willingness to put the needs of others first, and not allowing pettiness to divide us. I see a growing sense of sacrifice, and of letting go of long-held traditions, and sometimes suspicions, so that we might join together in the cause of Christ.

And I sense a growing passion and urgency, a desire to make the Lord Jesus known, the Good News of Jesus known right across central and western New South Wales, so that others find in Jesus all we have found in Jesus: life and love and joy and forgiveness, and the hope of eternal life.

Thank you for all that you are doing in this regard and thank you to all our ministers both lay and ordained for all your hard work in the gospel.

Thank you to all for your perseverance through these last two years of Covid challenges and thank you for praying - praying that the Lord will raise up more workers, praying for the spread of the Gospel, praying for the renewal of the church, praying for revival.

I want to share with you some encouragement about what is happening around the diocese.

Firstly, at the **Cathedral**, the new 10.00am congregation began a year ago. The congregation has grown from a small beginning, to now welcoming around 40 to 50 adults and 10 to 15 kids. It's been a wonderful year and great things are planned for the expansion of the youth and children's ministry this year.

Under the leadership of the Reverend Philip Howes, and now also joining him the Reverend Steven Klouth, we're seeing that ministry grow from strength to strength.

In the **Cudgegong Valley** parish the Reverend James Daymond as Evangelist is building a very enthusiastic team of people who want to share the gospel with those in and around Mudgee

And in **Rylstone**, Cathy Brooks-Lloyd has begun a group called *It's Music Time*,

where children sing and dance and keep time and learn memory verses. There have been opportunities to connect with at least five different families as a result - three of them came to the outdoor Christmas carol service in early December with children and mums even joining in the singing.

This column is adapted from Bishop Mark's Pastoral Message to the Diocese, which was distributed by video last month. The message was based on what would have been the Bishop's Presidential Address to the Synod meeting which was to have been held in February, but was cancelled due to COVID concerns.

In **Dubbo**, Trinity kids has now been running for over two years, having begun just before Covid and it's been a great blessing to families attending, and to the parish community.

The ministry provides a wonderful opportunity for the children to grow in their social skills and in early education whilst the parents find support and encouragement from one another and the leaders. Many God conversations have taken place over this time, and a number of families have become part of the church community.

At Christmas and Easter there's been opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with the children and their parents or carers.

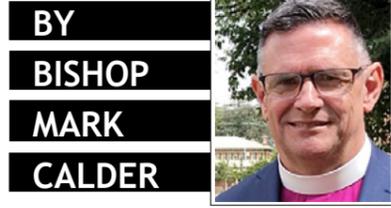
It has certainly strengthened a link between the church and community in this particular age bracket. On average, between 18 and 25 children attend each week, and on the strength of this ministry the parish is now exploring a regular kids club and expanding Sunday school ministries.

Also in Dubbo late last year around 80 men from the Solomon Islands came to work at the local abattoirs. Another 40 are expected this year, so **Maranatha Chapel** meets each fortnight at Dubbo Anglican as a ministry to these men to encourage and support and grow the faith of those who attend.

Many of the boys attend churches across the denominations in Dubbo in the morning and then Maranatha provides a space for them to meet as one celebrating the unity we have in Jesus, and to shine His light to the city and the nation.

The Anglican Parish has also provided material support through its Op Shop and other ministries of assistance.

Further north, in **Coonabarabran** Andrew and Kath Thornhill have just completed their first year in the parish and are



BY
BISHOP
MARK
CALDER

adapting well to life in a country town.

Having come to Sydney Mission and Bible College from Western Australia, the Thornhills had expected God would lead them to a ministry position back in the West.

As Kath said in the video interview that was included in my Pastoral Message, "I wanted somewhere that was in W.A., that was not cold in Winter and was on the coast - so, we're in Coonabarabran."

"It became clear to us, during college, that we needed to be prepared to go anywhere," added Andrew. "God in his wisdom, as we prayed, actually led us here."

They said that living in a country town was a great opportunity for them, and for their family.

"It gives us opportunity, when you know you've got that longevity, that guarantee, to commit - to put down roots and to build relationships, and to be part of growing God's people, and hopefully growing His Kingdom as well" said Andrew.

Still on the theme of encouragement is the fact that we ordained five deacons on Saturday, February 5th. How kind of God to raise these able and Godly people to serve among us here in Central and Western New South Wales.

You will have seen the article on the front page of this newsletter, introducing the new deacons.

Mark

The Right Reverend
Mark Calder,
Bishop

Anglican
e-News
A newsletter for the
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Bishop in Council sets priorities

In his Pastoral Address to the Diocese, Bishop Mark outlined four major priorities currently being addressed by Bishop in Council (BiC), the executive body of the Diocese.

The Bishop explained that BiC has established several Task Forces to explore each priority in detail:

Strategic plan

Our first priority is to develop a strategic plan for our diocese. We have a mission from God to take the gospel into the world and make disciples - yet how do we do that in our context and in this our time?

The Strategic Planning task force will work out the current strengths and weaknesses of our diocese as we stand at the present time and then work out how do we get from where we are to where we want to be, in terms of having lots of churches which are able to share the Gospel, make and mature disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is a lot more than about having an attractive mission statement sitting in a drawer somewhere.

What we want to do with the strategic plan is to help every church work from what we're laying out, and adapt it and embrace it, mould it and shape it for their own context.

Every church can then be helped, equipped and inspired to become a church which is working out all the time how we can share the Good News of Jesus and see more people become disciples.

Recruitment pathways

The second major priority of the Bishop in Council is to create recruitment

pathways.

I've already shared that we have around 16 of 29 parishes without ministers and so we have to constantly work on how we are going to inspire people to come and join in the work in the cause of the Gospel out here in the west.

There are at least three ways which we are going to be concentrating on:

How might we inspire godly and gifted people ... to perhaps drop everything they are currently doing and have a complete change of course for the rest of their life?

First, how might we inspire godly and gifted people now in their 20s or 30s or 40s or whatever, to perhaps drop everything they are currently doing and have a complete change of course for the rest of their life - to go to Bible College for three years and then come back and work and minister here in our churches.

Number two is to speak to those who are already at Bible colleges, and I have already shared with you about the opportunities that I have to do that this year.

There are plenty of people at Bible College right now who actually want to train for ministry, but are not sure where they will end up serving. We want to be able to be the answer to their prayers and show them what a great opportunity and what

tremendous joy there is, coming and working in rural New South Wales.

The third recruitment pathway is those who are already out in ministry but currently working in other dioceses across the nation - to be able to inspire in them an interest, a curiosity in what it might mean to leave their current work and come and join us here.

So those three pathways, and there may be many others, are what this task force is going to be trying to develop and evolve throughout the year.

Financial sustainability

The third major priority is the long-term financial sustainability of our diocese. You don't need me to tell you about the financial constraints under which we operate as a diocese making us completely dependent on the generosity of Sydney diocese so that we might support our Bishop and Registrar.

Their gift is \$250,000 a year for six years, and this is year four of the six year commitment. This task force is trying to work out whether there may be a way back to financial sustainability for our diocese.

So please do pray for that task force as we explore possibilities. Of course the best way that we can ensure our long-term sustainability in all aspects is to have growing, flourishing parishes where the Gospel is proclaimed, the Bible is taught, people are built-up and disciples are won and equipped to grow in their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Review of Administration Ordinance

Fourthly and finally our challenge as Bishop in Council is to look at our Administration Ordinance which guards and guides and shapes the way that our diocese operates.

It's kind of like a rule book, and if you have had much to do with our rule book so far, you know that it is in parts clunky, it's incoherent and inconsistent, and it's now out of date for 2022.

So this task force will be looking at bringing it up-to-date and making sure that it serves the purpose of the Gospel for our diocese.

Will you please pray for these task forces, that they might have God's guidance and wisdom and be able to work faithfully on these priorities so that they end up making a difference in the life of our diocese.

I think there will be great potential in these four priorities for Bishop in Council, so please do pray that the Lord would be wonderfully at work in and through us.



MARANATHA: A group of Solomon Islanders meets fortnightly for worship and fellowship under the name of 'Maranatha Chapel', in the parish hall at Holy Trinity Dubbo.

New Registrar takes up the reins

Dr Warwick Baines, recently appointed as Diocesan Registrar, started in his new job in the last week of February.

He succeeds Karen Trafford, whose contract expired in January, but she graciously agreed to continue in the position until her replacement could start.

Dr Baines is a lecturer at CSU and he intends to continue in that role in a part-time capacity, working in the Bishop's Registry for the equivalent of four days a week.

He also worked as an accountant with Intentus, the Bathurst-based accounting firm which audits the Diocesan accounts.

Bishop Mark Calder has described Dr Baines as "a standout candidate".

"I am thankful to God that Warwick has accepted my invitation to serve as Registrar/Business manager," the Bishop said. "I was impressed with his openness, warmth, his deep trust in the Lord Jesus and early grasp on what is needed in the role and in the Diocese at this time."

He added that Dr Baines had been "extremely well recommended by all his referees."

Warwick Baines came to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus whilst studying a Bachelor of Commerce at New College, UNSW. It's also where he met Skye (who grew up in Cobar) and to whom he has been married for 21 years. Skye is an Orange based GP and together they have four children—Matthew (17), Alexandra (15), Jacqueline (13) and Georgina (11).

Warwick began his working life in Sydney as an auditor with professional services firm PwC where most of his audit work centred on technology and entertainment clients such as IBM, Toshiba and Sony. Soon after being promoted to manager, Warwick was challenged at a ministry conference to consider teaching and returned to UNSW to complete a DipEd just before a long term move to Orange, where he and his family have lived since 2004.

For a brief time he taught social sciences in secondary schools across the Central West before being appointed as an Associate Lecturer at the Bathurst campus of Charles Sturt University (CSU) in 2004. During his time at CSU, Warwick completed a PhD whilst holding a number of leadership roles including the Sub Dean Learning and Teaching for the Faculty of Business, Justice and Behavioural Sciences, and Associate Head of the School of Accounting and Finance. He is currently serving as a Senior Lecturer in Accounting



EXPERIENCE: Dr Warwick Baines brings experience in accounting, teaching and management to his new role as Bishop's Registrar.

Warwick has served as President and continues to serve as Treasurer of the Parents and Citizens Association at Bletchington Public School, where he has also taught scripture (SRE) for many years.

He also currently serves on the Regional and Rural Australia Committee of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (CA ANZ), as well as Assistant Treasurer, Building Committee member, Kids Church teacher and Bible study leader at his church in Orange.

Karen Trafford

In his recent Pastoral Address to the Diocese, Bishop Mark paid tribute to Karen Trafford, the outgoing Registrar.

"For the last seven years, Karen has given of herself to that work tirelessly and with great personal sacrifice," he said.

"She has seen our diocese through some of its darkest days - especially to do with the court case, through the beginnings of redress and to bring our diocese into its current time.

"Just because I have chosen new leadership in that role, does not for a moment diminish my appreciation for Karen, for all of the work she has done, for her personal support of me in the time that I have been here, and for the difference she has made in the life of the diocese and to so many. Karen we thank you, and we ask God's blessing on you for the future."

From the Editor:

When Karen came into the role, the Diocese was already committed to its legal challenge and ensuing court case

over its bank debt.

Her legal background was quite valuable at that time, but after the case was concluded Karen showed her real strength as a negotiator.

Working with a senior bank official, she was able to negotiate a settlement that was more favourable to the Diocese than the leadership team had dared to hope for.

Karen, the Diocese thanks you.



SERVICE: Karen Trafford, shown here at a Synod meeting, served as Bishop's Registrar for seven years, helping guide the Diocese through very challenging times.

Partnership, preaching and the power of the Gospel

The cancellation of last month's Synod meeting meant that the Metropolitan of NSW and Archbishop of Sydney, Kanishka Raffel, was not able to preach at the Synod service in All Saints' Cathedral as planned.

However, Bishop Mark Calder recorded an interview with the Archbishop, which was included in his recent Pastoral Address to the Diocese.

The following is taken from that interview, when Mark began by asking Kanishka how he came to know and serve the Lord Jesus Christ:

I wasn't raised in a Christian home, I was raised in a Buddhist home with a Sri Lankan background. At the beginning of my fourth year of university, a friend gave me John's Gospel to read.

We had a kind of religious conversation while on holidays and at the end of that conversation he said, 'Well, would you be interested to read something?'

Out of courtesy, I agreed to do that. He gave me Mark's Gospel and John's Gospel. I was really gripped by the historicity of the Gospel and then as I read it I became captivated by Jesus.

I'd read a lot of Buddhist scripture and Jesus made a very different sort of presentation to the impression you get of the Buddha, from the Buddhist scriptures.

Jesus was a real man, he had friends, he had enemies, he engaged in conversation that was stimulating and provocative, and as I read this I just became compelled by the person of Jesus in a way that I couldn't really understand.

He was *for* me, and that challenged me about whether I was for him - and eventually I couldn't think of any reason for being

against Jesus, so I surrendered. And God in His kindness has been so faithful to me and changed my life.

Bishop Mark asked the Archbishop for 'a bit of an insight' into the sermon that he had intended to bring to the Bathurst Synod service:

Well, I was reflecting on the first chapter of one Corinthians, Paul's letter to the Corinthian church, where there is a wonderful passage about the apostle's own priorities and his ministry.

He says, 'I wasn't appointed to baptise but to preach the gospel.' He says, 'We preach Christ crucified.' He says, 'I resolve to know nothing among you but Christ and him crucified,' and so it's a passage where Paul is really saying 'the heart of my ministry has been the cross' and this is tremendously counter-cultural in his ancient culture and in our culture as well.

Paul says, 'Well, this is weakness and foolishness to the world but to us who believe, it's the power of God for salvation.'

So as I was coming into this ministry, into this role, I wanted to focus not on what we do but on what God has done. And as Christian people we always look first to who God is and what He has done. The heart of what He has done is in Jesus and the heart of what Jesus has done is in the cross and the resurrection.

The demonstration of the achievement of the cross and the power of the cross is the resurrection. Death and resurrection are really the heartbeat of the life of the Christian. That's what I wanted to say.

Support for Bathurst Diocese

Bishop Mark pointed out that the history of the Sydney diocese and its relationship with Bathurst and vice versa has not always been happy, but the Sydney diocese had given Bathurst this extraordinary gift (of \$1.5 million) over six years. 'Why is that,' he asked, 'and how do you hope to see the relationship between our two dioceses unfold?'

It is probably due to our predecessors, because I think



MESSAGE: Archbishop Kanishka Raffel's message to the Bathurst Synod was to have focussed not on what we do, but on what God has already done in Jesus.

Ian Palmer and Glenn Davies in Sydney struck up a personal friendship and that grew into a Gospel partnership - and then they both worked with their own synods to say, 'Can we do something together?'

There's no doubt in my mind that the decision of the two synods and the Bishop and the Archbishop to work in that way was a work of God.

And that was God bringing out of this relationship something that was pleasing to Him, something that He could use. I think we all prayerfully trust and look to God for that, and I find that very moving and very powerful.

So I'm very glad of it, and I think from the Sydney side we want to see the Gospel flourish in Bathurst, we want to see the Anglican church in Bathurst being a home to the weary and bringing the Good News of the Gospel to rural communities and serving in the communities and I know you are doing that.

We want to see it, and more and more the invitation to partner with you as you step out in this very difficult situation. It's difficult for the bush, it's difficult for the church, but we have a great God we have a faithful God. We have a powerful God who is at work through His Gospel.

It's completely right that we should be partners in this together - I'm really delighted by it.

Bishop Mark concluded the interview by expressing the gratitude of Bathurst Diocese for the generosity of the Diocese of Sydney, and he asked Archbishop Kanishka to convey that gratitude to the church in Sydney.



FRIENDSHIP: Archbishop Kanishka said that Sydney Diocese' support for Bathurst grew out of the personal friendship between Bishop Ian Palmer and Archbishop Glenn Davies.

Clergy movements (since the presidential address at Synod, Sept 2020)

- ♦ **The Rev'd Jeff Tym** retired from Coonamble in September 2020.
- ♦ **The Rev'd Jeanette Jamieson** was granted an ATO and assisted at Rylstone-Kandos and later in Grenfell.
- ♦ **The Rev'd Andrew Thornhill** was appointed Deacon-in-Charge, Coonabarabran, Jan 2021.
- ♦ **The Rev'd Wally Cox** was appointed assistant minister, Blayney, Jan 2021.
- ♦ **The Rev'd Steven Klouth** was appointed assistant minister, Kelso, Jan 2021.
- ♦ **The Rev'd Phil Howes** moved from Narromine to the Cathedral in February 2021.
- ♦ **The Rev'd Kevin Simington** was appointed honorary Ministry Consultant for the Diocese in April 2021.
- ♦ **The Venerable Grahame Yager** was appointed Rector of Byron in the Grafton Diocese in September 2021.
- ♦ **The Venerable Brett Watterson** resigned as Diocesan Archdeacon in May 2021 and was appointed Archdeacon of the North-West and Principal of the Company of the Good Shepherd in September 2021.
- ♦ **The Rev'd Andrew Thornhill** was appointed Priest-in-Charge, Coonabarabran, July 2021.
- ♦ **The Rev'd Steven Klouth** moved from Holy Trinity

- Kelso to the Cathedral in November 2021.
- ♦ **The Rev'd Wally Cox** was appointed Priest-in-Charge, Blayney, December 2021.
- ♦ **The Rev'd Ross Craven** retired at the end of January 2022 after a 12-month locum in West Wyalong. Ross is taking up a 'house-for-duty' posting in Coolah-Dunedoo.
- ♦ **The Rev'd Bryan Schmalkuche** retired at the end of February 2022.
- ♦ **The Rev'd Canon Daniel Willis** was granted an Authority to Officiate (ATO) and has been helping in Cowra.
- ♦ **The Rev'd Tom Owen** – Deacon – was granted an ATO and is the Chaplain at Macquarie Anglican Grammar.
- ♦ **The Rev'd Gerald Beckett** was granted an ATO and has helped in Coolah-Dunedoo.
- ♦ **The Venerable Joy Harris** in Canowindra, began long service leave early February and the **Rev'd Lu Piper** from Newcastle Diocese will serve as Locum.
- ♦ **The Rev'd Mal Dunnett** will be taking leave from Holy Trinity Orange from mid February until the end of June, and the **Rev'd Sean Haselhurst** from Sydney Diocese will serve as locum.
- ♦ **The Rev'd Richard Goscombe** was granted an ATO and has helped in Coonamble, Narromine and Parkes

Ordinations (since September 2020)

- December 2020**
- ♦ Wally Cox, Steven Klouth and Andrew Thornhill were made deacons
- April 2021**
- ♦ Kevin Simington was made a deacon and ordained priest.
- July 2021**
- ♦ Andrew Thornhill and Wally Cox were ordained priest.
- February 2022**
- ♦ Bec Choi, James Daymond, Ben Mackay, Roger Phelps and Sally Phelps were made deacons

- Following their ordination**
- ♦ Ben Mackay was appointed Deacon in Charge of Parkes and Peak Hill.
- ♦ Bec Choi was appointed assistant minister - Deacon - Blayney parish.
- ♦ James Daymond was appointed - Evangelist - Deacon - Parish of Cudgegong Valley.
- ♦ Roger and Sally Phelps were appointed - Team Leaders - Deacons - Parish of Forbes.

THIS I BELIEVE LENTEN STUDIES 2022

- Available:
- February 21 - Creator of Heaven and Earth
 - February 28 - Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord
 - March 7 - Conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary
 - March 14 - Suffered, Crucified, Died, Buried, Descended
 - March 21 - Rose, Ascended, Seated, and will come to Judge
 - March 28 - Holy Spirit, Holy Church, Communion of Saints
 - April 4 - Forgiveness of Sins
 - April 11 - Resurrection of the Body and Life Everlasting

Download or view on Bishop Mark's YouTube page:
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=mark+calder+bathurst

Cowra Anglican wins CSU Medal

Dr Marilyn Pietsch honoured for postgrad work in Theological Studies

From CSU

Cowra resident and postgraduate student Dr Marilyn Pietsch has been honoured with the Postgraduate University Medal Master of Arts (Theological Studies) for 2021.

Dr Pietsch, a former principal of Cowra Public School, graduated with a Master of Arts (Theological Studies) in Charles Sturt St Mark's National Theological Centre in Canberra.

Charles Sturt Postgraduate University Medals are awarded to graduating postgraduate students who have achieved a grade point average of 6.75 or higher.

More than 3,200 graduates from all Charles Sturt University campuses and across the country were conferred with their award on Friday, December 3, with just 32 students' academic achievements receiving the prestigious recognition of a University Medal.

According to Associate Professor David Neville in the Charles Sturt School of Theology, Dr Pietsch achieved excellent results in all areas of theological study, including Church History and Systematic Theology.

"Within the Master of Arts (Theological Studies), Marilyn excelled in the study of Koine Greek and Biblical Studies," Professor Neville said.

"Her capstone research project on a perplexing Gospel parable (in Greek) was of an exceptionally high standard."

Dr Pietsch was pleased when she found out her academic achievements had been honoured with a University Medal.

"It's slightly unreal to receive this award for something from which I derived great pleasure, excitement and satisfaction," Dr Pietsch said.

"My results were an affirmation that I had 'caught' the intended knowledge and understanding of each subject.

"I am very lucky to have the encouragement of my supportive husband,



EXCELLENCE: Marilyn Pietsch's Professor said she had excelled in the academic fields of Koine Greek, Biblical Studies and Systematic Theology.

and the gifted teaching of all staff at St Mark's," she said.

Dr Pietsch hopes to take the knowledge she has acquired from her postgraduate studies into contributing to future research in the field of theology and assisting with occasional teaching at St John's Anglican Church, Cowra.

Cursillo notes

Many of us have had 'Groundhog Day' experiences over the past couple of years - a regular repetition of cancellations, postponements and disappointments as Covid restrictions have made planning a futile exercise.

Mx1

We have postponed Mx1 Cursillo twice over those two years, and I greatly admire the persistent determination of Graham and Ruth Wilson, Lay Director and Proctor for this Cursillo.

Graham said that most of the team members are keen to stay on board, but there have been a few who, for various reasons, will not be able to be part of the team this year.

They are planning to hold Mx1 (our

first mixed-gender Cursillo) on the October long weekend this year, but unfortunately Ridgecrest Conference Centre will not be available for that weekend as they will be celebrating their 50th anniversary (for which we join them in giving thanks to God!)

We therefore need to find an alternative venue, and at this stage we are exploring the possibility of using motel accommodation and the facilities of the local church in one of the major centres.

This model worked very well in Nyngan 15 years ago, and we are confident it can work again this year.

Parkes Ultreya

Another event we have now postponed twice is the Regional Gathering, or Ultreya.

we had hoped to hold in Parkes last October. A second date in February of this year also had to be postponed, and our current plan is to hold the gathering in mid-May.

A small team of Cursillistas in Parkes has a very strong program mapped out, using the facilities of the Engedi Christian Education Centre at Alectown, about 20 km north of Parkes.

Engedi has excellent catering facilities, lots of space and a choice of two very comfortable conference rooms depending on the size of the crowd.

We'll be putting out more information as the event gets closer, but please pray that both the Ultreya and the three-day Cursillo in October can finally happen this time.



Property sales (since September 2020)

- ♦ Wellington rectory - bought and sold
- ♦ Tallimba Church - parish of West Wyalong
- ♦ Geurie Church - Wellington
- ♦ Mumbil Church - Wellington
- ♦ Lucknow Church - Blayney
- ♦ Carcoar Church - Blayney
- ♦ Borenore Church – Orange
- ♦ Grenfell Retirement Village - Grenfell
- ♦ Illford church - Cudgegong Valley
- ♦ Mumbil Church - Wellington
- ♦ Raglan Church - Kelso
- ♦ Coonamble Rectory - Coonamble
- ♦ Emmagool Church - Dubbo

Redress payments

Paid so far (as of 31st January 2022): **\$5,912,719**

Estimated claims (as of 31st January 2022): **\$1,022,000**

Trundle farewells a faithful priest and pastor

◆ Brian Schmalkuche concludes a decade of Kingdom service

By Lewis Hitchick

My friend Brian retired last month. He turns 75 this year.

Brian Schmalkuche was ordained as a priest twelve years ago, and for a couple of years he worked as a non-stipendiary part time assistant in the parish of Parkes.

His pathway to ordination was a long journey, but one significant milestone was his experience of a three-day Cursillo weekend some years earlier which challenged him to consider a greater commitment to ministry.

He had been a Christian since his University days in Armidale, and had always been an active member of his local church wherever his work had taken him.

I met him in Parkes in the mid-'90s, shortly after he had moved to the town to work as an agronomist with a local rural supplies business.

We developed a friendship and deep respect for one another as we served together on the parish council for a couple of years before I moved on to Bathurst.

Brian's search for a deeper commitment to ministry led him to undertake the Education for Ministry (EfM) course, through which he developed strong friendships particularly with the course Mentor, Bruce Lindbeck.

It was through the EfM course that Brian responded to God's call to ordained ministry.

In 2012 he took on part-time ministry in Trundle, under an arrangement that provided him and his wife Judith with a house to use when in Trundle, and covered their travelling costs and out-of-pocket expenses.

He was still doing some part-time work in a nursery in Parkes at this stage, but a few years later, he retired from that role to take on ministry in the parish of Condobolin in addition to his commitments in Trundle.

Brian set himself a demanding schedule of visiting, over an area that stretched 120 kilometres from North to South and about 80 kilometres from east to West. Already known to many in the rural community through his work as an agronomist some years earlier, he now set about building relationships at a deeper level in the farms, towns and villages of the region.

Brian is a great conversationalist, and takes a genuine interest in the people he meets. He gradually built up the congregation at the services he conducted in the Anglican Church in Condobolin. He also connected well with the Indigenous community in the area, who regularly asked him to take funerals or visit sick relatives.

He also encouraged people to give financial support to the church, and as a result the two parishes managed to stay in front of their running costs through some very difficult years for rural communities.

To raise funds for Trundle Parish in 2013, Brian announced that he would walk the length of the parish – from Bogan Gate to Albert – over five days.

I actually accompanied him for the first stage of that first 'Walk for Christ', from Bogan Gate to Trundle, after the Sunday service in St Luke's, Bogan Gate. That 23 kilometres was enough for me, but Brian kept on going for the



SUPPORTERS: Brian (to the right of the sign) had a small team of supporters from Trundle and Parkes parishes to walk at least part of the way with him on his first 'Walk for Christ' from Bogan Gate to Albert, in 2014. The walks helped raise funds for his small rural parish still recovering from the extended drought a few years earlier.

next four days, and the next 85 kilometres.

Of course, people from his various congregations joined him for stages and the journey typically would take on an 'Emmaus Road' character as Brian gently brought Jesus into the conversations.

After taking on the Condobolin parish a couple of years later, his 'Walks for Christ' expanded to include his new area of oversight.

His ministry faced a serious challenge about this time, as his beloved wife and great support, Judith, succumbed to cancer after a long battle. But even as he grieved, Brian strengthened his commitment to continue the ministry that he and Judith had seen as a team effort.

He had told the people of Trundle in 2012 that he would give them ten years, and he followed through on that promise.

Brian's prime motivation throughout his life has been twofold: his love for Jesus, and his love for people. That love has had a powerful impact on many lives in the Trundle and Condobolin districts.

At his farewell, service in Trundle last month Parish Secretary Georgie Gowing summed it up concisely but beautifully when she said. "Brian has distinguished himself by his pastoral ministry".

Brian has begun his second retirement by heading to Tasmania, where he intends to spend the next six months. During that time he plans to take on some bush walks, including a challenging mountain climb.

You're a great friend, Brian, and it's been a privilege to share some of your journey - but I won't be joining you for this jaunt in Tasmania.