

Fire destroys South Bathurst church

❑ 130-year-old building gutted in early morning blaze

Police investigations are continuing into the fire that destroyed the historic Anglican church of St Barnabas, South Bathurst, early on Sunday morning February 23.

The fire was noticed at around 1:00am, and by the time the fire brigade arrived shortly afterwards it was burning too fiercely to allow the fire fighters to enter the building.

The interior of the building was completely destroyed, and part of the roof collapsed in the blaze. All the stained glass windows have also been destroyed.

Parish priest James Hodson and the church wardens notified members of the church before they arrived for Sunday morning services. Most of those who arrived for the 8:00am service waited around, and when the 9:30 congregation had gathered as well James Hodson, with assistance from retired priest Ian Crooks, set up a card table as a temporary altar and held a communion service on the footpath in front of the buildings adjacent to the church.

As the fire brigade and packed up their hoses in the parking area in front of the church and police began their investigations, more than 50 people took part in the worship service, including several



DESTRUCTION: A police officer guards the site as firemen pack their equipment after extinguishing the fire. While the church building was largely destroyed, the church hall was not harmed and the bell tower escaped serious damage.

passers-by who were invited to join in.

James Hodson assured the congregation that although the building might have been destroyed, “the building is not the church; we are the church, and we are still here”.

While the congregation displayed a

strong determination to continue as the church in their part of Bathurst, they showed no bitterness towards whoever was responsible for the fire; during the worship service they prayed for the culprits and asked God’s forgiveness for them

James Hodson has said that the church leaders are still waiting for an engineer’s report on what remains of the structure, before deciding what will be done. However, neither he nor the congregation are thinking of closing down the church.

For the next few weeks, Sunday services will be held in the chapel of St Joseph’s Convent, Perthville, about ten kilometres out of Bathurst. However, the parish hall behind St Barnabas’ church was not affected by the fire, and once the damaged building has been made safe to walk past then services will be held there.

Postscript

In a symbolic act of unity with the South Bathurst congregation, parishes across the diocese used ashes from the burnt-out church for the Imposition of Ashes in their Ash Wednesday services this week.



HOPE: The congregation of St Barnabas’ Church South Bathurst made a strong statement of determination as they held their Sunday morning worship service on the footpath beside their burn-out church.

New Deacons: Dubbo gets Daryl, while Narromine gets Louis!

By Ken Phillis

It was a hot Saturday morning on 21st December when Holy Trinity Dubbo played host to Bishop Ian for the ordination of two deacons, Daryl McCullough and Louis Stringer.

A good congregation came together from various places to witness and support these two young men and their families as they take this next step in ministry. Bishop Ian shared with the congregation something of the move of God in their lives that brought them to this point.

Their two-day retreat was conducted by Bishop Graham Walden, who received strong public recognition from Bishop Ian for this ministry.

The service sheet reminded us that deacons have a role in inviting the congregation to confess their sin, read the Gospel, lead the intercessory prayer of the church, and send the people out of the service to be Christ's body in the world. They

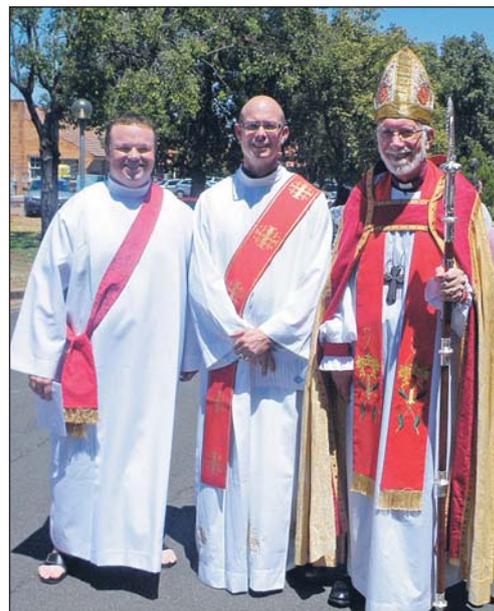
may be authorised to baptise and preach, to administer Holy Communion and to conduct funerals.

The Gospel reported the change in Thomas, one of The Twelve, from a position of doubt about the bodily resurrection of Jesus to a point of sure belief at which he exclaimed "My Lord and my God!"

The Bishop made it quite clear that both ordinands should be certain of that same faith and understanding if their ordination were to proceed.

Then, as a mark of his own understanding of the life of service into which they were entering, he publicly washed their feet as part of the service.

So Holy Trinity now has a second deacon and Macquarie Anglican Grammar has a deacon as their Deputy. Daryl together with his wife, Dianne, and their three children Caitlin, Will and Tom, now embark on a challenging life of service in the church. It's our job to support them and encourage them.



DEACONS: Darryl McCullough and Louis Stringer with Bishop Ian.

Two new parish ministries begin

Bishop Ian Palmer commissioned Dan Henby as Bishop's Deacon in the parish of Oberon last Tuesday evening (March 4).

The parish put on a warm welcome for Dan, his wife Mandy and their five children - Isaac, Emily, Adara, Jael and Josiah.

Prior to moving to Oberon, Dan Henby had served as Assistant Minister in Oakhurst parish in the Diocese of Sydney, where he was also chaplain at the local TAFE College. He has also served in Hornsby parish.

Dan gained a science degree from the University of NSW in 1994, and worked in the Commonwealth public service as well as in the private sector before undertaking his theological training at Moore College.

Oberon parish includes the village churches at Black Springs, Tarana and Mutton Falls, and also provides services at Hampton (which is actually

just across the diocesan boundary and is in the Diocese of Sydney).

Gulgong

Bishop Ian also commissioned Kaye Colwell as Priest in Charge of Gulgong parish, on February 21.

The parish had been under the pastoral oversight of Max Wood, rector of Mudgee, since the retirement of Jorie Ryan as parish priest in late 2012.

Kaye Colwell has served as the Company of the Good Shepherd's Companion in residence in Condobolin since 2009, prior to which she was Honorary Priest Assistant in Coonamble for five years. She was also Diocesan Education Officer from 2005-2013.

She was ordained Deacon in 2001 and Priest in 2004, after a career in education. In 2008 she was awarded a Master's degree in Theology from Charles Sturt University.

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **The Reverend Daryl McCullough** has been appointed Deacon Assistant in the parish of Dubbo.
- ◆ **The Reverend Louis Stringer** has been appointed Honorary Deacon Assistant in Narromine parish.
- ◆ **The Reverend Kaye Colwell**, formerly CGS Companion in Residence in Condobolin, was commissioned as Priest in Charge of the parish of Gulgong on Friday, February 21.
- ◆ **The Reverend Dan Henby** was commissioned as Bishop's Deacon in the parish of Oberon on Tuesday, March 4. His previous appointment was Assistant Minister in the parish of Oakhurst (Diocese of Sydney).

Anglican

e-News

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Mission in a changing world

□ Clergy Conference considers implications of rapid changes in society

The speaker at the Autumn Clergy Conference held in Orange on February 23-24, Robert Daborn, delivered three challenging sessions aimed at helping parish clergy to discern the mission of the church in a rapidly changing world.

Rob Daborn has served as a parish priest in rural areas of England, and then headed Local Ministry (also known as Mutual Ministry or Collaborative Ministry) in the Diocese of Lichfield before taking on his present role in a ministry training college in the Diocese of Hereford, in western England.

He acknowledged at the outset that he didn't come with any ready-made answers: "I don't think I have any right to come here with answers, but I hope that by the process and form of the sessions we've put together it will help you to begin to sort out something of where you go next as a diocese."

In his first session, entitled **Change and Transition**, Rob Daborn highlighted the increasing pace of change in the world. He said that in the Middle Ages, a person might encounter one significant technological change in their lifetime; today, it is estimated that there is a significant technological change somewhere in the world every 30 seconds.

Adjusting to such rapid change presents a challenge for many people.

"Much of the pastoral care that we offer others, or receive from them, will be at times of significant change," he pointed out.

Quoting researcher William Bridges, Rob Daborn differentiated between change (external differences) and transition (the psychological process people go through to come to terms with a new situation).

He listed three stages of transition:

- ♦ ending
- ♦ the neutral zone
- ♦ a new beginning.

He said that we need to acknowledge the end of a traditional pattern, and endings involve grief. A major obstacle to change is that people are unwilling to face the fact that their tradition will not be continuing.



FACILITATING: Rob Daborn outlines the processes of helping people deal with change.

"This applies to those in ministry as well as congregations," he noted.

He described the neutral zone as "the untidy bit where you're living between the two", and said it could overlap with the other two stages. It is a time of stress, but potentially time of renewal.

"We need to accept ambivalence and live with it," he said, adding that the process "is made much more complex when we are working through multiple changes simultaneously".

People can only move on to a new beginning when they have first made an ending, and then spent some time in the neutral zone.

His second session asked the question: **What is God calling us to be and do?**

Speaking of discerning the mission of God and serving, he said that the traditional or received paradigm was that:

- ♦ mission happens beyond Christendom
- ♦ mission is planned and carried out by the church
- ♦ mission takes our faith to others
- ♦ However, the church was moving towards a new paradigm in which:
 - ♦ the mission belongs to God
 - ♦ the Missio Dei is to realise the creative and transformative Kingdom of God
 - ♦ the Kingdom is defined proleptically (in anticipation) in the person and ministry of Jesus Christ.

This paradigm shift was summarised by US writer Tim Dearborn:

It's not the church of God that has a mission in the world, but the God of mission who has a church in the world.

In his third session, Rob Daborn posed the question: **What is God calling us to be and do?**

He said we have a calling to grow the Kingdom, and the church is called to be what Lesslie Newbiggin described as 'a sign, instrument and foretaste' of the Kingdom.

He spoke of a shared ministry, using the resources of the whole church (lay and ordained), and listed some of the features that could encourage such a church:

- ♦ an enabling style of ministry
- ♦ flexible structures
- ♦ discernment of gifts, calling out, equipping for ministry and appropriate authorisation
- ♦ clarity over job descriptions, lines of accountability and review
- ♦ the primary focus of the church life is beyond itself – on the mission of God: what is God calling us to be and do in this place?

To help answer this final question, Rob Daborn referred to "triple listening": listening to the people in the church, listening to the community and listening to the Holy Spirit.

Trundle priest planning 96km 'walk for Christ'

A date to remember Sunday April 6, 2014.

Brian Schmalkuche, Priest in Residence of the Anglican Parish of Trundle, is going to walk the length of the Parish from Bogan Gate through Trundle and Tullamore to Albert, a distance of some 96kms.

This pilgrimage is all about the Spirit of God that exists in the Parish area and Brian has extended an invitation to everyone to join him for some time or distance over the four-plus days he believes it will take for this Walk for Christ.

Brian believes it will be an amazing opportunity to pray for those who join him, for those who occupy the properties he passes and to give thanks for the countless Christian ministries that already exist in this unique, rural locality.

He said he is excited about the challenge and is looking forward to sharing this Walk for Christ with as many as can join him. There will be a celebration Church Service in All Saints' Anglican

Church Albert when he arrives.

His estimated arrival time is 11.30am Thursday April 10.

Sponsorship will be gratefully accepted and it will be used for Brian's continued ministry in the Parish.

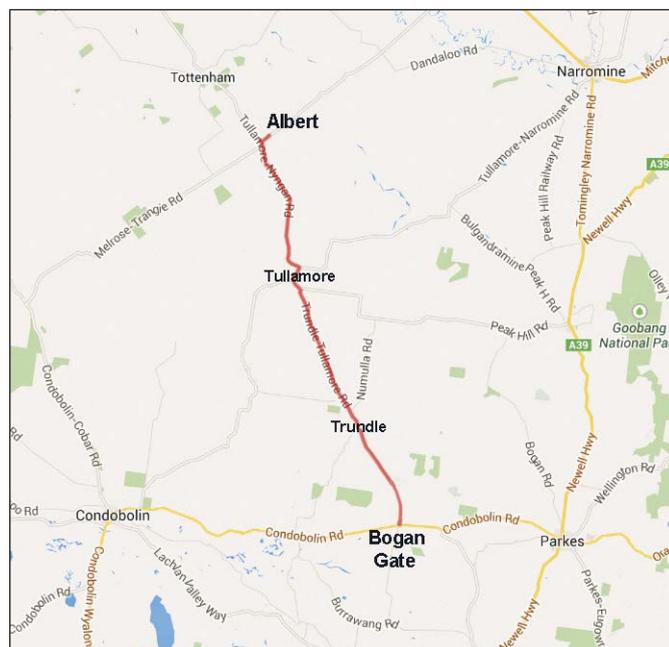
What an exciting time is planning a pilgrimage and I am so heartened by people's interest and encouragement.

"I believe God's Spirit is alive and well in my communities, it just needs a little tweaking from time to time," Brian said, "so come and help me tweak it."

Bishop Ian Palmer has said that he will be joining Brian for the first leg of the walk, from Bogan Gate to Trundle,

on April 6.

On a number of occasions Bishop Ian has expressed his enthusiasm for pilgrimage, and he has walked the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage trail in Spain three times



Sarah Macneil breaks stained-glass ceiling

In a history-making service in Grafton Cathedral on Saturday March 1, former Canberra priest Sarah Macneil was consecrated as the first woman Diocesan Bishop in Australia.

While there were already four female Assistant Bishops in the Australian church, Sarah's consecration broke one of the last barriers to equality for women in ordained ministry.

Sarah Macneil had served as rector of All Saints', Ainslie, for five years before accepting an appointment as Dean of Adelaide Cathedral.

She was Diocesan Archdeacon of Canberra and Goulburn Diocese from 2003-2009, and Vicar-General of Adelaide Diocese for 2010-11.

In late 2011 she resigned as Dean of Adelaide and returned to Canberra, where she had been serving as Priest Assistant at Holy Covenant, Jamison, when she was elected Bishop of Grafton late last year.



EPISCOPAL SISTERHOOD: Australia's four female Assistant Bishops were on hand to congratulate Sarah Macneil: (from left) Bishops Kaye Goldsworthy (Perth), Genieve Blackwell (Canberra-Goulburn), Sarah Macneil, Barbara Darling (Melbourne) and Alison Taylor (Brisbane).