

Weekly News

12 May 2019

The weekly newsletter for the South East Bendigo Anglican Parish

Reflection

Change

At different stages of our lives, we all face change.

It could be a new school, job, baby in the family, retirement, illness, moving and I'm sure you can add to this list of changes that have occurred in your life!

Now, let's be honest...who likes change?

Changes in our lives are inevitable and we can't always avoid them, and I think a lot of us struggle with change as it can leave us feeling insecure, anxious or afraid of new situations that will come our way.

By now, I'm sure you have all heard the exciting news for Greg and Karen Harris as they prepare to leave and minister with BCA (Bush Church Aid). There will be MANY changes in their lives in the coming months and with Greg and Karen leaving, it means that there will be changes in our Parish as we await and then appoint a new Senior Minister/Rector.



Even though we all have to deal with change and at times we can feel overwhelmed by all that is going on, I find it encouraging to know that God **doesn't** change.

Below are some Bible verses that remind us that God doesn't change, He is with us, He will guide us and He will help us!

James 1:17 – Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Hebrews 13:8 – Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Hebrews 13:5 – Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you or forsake you."

Joshua 1:9 – Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go.

Psalms 32:8 – I will teach you the way you should go; I will instruct you and advise you.

Proverbs 3:5-6 – Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

As I have encountered change in my life, I have found these verses useful and I pray that they are a good reminder for Greg and Karen Harris and the rest of us as we wait to see what God will do in the next chapter of Greg and Karen's life and in our Parish.

Rob Edwards
Children's & Youth Minister

Bible readings

This Sunday Colossians 1:15-20 (p.1182) Matthew 18:18-19, 28:16-20 (p.985) **Next Sunday** Revelation 21:1-7 (p.1249) John 14:1-6 (p.1082)

News

Greg's new role

It was announced last Sunday that our Rector Greg will be the next National Director of Bush Church Aid (BCA). As National Director Greg will encourage and lead the BCA team across the country and look for new opportunities to spread the good news of Jesus in remote, regional and rural Australia. 100 years on, Greg walks in the footsteps of the BCA founder SJ Kirkby who hailed from Bendigo.

Greg has been the Rector for over 12 years and is the second longest serving Rector. His new role is an opportunity for Greg to pursue two strong passions of his, namely country ministry and the vision of BCA.

Greg and Karen's final Sunday will be Sunday 30th June and they will move to Sydney during July.

For more information on the new role, please see the foyer noticeboard, the Parish website or the BCA website.

The coming months and next Rector

It is understandable that there will be a number of questions given Greg's new role as National Director of BCA.

Bishop Matt attended the recent Parish Council meeting to outline the process from here and answer questions from the council. The following answers may prove helpful in understanding what the process is from here.

Final Sunday

Greg and Karen's final day in the parish will be Sunday 30th June. After this they will be taking accrued leave before moving to Sydney.

Plans are currently being undertaken for the final Sunday and farewells. Please watch this space for more information.

Acting Rector

Bishop Matt will 'take up the license' as Rector until a replacement is found. This will mean that Bishop Matt will have overall authority but will not be undertaking everyday functions that Greg may have performed. These functions and roles will need to be covered by the Ministry Team and volunteers. Bishop Matt will chair Parish Council and intends to be present on Sundays at least once a month (depending on his current commitments). Bishop Matt will also meet regularly with the Ministry Team.

Appointment process

It is envisaged that the Parish Nominators will meet with Bishop Matt soon after Synod (which is the last weekend in May). It needs to be understood that the next Rector of South East Bendigo will need to have

experience as a senior leader in a diocese and parish. It is impossible to put a time frame on how long the appointment process will take due to numerous variables.

Rectory

After Greg and Karen move out the Rectory will need to be painted and have the carpets replaced. A few other minor repairs and maintenance issues will also need to be addressed in the Rectory before the new Rector can move in. The Wardens will be responsible for this.

Girton

Both Greg and Bishop Matt have been in communication with the Headmaster of Girton. Arrangements are being made to cover Greg's responsibilities at the school for the remainder of the year.

Free Election BBQ



We will be running our 'free sausage sizzle' again next Saturday at the federal election. If you are able to help out by cooking or serving for a shift then please put your name on the sign up sheet in the foyer.

Also, if you wish to make a donation to offset the cost of supplying 'free sausage sandwiches' then please place it in a labelled envelope and

place it in the offertory bowl at church.

At the last election this blessing on the community provided numerous opportunities to talk with people.

Thanks from Evelyn Wood

Dear Holy Trinity Friends, as most of you would know by now the radiation treatment I have just had was successful and at this time I am cancer free. There will be on going treatment to keep it that way.

I can't begin to tell you how much your prayers, visits, cards and general concern have meant to me,

Bill and the family. It has been both a humbling and uplifting experience. Thank you all so much. Blessings and love.
Evelyn

Bendigo Winter Night Shelter

There will be a Commissioning Service for the Bendigo Winter Night Shelter (BWNS) project NEXT Sunday (19th May) at 3 pm at the Bendigo Salvation Army Church. The church is located at 65-71 Mundy St Bendigo. Everyone is welcome to attend and support this project and those who are generously volunteering their time.

Hosting the Synod

South East Bendigo will once again be hosting Synod this year, Friday 24th May to Saturday 25th May. We will need people to help with the meals – both preparation and serving. Please keep an eye out for the sign out sheets in the foyer. This is once again a great opportunity for us to be a blessing to our Diocese and depends on all of us participating.

Church Camp



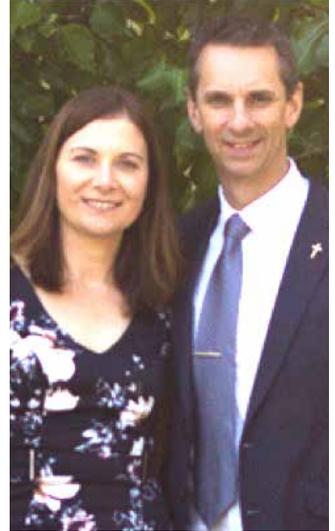
It is getting close to the 'last call' for people attending the church camp this year. Please see Trev Bell or Robyn Geldart as soon as possible or take one of the information brochures in the foyer.

Mission money boxes

If you have a money box at home for ABM, BCA or CMS – could you please bring it in during May.

Prayer Church and mission

Parish



Pray for Greg and Karen Harris as they prepare to leave and begin a new ministry with BCA.

Pray for the search for a new rector, for the Bishop and parish nominators in this process.

Pray for those volunteers who will soon begin training for the Bendigo Winter Night Shelter project to help the homeless.

Pray for the new sermon series, that it will help us to grow in our trust of Jesus as we learn about what he is doing now.

Give thanks for those who volunteer to help with morning tea and cleaning at our church.

Pray for the Ministry Team spouses and families.

Diocese

Pray for the Diocesan Executive as the members serve the Diocese.

Mission

Pray for the work of BCA in this month when they celebrated 100 years of serving the church in rural, remote and regional areas.

Persecuted Church.



Algeria

Recently violence towards Christians has increased dramatically, mainly from relatives of Christian converts. There is increased political support for hard line Islamic groups and churches have been closed, but people are still coming to faith in Jesus. Pray for Christians from a Muslim background, and also that God will give peace and wisdom to church leaders especially as more churches close.

World

Libya

Pray for a ceasefire in the month-long battle for the capital Tripoli.

South Africa

Pray for the new government resulting from this week's elections.

USA

Pray for those families mourning after another school shooting, and for wisdom in the nation towards workable gun laws.

Iran

Pray that further enriching of uranium would be suspended and tensions with the USA would decrease.

National and local

Pray for all levels of government to lead with wisdom, integrity and fairness, for the good of all. This week we focus on the State level, and pray for the Premier Daniel Andrews and our local members Maree Edwards and Jacinta Allen, as well as all members of state parliament.

Give thanks for recent rains and pray for those farming

communities needing more to ensure a good winter crop.



Pray for those who are imprisoned in our nation. Pray for just treatment within the judicial system and for God to work in their lives.

Pray for young people to have a healthy self-worth and to be resistant to unrealistic expectations promoted by social media.

Pray for the health sector and the valuable role they play in our local community.

Pray for the elderly and vulnerable struggling with health during this winter period as the temperatures drop.

Personal

Sick and in need

Kevin Furness, Keith Thompson, Eric & Muriel Jencke, Lorenzo Santalucia, and any others known to us.

Deceased

Liz McQueen

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Contact us

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8 May 2019



BCA announces new National Director

On behalf of The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia I would like to introduce you to our new National Director – Archdeacon Greg Harris from Bendigo.

Greg has a heart for the bush even though he was born a 'city boy'. Since graduating from Moore College in 1996 with a Bachelor of Theology (Hons), he has served in Collarenebri, Guyra and for the past 12 years has been the Senior Minister/Rector of the South East Bendigo Anglican Parish. Greg has been Archdeacon of Bendigo since 2011, is also the Vicar General of the Diocese and a member of the General Synod Standing Committee.

During his time in Bendigo, Greg has been involved in recruiting and developing ministers, setting and implementing strategic direction and working with people across the wider Anglican Church. He has also been the chaplain of Girton Grammar School for the past five years. In his role of Archdeacon Greg has contributed to the leadership of the Diocese including the development and implementation of a number of strategic plans. But most of all Greg is passionate about preaching the good news of Jesus.



Karen and Greg Harris

Greg's links with Bush Church Aid date back to his first ministry position as every parish he has worked in has supported BCA. In his role of Archdeacon, Greg played a key role in establishing and nurturing the BCA supported ministry of Steve Weickhardt in Strathfieldsaye.

As National Director of Bush Church Aid Greg will encourage and lead our team across the country and look for new opportunities to spread the good news of Jesus in remote, regional and rural Australia. 100 years on, Greg walks in the footsteps of our founder SJ Kirkby who hailed from Bendigo.

"How gracious is our Lord? Two strong passions of mine, country ministry and my support of BCA's vision, have now come together in a new way," says incoming National Director Greg Harris. "I only pray that God may grant me the 'grace, grit and gumption' to serve like all those who have heeded God's calling and faithfully served BCA."

Greg replaces The Right Revd Dr Mark Short, now Bishop of Canberra & Goulburn, who led BCA for seven years. Greg and his wife Karen will conclude their time in Bendigo at the end of June before taking some leave and commencing in the BCA National Office in Sydney during August.

Fred Chilton, Chairman, The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia