

focus

1912-2012
**Churchie
celebrates
centenary**

Qld votes – religion meets politics

Churchie.
100 YEARS
1912-2012

Churchie.
100 YEARS
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Front cover: Anglican Church Grammar School students on Founder's Day February 8, 2012.

Photo: Courtesy of Anglican Church Grammer School

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Lenten disciplines

WE have once again entered the season of Lent. Traditionally Christians have both given up something for Lent as well as taken up something. The giving up is associated with denying one's self and putting God first, as well as directing some of our means to others who are in need. Taking up something is to do with enriching our relationship with God, rekindling the flame.

Traditionally, the Lenten disciplines addressed were almsgiving (giving to the poor), prayer and fasting. These three are addressed by Jesus in the gospel reading set for Ash Wednesday (Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21).

In this passage Jesus clearly warns us not to practise our piety before others in order to be seen by them (v.1). And in particular, when you fast don't disfigure your faces to show others that you are fasting (v.16).

Why, then, on Ash Wednesday, the beginning of our season of fasting and piety, does the liturgy involve being marked with the sign of ashes on our faces? It seems to be in direct contradiction to what Jesus taught.

Jesus teaches that you don't fast, pray and give alms in order to be seen and noticed by others. That's not what they're about.

In first century Mediterranean society, social status and honour were prized above all else. All sorts of social and business transactions were as much

about negotiating status and honour as they were about anything else. Members of a household would try to strengthen and demonstrate the honour of their household by displaying status and wealth. Each transaction either incurred or relieved debts or obligations and affected the household's standing vis a vis other households in the community.

In this context the point of almsgiving was as much to lift up the household in the community's eyes as it was to express compassion and care to the poor. If no one saw the gift being given, more than half the point of giving it was lost. Being seen by others was precisely the idea.

Jesus says, "Not so". Far from being wasted if no one is watching, that's exactly when these practices come into their own. That's exactly when they are used for the sake of God's reign rather than for self-interest.

So give in secret, says Jesus, when it is known only to your father who sees in secret. Don't let the gift be announced by trumpets. Your giving isn't about public display or personal honour or prestige or status.

Pray in secret. Prayer is about deep intimacy with God, not about public recognition for acting a role. (This is what the term 'hypocrites' meant. Hypocrites were those who acted roles in theatre productions. So notice, too, that hypocrites in these verses is not a way of speaking about Jews!) Pray in



secret. Praying isn't about pretence. It's not play acting for an audience. No one else is watching. The reward for people who pray in secret is not adulation and prestige. It is right relationship with God; intimacy with the heavenly father; not honour among human beings.

"Pray in secret. Praying isn't about pretence. It's not play acting for an audience."

Fast in secret: not by dressing up to make a show for others. The right approach is to put oil on the head and wash the face – that is, to dress normally, not to draw attention to yourself, so that your heavenly father who sees what is hidden is the only one who knows.

There's no point, says Jesus, trying to store up for yourselves treasures on earth. Social status, prestige, honour only reflect insecurity and greed, and a failure to trust God. And all such earthly treasure is likely to be passing, decaying or to be stolen away by others.

Heavenly treasure, on the other hand, is about the things that are part of God's rule, especially the relationships that are part of that reign – right relationships. And that means trusting humility before God and solidarity with ordinary people.

Against this backdrop, the apparent paradox of Ash Wednesday dissolves.

We are marked with the cross of ashes with the words "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return. Repent and believe the Gospel."

The cross of ashes is not so that you can proudly display your piety and parade your religion when you leave the church and go outside into the street or to the supermarket or to work. More likely than not you will remove the mark as you leave.

No, the ash is a sacramental participation in trusting humility before God and compassionate solidarity with ordinary people. It is an embodiment of the right relationships of the kingdom. And these things cannot be stolen away and will endure.

With every blessing for an enriching Lenten season and for a rekindled life in God,

+ Phillip

Archbishop's 10th anniversary celebrated

Congratulations and tributes continue to arrive marking the 10th anniversary of the instalment of Archbishop Phillip as Archbishop of Brisbane.

Focus asked senior diocesan Bishop, Rob Nolan (Western region), to share his thoughts about the man he first met as a priest. IN 1994 I attended an Anglicare conference in Launceston, Tasmania. The person selected to lead the morning worship and present Gospel Reflections was The Reverend Phillip Aspinall. I remember clearly a conversation I had at that time with Royce Voss, then Manager of Aged Care Brisbane. We both agreed Phillip Aspinall would one day be chosen for higher office in the Anglican Church of Australia.

What was it that impressed us? There was something about his manner which engaged the assembled Anglicare staff at the conference. His addresses were both easy to understand and contained significant and helpful content. Both Royce and I found him to be a very easy person to engage in conversation.

Fast forward to February 2, 2002: St John's Cathedral was packed with people

from all over the diocese, and beyond, for the Installation of Phillip John Aspinall as Archbishop of Brisbane. There was a great sense of celebration and thanksgiving as the service proceeded. There was, however, hanging over the diocese at that time a feeling of darkness as allegations of sexual abuse were coming to light. In the days and months ahead Archbishop Phillip found little time to immerse himself in anything other than issues arising from these allegations. It was especially for him and his family (Christa, Daniel and Nathan) a very difficult and often lonely time.

However the character of Archbishop Phillip was such that he was able to lead the diocese out of those dark days as he worked tirelessly to make changes, introducing and implementing a series of reforms to prevent such injustices occurring in the future.

Under his leadership there has been much encouragement to build up a stronger mission-based Church. "Going for Growth" has been a major

programme over recent years.

I have always found Archbishop Phillip to be a person of integrity, foresight, encouragement, tireless energy and compassion. All this has been balanced with a quick wit and delightful sense of humour. I believed our diocese has been greatly blessed by his presence and that of his family.

On the 10th anniversary of his Instalment as Archbishop of Brisbane, the diocesan family met in St John's Cathedral for the making of six new deacons. This presented a great opportunity for thanksgiving to God for Archbishop Phillip's 10 years with us. It was very fitting that The Honourable Mr Justice Paul de Jersey, who chaired the Archbishop Election Committees which appointed Archbishop Phillip, was able to deliver a speech on our behalf. (See this page for a transcript of the speech).

Congratulations Archbishop Phillip and thank you and your family for becoming "one of us"!

Address by The Honourable Chief Justice Paul De Jersey

IT is significant for us, and for all clergy and lay people of the diocese, in that we have, for that substantial period, been the grateful beneficiaries of Archbishop Phillip's exceptional qualities: his deep and abiding spirituality, his inspirational leadership, his humility, his apparently unrelenting energy, the meticulous care which he brings to diocesan affairs, and especially for those of us who attend meetings and Synod, his sense of humour.

Particularly in the early years, His Grace faced very substantial challenges: he met them with courage and conviction, and was, I believe, able to turn them to the enrichment of the diocese and the way it is perceived. Notwithstanding his appointment as Primate in 2005 – an appointment which further reflected those exceptional qualities, his attention here as our pastor and leader has been undiminished.

There is no doubt that Phillip's ministry has been enriched by the strong support of Christa [the Archbishop's wife], and her attachment to the diocese over that decade has been similarly conspicuous, a matter for particular gratitude bearing in mind her own professional career and her being the mother of Daniel and Nathan.

Dear friends, as we congratulate and thank Phillip and Christa at this time in the history of the diocese and their lives, and as we assure them of our continuing encouragement and support, would you please join me in enthusiastic applause.

Delivered at the ordination of deacons February 2012.



Thunderous applause greets Archbishop's installation

Focus March 2002 THUNDEROUS applause greeted the introduction of Brisbane's new Archbishop, the Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall. Twenty-seven Australian bishops, clergy and laity from all over Australia gathered in St John's Cathedral for a ceremony steeped in tradition. Although, one tradition was broken in that the service was called an installation and not an enthronement. In his sermon, Archbishop Aspinall commented that the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple was perhaps an appropriate day on which

to install a new archbishop, turning a page in the life of the diocese because the feat marked a turning point in the church's year. Archbishop Aspinall spoke of the reality of evil and the need for all Christians to live so that Christ becomes present wherever we are. "Have no doubt ours is a costly vocation," he said. "It means living with the kind of self-giving love that's prepared to risk rejection. It means risking the kind of forgiveness that bears the pain of wrong in order to break the cycle of causality and retribution."

Community-led development in Africa

Chris Peters shares a personal update on Anglican Board of Mission projects in Kenya.



Local food gardens established with the help of UCCS. Photo: Chris Peters/ABM.

AFRICA is confronting in many ways. On arrival in Nairobi, perhaps the most obvious of these is the traffic that greets you as it crawls along the crusty arterial roads that lead into the heart of the city. Road rules, traffic lights and traffic management are largely irrelevant here. For persons living in and around Nairobi, the daily commute is often hours spent on a minibus in the heat and dust. For an Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) staff member it means the same, at least on my first day, but safe in the knowledge that my time in Kenya will be spent outside the metropolis.

ABM's partner in Kenya, Ukamba Christian Community Services (UCCS), is located about two hours drive outside of Nairobi in the town of Wamunya (you'll find it on Google Maps as a little red pinhead on the C97 road heading east

from Nairobi). It's a small town but the presence of UCCS in the local area runs deep.

UCCS work within the Diocese of Machakos under the umbrella of the Anglican Church of Kenya. The work of UCCS is to build community led responses to local development issues. Given recent events involving the ongoing drought and famine as well as the influx of Somali and Sudanese refugees; there is a myriad of development issues that Kenya as a country and UCCS as an organisation are seeking to address. Foremost among these is to help local communities around Wamunya to build up mitigation and sustainability strategies to deal with current and future droughts.

UCCS is fortunate to have the knowledge and skills of two agronomists working on staff to direct community-wide initiatives that ABM

helps to support. John Mutua and Urbanus Mutua provide a level of expertise that gives shape to the range of projects aimed at helping to alleviate the prevailing food and climatic conditions in local area.

UCCS projects range from the construction of sand dams – designed to capture water in the way a traditional dam will do but also for the underlying sand foundations of the dam to capture water that can be held and harvested for up to six months after the rainy season has finished. UCCS aren't afraid to bring innovative and context-appropriate projects to the attention of communities to better promote means to building the community's tools that they can use to respond to local development issues.

UCCS build constructive working relationships with local government authorities and local community structures. John and Urbanus meet with local area chiefs (who work in collaboration with government) as well as with management committees set up through each community that UCCS work with. UCCS have worked closely with local management committees in training them in the essentials of project management such as report writing, committee membership, voting procedures and minute taking. Whilst these are largely procedural matters often times it is the smaller and more numerous administrative tasks that are the most important to get right in order to ensure the ongoing success of a community in taking ownership and successfully managing and implementing a project.

UCCS's work in Kenya represents some of the best community-led development projects that I have encountered in my time with ABM. I trust that with the ongoing support from ABM that the partnership with UCCS and local communities in Kenya will continue to grow now and into the future.

Lent campaign encourages each of us to be a missionary

ANGLICAN Board of Mission (ABM) has launched its 2012 Lent Campaign calling for support of projects in Australia, the Philippines and Papua New Guinea.

ABM's education missionary, Brad Chapman said, "Lent invites us to remember that we are all called to be participants in God's mission."

Projects supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander church and community leaders through Wontulp-Bi-Buya College, providing curriculum development at Newton Theological College in Papua New Guinea and funds for the Food Security and Agriculture Program in the Philippines all provide opportunity to participate in God's mission and ground Christian belief in action.

By giving to these projects Anglicans are supporting Indigenous education in Australia and helping to make Newton College's teaching and learning program more professional by improving the quality and content of theological education.

Executive Director of ABM, the Reverend John Deane said, "Lent is a time when we can reflect on and respond to God's call to be missionaries. We base all our work on one or more of the Five Marks of Mission. By supporting these projects we can 'stand in solidarity with the poor and needy', provide opportunity to 'challenge injustice and oppression' and 'build welcoming, transforming communities of faith'."

"I encourage you to give to these projects during Lent and allow ABM to continue working with our partners in Australia and around the world," he said.

Donate at www.abmission.org or call 1300 302 663.

Brisbane business woman finds Israel passion

KARYN Markwell can pinpoint the exact moment when she knew her future would be intertwined with Israel. "It was on Israel's Independence Day in May 2008 – sixty years after the Jewish nation was reborn – and I was standing with a group of Israeli friends in Jerusalem, singing the national anthem in Hebrew. As we finished the song – which is steeped in thousands of years of hope – a formation of Israeli fighter jets screamed low over the city, in celebration. In that moment, I knew that the Jewish people's ongoing battle to live in the land that God had given to them would be my battle as well."

Since that day, Karyn's life has revolved around Israel.

During her 2008 visit there, Karyn studied Hebrew at a private school and launched her publishing business, Markwell Publishing (www.markwellpublishing.com.au), which specialises in serving Jewish, Christian, and non-profit organisations.

"I was staying in a small family-run hotel right in the middle of Jerusalem," Karyn recalls. "Wanting to serve God in every aspect of my life, I stepped out in faith and launched my business from my hotel room, with just one client and a laptop."

After she returned home two months later, Karyn and her husband Trevor opened up their Brisbane home to Israeli backpackers who travel

around Australia after serving in the Israeli Defence Forces.

"We've become great friends with these Israelis who spend a few days with us," Karyn said. "They're often amazed that strangers like us will welcome them into their home. But it's just a small way that we can share our love for Israel. They often cook delicious Israeli dishes and we'll chat late into the night. By the time they leave, we've become friends for life."

In 2010, another exciting opportunity allowed Karyn to continue to share her admiration for Israel.

"An Australian Christian travel agency, Uplift Tours and Travel, asked me if I would be interested in hosting a tour to Israel," recalls Karyn. "I wasn't just interested: I was ecstatic! For months, we developed the itinerary, which I wanted to be different from every other Israel tour. So many tours follow the well-trodden pilgrim trail, which is based on tradition rather than fact. But through the Lion of Israel Tour, we visit only historically and biblically authenticated sites."

After more than a year in the planning, in May 2011, Karyn and Trevor led their first tour group of sixteen Australians to Israel.

"We visited all of the sites connected with Christ, such as the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane, but the highlight of the tour for many



The ruins of the synagogue in Capernaum where Christ famously taught.

was the Garden Tomb, which many Christians believe is the site of Christ's crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. We entered the tomb – which I'm happy to confirm was empty! – and shared a devotional in the beautiful garden setting."

Today, Karyn continues her interest in Israel through her publishing business, her friendships with Israelis, her involvement with the local Jewish

community, and through the Lion of Israel Tour.

"God has blessed me by allowing me to serve Him through my business, through loving the Jewish people, and now through the Lion of Israel Tour as well."

For information, visit www.markwellpublishing.com.au/our-israel-tours.

Anglicare Southern Queensland: a big mission

This month marks the beginning of a new era for the diocese's extensive community caring services - the renaming of Spiritus to Anglicare Southern Queensland. It's a brand with a proud history, as **John Austin** discovered.



Signs of the times - Anglicare Southern Queensland RNs June Murray (left) and Melissa Wilkinson (right).

THE Sunshine State has had its dark times – the lives of people in need struggling to find a place in the sun. Enter Christian churches, including the Anglican Church, and their mission to live Christ's calling to lift up the disadvantaged. From the early days of statehood, the Anglican Church in southern Queensland stepped up to provide support. Often without funding or sufficient resources, the Brisbane Diocese grew an admirable reputation for seeing a need and doing something about it. That socially aware, faith-led commitment underwrites the innovative and often daring care work of parishes and the many aged care and social services programs offered through the Community Services Commission, most recently known as Spiritus. It is that spirit that continues at the heart of Anglicare

– the Anglican brand that is well-known and highly respected around the nation. It is into the national Anglicare family that Spiritus – its clients, staff, friends and supporters – now belongs, in name as well as in commitment.

Anglicare Southern Queensland is the Anglican Church at work, and today helps nearly 15,000 fellow Queenslanders, employing more than 2000 professional staff plus volunteers across the diocese as well as in north Queensland. Today's Anglicare Southern Queensland operates dozens of care programs for the aged and disadvantaged across the diocese, including rural and regional communities, and attracts the support and endorsement of government and the community through millions of dollars in government grants and donations.

It's a far cry from Anglicare's beginning – a single woman employed by the church in 1870 to care for single women and mothers in a newly established female refuge. Caring for women at risk continues to be a key mission of the Church, as is improving the safety and welfare of children. The establishment of Tufnell Home at Nundah in 1893 was an early step in this mission. Alarmed at the high mortality rate of single mothers and their children in Brisbane, the parishes employed a nurse to care for the sick. From 1904 Sister Packer was a common sight visiting patients in the Milton area, riding her own bicycle to cut down on costs.

The Mothers' Union District Nursing Association was formed five years later and following World War I, nurses, known as 'angels of

mercy' were in great demand caring for known Spanish Flu victims.

The long and productive relationship with government began in 1922 when the Brisbane City Council commissioned Mothers' Union (MU) nurses to care for destitute people free of charge. Even so, six years later MU faced closing its doors, rescued only by a campaign of public and business donations led by the then *Brisbane Courier* newspaper.

The 1930s and 40s were decades of escalating need as economic depression and war impacted on everyday lives. The church's entry into aged care commenced with the establishment of St John's home for aged men in Toowong, where it continues to this day. And community nurses were needed as never before. Records show that in one day, a nurse travelled in 13 trams, two trains and two buses carrying a heavy bag of instruments and dressing trays from house to house. Such a workload led to the formation of the Lady Goodwin Nurse's Transport Corps: 30 young ladies volunteered their time and vehicles to drive the nurses around, saving £100 in fares in one year alone.

In succeeding decades the church's community programs expanded into regional and rural communities, culminating in the formation of the Anglican Social Welfare Department in 1978. In 2005 services were brought together under the Anglican Community Services Commission, and a year later the operational arms were merged into Spiritus.

In 2012 the name has changed but the mission continues with no let-up to the demands and opportunities for the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane to demonstrate its commitment to caring for those in need.

Brisbane caring ministry highlights

1950 Neilson Home for the Aged established in Chelmer, Brisbane.

1961 Symes Thorpe Home for the Aged opened in Toowoomba.

1968 The District Nursing Association becomes St Luke's Nursing Service.

1973 The Whitlam government introduced domiciliary benefit, which led to a sharp increase in demand for nursing services.

1983 Abri Home for the Aged opened at Southport, and the Anglican Refugee & Migrant Service (ARMS) began as a refugee support outreach of the congregation of St John's Cathedral.

1984 Director of Nursing Val Gibbs became the first Queensland AIDS Council educator; plus St Luke's began education programs that changed public perceptions of the disease.

1986 Creation of the Anglican AIDS Taskforce.

1987 Anglican Care of the Aged established in its own right.

1990 Foster care services established and expanded.

1992 Operation Kinder Community (OKC) began servicing families in Riverview/Goodna.

Anglican social welfare programs in Queensland came under the umbrella name of "Anglicare".

1994 Anglicare western region established.

1998 St Luke's opened branches in Roma, Townsville and Buderim, and launched the Illicit Drugs Program (later renamed AMEND - assisting mothers end the need for drugs).

2002-03 Introduction of services to help the unemployed.

2005 St Luke's Nursing Service with over 2000 staff and volunteers operating from 60 branch locations providing community services for more than 27,000 clients every year - incorporating Anglicare Southern Queensland.

2006 Formation of Spiritus brand (Anglicare, St Luke's, ACOTA merger).

2012 Anglicare Southern Queensland.

The focus is on young at heart

April - first edition of magazine-style **Focus**.



Focus team left to right: Journalist Abby Lu, Advertising Co-ordinator Jacquie McEwan, Managing Editor John Austin and Designer Gavin Hewitt.

THIS March edition of *Focus* will be last in the current newspaper format, and from April the new magazine will be published and distributed across the diocese every second month. Each new *Focus* will be a bumper edition of 32 pages (double the monthly editions) offering readers a valuable and more in-depth understanding of the many

wonderful achievements, events and issues that are of interest across the diocese – its schools, parishes, care services and priest training.

We want the new *Focus* to reach even more readers across the diocese, in the parishes and especially in our schools and Anglicare (formerly Spiritus), both its staff and clients. Distribution will be

lifted from the current 14,000 to 25,000 copies per issue.

Our move to a magazine is in keeping with a trend across the country and indeed around the world away from newspaper style, with its dependence on short news items, to magazines which offer a richer and longer lasting reading experience. Moving *Focus* to a magazine was not taken lightly and has been the result of a well-researched journey that included an intensive three month independent review, interviews across the diocese and a survey of nearly 1000 parishioners. The review especially told us what new content you would like to see and what you want more of: human interest stories, feature length stories, personal profiles, stories about spirituality and stories of achievement, how your church is caring for those in need, social and educational issues, and news from the parishes. We soon realised that our readers could be described as 'young at heart'. And at its heart, that describes the

new magazine *Focus*. The review also recommended upgrading other diocesan communications channels including the website and introducing social media. The *Focus* team is pleased to announce that *Focus* has its own Facebook site, so you can easily share your views and ideas with fellow readers. Like our page by clicking on facebook.com/focus.brisbane. Also, we look forward to your comments and feedback, which will be considered for publishing on the Letters page. Please send your comments and ideas to focus@anglicanbrisbane.org.au.

Preparing the new *Focus* is a major undertaking and our team now includes a dedicated journalist: welcome Abby Lu. Abby comes from a magazine background having been a writer for and editor of a not-for-profit member publication, as well as other magazines. Advertising is crucial to successful publications and therefore *Focus* has appointed an advertising co-ordinator, Jacquie McEwan. So, if you wish to

advertise, or if you know those who do, please spread the word that the new publication has a young 'heart' and a distribution of 25,000 across southern Queensland.

Focus has a long and proud history of being the church's premier communications channel; a high standing and reputation won through the hard work of dedicated and faith-filled contributors and staff. Special thanks and appreciation must go to the publication's most recent editorial team, Dianne Jensen (editor) and Elspeth Sutherland (associate editor) who grew *Focus* and made it the 'eyes and ears' of the diocese. The new *Focus* is built on that rich legacy. Easter reminds us of renewal, revitalisation and rebirth – qualities that are at the heart of the new publication and which we anticipate will inspire you in your continuing support and contributions.

John Austin

A rose by any other name...



From March 2012, Spiritus will be changing our name to Anglicare Southern Queensland.

We feel the name change more clearly describes the caring nature of our organisation and better reflects our role in the community.

We are proud to be a member of Anglicare Australia and our new name better aligns us with our national partners.

As Anglicare Southern Queensland we will continue to deliver quality aged care, enabling people to lead healthy and independent lives in their own homes and in specialist residential homes.

People in need will still be supported by our social service programs, including foster care, counselling,

disability services, youth services, refugee assistance, homelessness assistance, family assistance, parental education and mental health support.

As Spiritus we played an important role in the wellbeing of many Queensland communities, providing vital social services programs in collaboration with community and government agencies, while offering full accredited residential aged care and independent living opportunities. As Anglicare Southern Queensland we will continue to serve our community and grow our support even further.

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet, and as Anglicare our commitment remains the same, to empower the aged, disadvantaged and marginalised to live their lives in fullness.

For enquiries regarding the name change please phone 3421 1597

Launching anglicaresq.org.au from March 15

As if becoming new Priests-in-charge is not sufficient challenge, for the Reverend Peter Moore (Mitchell) and the Reverend Scott Gunthorpe (Roma) their arrival and commissioning coincided with the floods that last month swept across the southwest.

Faith in deep flood waters

He said, “Bit of a baptism by fire”.
I said, “More like baptism by water”.
He said, “Maybe thrown in the deep end”.

WE were chatting in the evacuation centre in Mitchell just one week after my Commissioning Service as Priest-in-Charge of the Maranoa-Warrego Anglican District, which encompasses the parishes of Charleville, Cunnamulla and Mitchell. I should have been in Cunnamulla for the monthly visit, but roads were cut and at least three quarters of the homes in Mitchell were flood affected. I was, therefore, at the right end of the Parish when Mitchell was flooded.

We could all see the river water entering the town on Thursday, February 2 and it was predicted that the river would reach record heights. Some residents had already moved to the evacuation centre on Wednesday but more were moving in by Thursday evening. Water was over the bridge across the Maranoa River and Mitchell was isolated from every direction by Thursday lunch-time. At 3.30am on Friday morning, all phones were broadcast with a message that the river was rising fast and would go higher than previously predicted. We were advised to move to high ground at the new evacuation centre at the state school, but we did not evacuate as the rectory is much the same height as the state school and only a block from it. By 4am, I was at the centre to help. All Friday we watched the water rise until it peaked around 3.30pm at the church door. Thankfully, the rectory is on higher ground than the church door.

People were very unsettled; organisation was chaotic; resources were limited but the able-bodied helped where needed as the community faced the challenges before it. The Anglican Church provided practical help by providing food in the evacuation

centre, plus offering emotional and spiritual support for a couple of days before Red Cross, Salvation Army and Community Recovery Teams could be flown in by helicopter to run the ‘evacuation’ centres.

“The Anglican Church provided practical help by providing food in the evacuation centre ...for a couple of days before ...Community Recovery Teams could be flown in by helicopter.”

During all of this, the love and concern of Christ and his church were expressed in very practical ways. At one stage I walked the railway bridge, with floodwater roaring not that far below it, to meet a parishioner who was concerned about his wife. He met me on the other side of the river and we drove to a property about 30 minutes up river. On the way back, I asked to be dropped at the road bridge as it was getting dark by then and I had to negotiate fallen trees and timber covering the bridge. As the church was not touched by flood and is near the centre of town, it was and is open daily as a quiet place for withdrawal and reflection and to offer a sense of normality. The parish trailer coldroom has been running constantly for food storage because we were lucky to have power, whereas the evacuation centre only had a few small generators running and many homes were without power. All of the town’s stores were knocked out by the flood water for a few



Flood waters reach the Mitchell rectory.

days so the only food was what was provided at the evacuation centre or the less affected homes.

Expressing the presence of Christ in the midst of chaos is a wonderful ministry but it can be frustrating. The Christmas Service at a property on Forestvale Road was postponed twice and finally cancelled because rain had cut off properties. At my Commissioning in February, there were apologies from the Archdeacon, Area Dean, Church wardens and many others because of the uncertainty of road conditions.

The Maranoa-Warrego Anglican District is a vast area. The rectory is in Mitchell. Charleville is 200 kilometres to the west and Cunnamulla is 200 kilometres south of Charleville, or 400 kilometres from the rectory in Mitchell.

The challenges of ministry in this area are the distances, the weather, the scattered population with small population centres and isolated properties. There is a tight schedule to service many places on a regular basis with no buffer to allow for disruptions

or unexpected events. There is, however, a real joy when people gather in the Lord’s name.

Reflecting on the nature of God in Habakkuk chapter three:

Torrents of water swept by; the deep roared and lifted its waves on high ... You came out to deliver your people, to save your anointed one ... The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to go on the heights.

The Lord has been with us in these challenging times. We have been aware of his help through the wider church with volunteers and support from near and far. We are thankful for the emergency aid for people through the Archbishop’s Emergency Relief Fund and long-term support from the Bush Ministry Fund. In partnership we bring Christ to this region.

The Reverend Peter Moore
Priest-in-Charge Maranoa-Warrego
Anglican District

Welcome to the bush



Aerial view of Roma during recent flooding.

BEING new to a town inevitably offers challenges. When my family and I moved to Roma, little did we know the testing times we would face.

After living in Roma for only a few short weeks our dog, Dexter, was killed by a brown snake in our backyard while three of our young children were playing only metres away. A month on and we are now going through the most devastating flood the town has seen in many decades. As a family, we have been able to cope because of the tremendous love and support that has come from the people of St Paul’s and the community of Roma.

The week prior to the flood, the community received alerts from the local council via the phone telling us to prepare for flood waters that never came. When the second warnings were released, the community went into action like a well oiled machine. The sandbagging was done and most household items and important

possessions were put on higher ground. One of the unfortunate things about this flood was that it came so quickly. There were forced evacuations in our part of town and as a result, we lost most of our possessions that were downstairs.

Our family was taken in by one of the church wardens. This scenario was played out throughout Roma with people finding shelter where they could. More houses have been affected this year, bringing the total houses inundated to over 250. Thankfully we have been able to move back into the rectory for a short time before the rebuilding commences. Where we will live in the coming months is still unknown since accommodation is scarce and therefore very expensive.

This year’s flood has broken many records and the rectory received just over 80 centimetres of flood water throughout the bottom level of the two storey dwelling. The site that the church sits on saw some

flood water rise which affected one of the Anglicare Southern Queensland (Spiritus) buildings but the church itself was unaffected.

This is the third year in a row that the town has been flooded. I have spoken to insurance assessors who have told me many men are breaking down in tears during the assessments of their homes. This didn’t occur during the last two floods. The mood in the community could be described as flat. People were just emotionally recovering from last year’s flood when it has happened all over again.

“Many men are breaking down in tears during the assessments of their homes. This didn’t occur during the last two floods.”

In a practical sense, having been through this type of natural disaster more than once the town seems to run like a well oiled machine. One of the mining companies sent employees out in teams to go house to house to assist. Our home benefited by having all the carpet ripped up and put on the street. Most of the insurance companies have been quick in assessing the damage. The various charitable organisations and church groups have been doing a marvellous job in assisting the community to recover yet again.

The parishioners of St Paul’s can be seen throughout the town assisting where they can; whether it be baking and preparing food to be delivered to flood victims,

cleaning and washing, or simply providing a listening ear to those who have no one to turn to. Now that the initial insurance assessments have been completed and people are starting to look to the future, the Archbishop’s Emergency Relief Fund is going to play a big part in helping people find hope. Even though the assistance appears to be only financial, the connections that are made and the fact that people feel cared for goes a long way in the healing process. As someone who has experienced firsthand the devastation that a natural disaster such as this flood brings, I encourage everyone to give generously in order for the church to provide the much needed support it can bring to the residents of Roma.

As I come in contact with people the question is often asked, “Where is God in all this?” The conversation flows into talking about the outpouring of support that has been given: the way that people who might never normally speak to one another work side by side to help someone they don’t even know to find some normality in their lives. God can be seen in the sandwich makers or the offer of a cup of tea. For me this flood has been a great opportunity to see the face of Christ in others.

When I shared with a local all that our family has gone through since moving to Roma, he shook his head and said, “Welcome to the bush. All you need is a good drought for the full experience.” My prayer is that the drought holds off for a little while.

The Reverend Scott Gunthorpe
Priest-in-Charge Roma Parish

You can help: The Archbishop’s Emergency Relief Fund

THE Archbishop’s Emergency Relief Fund is focused on providing assistance to parishes and individuals who have been inundated or affected by flooding within the Province of Queensland.

In the 2010 and 2011 floods, the Fund efficiently distributed more than 1 million dollars in donations. Contributions to the Fund can be made by telephone, in writing and online:

Telephone:
Archbishop’s Emergency Relief Donation Line
1300 244 683

Cheques made out and sent to:
“Archbishop’s Emergency Relief Fund”
Fundraising
Anglican Diocese of Brisbane
GPO Box 421
BRISBANE Q 4001

Online donations:
Visit
www.anglicanbrisbane.org.au
or www.spiritus.org.au

After the waters subside



Cattle struggle in the flooded Maranoa River.
Photo: Margaret Maudsley

“THE noise was like that of a jet engine.” These are the words of a grazier living near the Balonne River between Surat and St George. We have heard much of the devastation caused by rushing water through the townships of Mitchell and Roma and the threat to urban areas in Charleville, St George and Cunnamulla. Fortunately, in these three places, the levy banks managed to hold and many homes were spared. Our televisions, radio news bulletins and newspapers have done an excellent job in keeping the public informed. This has enabled many people to be prayerful for those suffering and respond financially to appeals for these victims.

Unfortunately very little is made known of the people living on properties or farms along the river systems. Seldom are volunteers able to access these properties to assist in the cleaning up and many of these residents are prevented from travelling because of flooded or boggy roads. I have heard of reports telling of the river being up to 13 kilometres wide, hundreds

of kilometres of fencing destroyed, irrigation equipment washed away, crops ruined and stock drowned. These people too require our prayerful support and assistance.

The above photo shows a herd of cattle being marshalled from a patch of dry land, which was fast being surrounded by waters from the Maranoa River, to safety. They were the lucky ones. Another story told is of a cow being found alive fifty kilometres down-stream and on the other side of the river. This animal survived, not because of an ability to swim, but rather to suddenly learn the art of surfing!

When stocks and crops are damaged or destroyed it means reduced or no income for months. There is a bumper sticker which says “Every family needs a farmer.” This is so true but often we fail to recognise the challenges faced by those who stock our supermarket shelves.

The Very Reverend Robert Nolan
Bishop of the Western region

Treading water in the face of adversity



Leticia Thorne with Pixie.

ON my recent visit to Roma I came across a little dog called Pixie. Pixie had been badly treated by previous owners and was in very poor condition when she came to live with her new family. She was still a rather anxious dog but was very trusting of her new owners, particularly Leticia, the daughter of Anglicare Southern Queensland (Spiritus) Roma staff member Meryl Thorne.

Unexpected evacuations meant Leticia and Meryl had to leave home without Pixie and their two cats. While they were away, they worried about their pets. When they were able to return home, Meryl and Leticia found Pixie treading water with only her nose and mouth above the water and the two cats perched high atop a cupboard. Pixie had gone through another traumatic experience and survived. Like the residents in the area, her strength and resilience have seen her through to live another day with her loving family.

Learning to deal with, and to overcome adversity, is what makes us who we are. Every challenge we confront successfully in life serves to strengthen our will and ability to conquer future obstacles. Herodotus, the Greek philosopher, said, “Adversity has the effect of drawing out strength and qualities ... that would have lain dormant in its absence.”

The Reverend Linda McWilliam

Looking after our neighbours



Anglicare Southern Queensland (Spiritus) staff rally to help during the floods.

THE Anglican Church has an abiding presence in the communities of the southwest of the state, many recovering from some of the worst flooding in their long history. As well as the parishes, Anglicare Southern Queensland, (formerly Spiritus) has an office in Roma to administer programs and services to the aged and those in need in Roma, St George and other centres.

Anglicare staff have returned to their caring work. Throughout the crisis, they participated in the rescue and evacuation process with the priority being given to vulnerable staff and clients, 136 clients in Roma and St George and 70 others in the area including eight in Mitchell and 13 in Thallon. Many were evacuated and unable to return to their homes for a week.

Anglicare community and aged care Roma manager Heather Hall said the town was returning to normal.

In Mitchell, where only a handful of houses remain untouched by the flood, the bakery, butcher, service station and pub have all been extensively damaged. “The impact of this is huge in a small town,” Heather said.

In Anglicare Social Services Roma, the situation was similar. Eight staff and their families were affected losing furniture and whitegoods. Manager Denis Pitt said people have had enough.

“Our clients are all okay in general but, like much of the town, we have all reached exhaustion level. It’s been a

stretch but we’ll get there.”

One of the tasks of new Roma parish priest-in-charge, the Reverend Scott Gunthorpe, was to preside at the funeral of Jane Sheahan, the local Blue Care worker who was swept to her death whilst helping others in the midst of the deluge. The whole town turned out in force to mark the occasion. “The town is devastated by this,” Denis said.

“We are all aware of how tired everyone is and we need to be mindful of the needs of staff and each other in the coming months.”

Anglicare client Patricia Smith was airlifted, along with other residents of the nursing home in Roma, to the Gold Coast, where she has been living at Anglicare aged care home, Abri.

Abri manager Christine Schumacher said Ms Smith is as “happy as Larry” and enjoys the local shopping.

Amongst the staff assisting in Roma was Spiritus Co-ordinating Chaplain, the Reverend Linda McWilliam.

She said she admired the resilience of the people.

“Determination, resilience and persistence are what enables all of these great people to push past their adversities and prevail. It was a great privilege to support staff and clients during my visit to Roma and I thank God for the wonderful community spirit that prevails in this time of heartbreak and tragedy.”

Debbie Price

Bush Ministry Fund rolls out 2012 program



Liz Nolan, Gisela Gunthorpe with baby Archie, Father Scott Gunthorpe, Father Tom Hall and wife Wendy.
Photo: Richard Coombs (Western Star)

THE floods that devastated Mitchell, St George and other remote communities remind us how important the work of the Bush Ministry Fund (BMF) is in helping keep priests in these centres.

Communities will be struggling to come to terms with this disaster and businesses that already were struggling, before the flood, may never recover.

The presence of a parish priest in times like these is so important in the overall recovery of the whole community, not just the Anglican community. A parish cannot be viable without a priest and more than ever we are encouraging our eastern parishes to support those in the west.

In conjunction with Australia Day

celebrations (before the flood) St Paul’s Roma hosted an awareness day to encourage financial support for regional parishes. Father Tom, Wendy, members of the BMF Committee and members of the Achor Music Team visited St Paul’s to promote the fund and Achor Music ministered through their family service. Father

Tom preached and encouraged the community to continue their great work for the Lord. Many parishioners and their children dressed in Australian colours and clothes and the Achor team handed out Aussie flags for the final song “Joy is a flag flying high from the castle of my heart.”

Our main focus in visiting Roma was to raise awareness and to provide support for new priest the Reverend Scott Gunthorpe, wife Gisela and their children Hannah, Maddy, Kaitlyn and Archie. Our prayers continue for them as the lower level of the rectory was flooded.

Wendy Hall, Diane Eldridge and Sharon Cheong visited St David’s Chelmer for the final service for Father John Corner prior to his retirement. Wendy had the great joy in presenting to Father John a Golden Windmill as Chelmer had donated more than \$1000 to the Bush Ministry Fund in 2011.

Wendy is currently organising Golden Windmills for parishes which raised more than \$1000 for the first time during 2011. Gold plaques are being arranged for all those who again raised more than \$1000 in 2011 to add to their windmills.

Father Tom Hall

Contributing to the BMF

THE next money box collection will be March 31. “God’s house” money boxes can be purchased for \$10 each. Bush Ministry Fund red and white wines are also available for \$10.

The next street stall at the Aspley Hypermarket is on March 15 and 16 from 9am to 4pm. Donations of cooking, craft, jams and pickles are always valued, and visits from Anglican parishioners are always welcomed. Please contact Fr Tom on 0428 711 719 for more information.

The BMF committee is excited to announce that this year’s Bush Ministry Fund Variety Concert is on August 25 at St Andrew’s at Lutwyche commencing at 7.00pm. Another wonderful programme is planned with visits from Anglican school choirs and other entertainers. More detail will follow in a future edition of *Focus*.

I am available to speak at parishes and schools and we are hoping that some parishes may consider having a simple “fork” dinner on a Friday or Saturday night (with perhaps a bush theme) where we can share our Bush Ministry Fund stories. Wendy is always happy to speak to midweek ladies’ groups. Please contact Father Tom for bookings on 0428 711 719 or tombhall@aonet.com.au.

On January 30, Churchie students formed a giant 100 on the oval to mark the school's centenary.



*Iconic Brisbane Anglican school, Churchie, this year celebrates its centenary. From humble beginnings, the vision of three boys and a priest, its reputation has grown to be an education leader. Current Headmaster, Jonathan Hensman, shared his views on the past and the future with **Abby Lu**.*

TIMES have changed and the campus has grown since founder, Canon William Morris, helped establish the Anglican Church Grammar School. George V was on the British throne and Andrew Fisher was the nation's Prime Minister. World War I was low on the horizon. Today, the school that has become known affectionately as "Churchie" holds a prominent place in Brisbane and beyond—educationally, geographically and socially, as it upholds its mission of graduating learned, community-minded, well-rounded men of faith.

From his office, current Headmaster, Jonathan Hensman, looks over the East Brisbane campus and its 1796 students with pride ... and an eye to the future.

The school started as a house in Toowong, and later moved to St John's Cathedral, until the East Brisbane campus was established in 1918. The school maintains its links to the Cathedral today, with choristers playing an important role in school and church life.

Mr Hensman said the school's teaching style has evolved, in line with modern teaching practice. The teacher standing in front of the class talking all day is a memory. Classes are interactive and cater to individuals. The changes at Churchie over the decades have seen individual tablet computers replacing textbooks, interactive whiteboards

replacing blackboards, academic reports being complemented with emotional intelligence reports, and pastoral learning and etiquette training added to a modern curriculum that envisions global citizenship. Emotional intelligence is the new focus. The school has four tenets, one of which is service. Examples include the annual camp with students with disabilities, as well as breakfast clubs and before and after school tuition programs in other Brisbane schools. Mr Hensman said the change from service being about 'doing', rather than 'giving', was an important evolution.

"Historically, it used to be transactional [giving], putting the hand in the pocket and giving a gold coin. But now we're emphasising the transformational side, which is the giving of your time and energy so we believe that's a very special part of our program. It certainly changes the mindset of our boys. It improves their emotional intelligence significantly."

Some things never change though. Headmaster Jonathan Hensman said "boys are still boys" and the school had retained its roots and was true to the founder's purpose. In Canon Morris's first address to parents he stated his aim was to "train characters as well as minds". "Its essence lies in its Mission, which has remained steadfast since 1912. It is a School with tangible soul and its Old Boys are, in the main, testament to this statement.

We are a school of yesterday, today and tomorrow, relevant to the future of this nation, producing men of character who understand what it is to be gentlemen who attempt to 'finish hard'."

The Old Boys network is 20,000 strong and reads like a list from Who's Who: Queensland Chief Justice Paul de Jersey; BHP Billiton Chairman Don Argus; Qantas Airways Chairman Leigh Clifford; Minister for Education and Industrial Relations Hon Cameron Dick MP; footy stars Jason Dunstall and Karmichael Hunt; Wallabies David Pocock and Quade Cooper; Hollywood actor Gyton Grantley; Brisbane author Nick Earls and many others.

Old Boy and former Archbishop of Melbourne, the Most Reverend Dr Keith Rayner AO, attended the school during World War II. He fondly recalls Canon Morris's last year of service at the school – "Lots of teachers had joined the [defence] forces. If not for the war he would have retired." Arthritis crippled the Canon but he ran the school from his study with great courage. Dr Rayner remembers the students came to the study, due to the Canon's impaired mobility, to attend divinity classes. He said the greatest lesson he learnt in that study was courage. "The way in which he gave himself to the running of the school – despite the great pain – had an impression on me."

Many Queensland families have long and strong

links to the school. Mr Hensman said two teachers have clocked up 41 years at the school, and "that's quite something." The honour board in Morris Hall displays a long list of staff who served 20 years or more, and there are a number of four generation families.

The school is known for being part of the wider community too. "Churchie has enjoyed a long and warm association with the Diocese and as a Christian school that has always been attached to St John's Cathedral, we continue to place huge significance on that association." Churchie plays an important role within the Diocese, hosting the annual Synod celebrations, as well as participating in volunteering for Anglicare Southern Queensland and the Anglican Board of Mission.

Paying homage to its past, Churchie recently had a day of activities harking back to 1912. Headmaster Jonathan Hensman dressed up in a waistcoat and the boys played old fashioned games such as three-legged races and sack races. The celebrations culminated with the boys taking to the oval to form a giant 100, which was photographed from a helicopter.

Though the classrooms, clothes and teaching styles have changed, Churchie remains a proud part of Brisbane's community, now and hopefully for the next 100 years.

Friends of Churchie are invited to the following events 2012

Centenary Dinner

Saturday, June 9
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

Churchie Family Open Day

Sunday, June 10
Churchie

Centenary Gala Concert

Saturday, August 11
Queensland Conservatorium of Music

Visit www.churchie.com.au for more information.



From left to right: The Chapel and the Brick 1925, Full School photo 1930, the pocket swim 1958 and the reenactment of the first Headmaster's Assembly 2012.