

# Parish ministry role for Bishop

□ **Bishop Ian takes on part-time duties as Rector of Dubbo to help meet shortfall in diocesan finances**

By Lewis Hitchick

The Bishop of Bathurst Diocese, Ian Palmer, was commissioned as rector of the parish of Dubbo on Saturday evening, February 7.

Bishop Ian has taken on a half-time role as parish priest of the largest parish in the diocese, in addition to his responsibilities as diocesan bishop, because the diocese is no longer able to pay the full-time stipend of the bishop.

His commissioning service came at the end of a seven-day 'Pilgrimage of Prayer', in which Bishop Ian and his wife Liz walked the 200-plus kilometres from Bathurst to Dubbo.

Inspired partly by the 'Bishop's Walk' from Dubbo to Bathurst, undertaken by Bishop Ken Leslie in 1971 to raise funds for the completion of All Saints' Cathedral, Bishop Ian said his pilgrimage was not intended as a fund-raiser.

"Bishop Leslie walked to Bathurst, with a focus on the completion of the cathedral," he said. "Liz and I have walked from Bathurst, out into the



**CONGRATULATIONS:** Archdeacon Frank Hetherington leads the Holy Trinity congregation in a warm applause after handing Bishop Ian his license as Rector of the parish.

diocese, as a symbolic gesture to show that the Diocese of Bathurst is there to serve and help the parishes as they serve the communities around them."

Arriving in Dubbo at 2.00pm on Saturday, the Palmers were both suffering sore feet and tired legs but still managed to walk into the grounds of Holy Trinity church with a spring in their step – and a great sense of relief.

In a service in the church four hours later, Diocesan Archdeacon Frank Hetherington commissioned Bishop Ian in his new parish ministry.

During the service, the

Bishop also formally commissioned his recently-appointed Bishop's Registrar Karen Trafford, and licenced Darryl McCullough as Associate Priest in the parish. (Darryl had been serving as Priest Assistant since his ordination in September last year.)

In his sermon, Archdeacon Frank described the service as "a unique occasion": "It comes with a strong background of prayer and courageous action, shaped by the peculiar circumstances that we face in the Diocese of Bathurst at this time."

He pointed out that for the Bishop and Liz, one journey had just concluded and another one was just beginning, "not only for them but for this Parish and this Diocese".

He said that this journey was set against a background of the General Synod held in Adelaide in 2014, and particularly a document presented at that gathering entitled The Report of the Viability and Structures Task Force

"This report is available to us all in  
**(continued next page)**



**BLESSING:** Retired Bishop Graham Walden gives Bishop Ian his blessing.

# Parish ministry role for Bishop

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print or electronic form,” he said. “It provides uncomfortable reading. Section 8.035 states that ‘The Diocese of Bathurst is beset with financial woes through over borrowing for schools. The future of this diocese is under a question mark. It may be able to keep going, but will it recover? Every diocese needs to learn from the Bathurst experience.’”

“People are watching with us and praying for us. Our God is relational. We live within the Trinitarian experience of the God who Creates; the God who Redeems; the God who empowers through his Spirit.

“Is our experience through what we are doing tonight:

- ♦ a witness to that relationship?
- ♦ a witness to the Church?
- ♦ a witness to the community?
- ♦ a witness that we are people on pilgrimage with our Bishop?

“Are we rediscovering the meaning of service, rediscovering the meaning of our vocation, rediscovering, as Isaiah says, (Isaiah 40.31) that ‘those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint?’”



**LICENCE:** During his induction service, Bishop Ian also commissioned Karen Trafford as Bishop’s Registrar. Here he hands her the licence.

## Share the Benefit launched in Orange

Several parishes in the Bathurst diocese have joined in Anglicare’s Lenten *Share the Benefit* program following a promotion in Orange on February 3.

Ian Coutts, whose role in Anglicare NSW South, NSW West and ACT is to promote and develop partnerships between Anglicare and parishes, told a lunch-time gathering in Orange’s Holy Trinity parish hall that *Share the Benefit* was a Lenten program made up of four Bible studies followed by a week of living on welfare benefits.

“Those benefits are currently \$67 a week for a single person, or \$74 a week for a mum with two kids,” he pointed out.

He said that six churches in Canberra – Goulburn diocese had tried the program last year, and “some were brave enough to actually try to live on the benefit – and for those who did, it was an absolute eye-opener”.

“It’s a really interesting experience to see what it’s like to live on those particular rates just for one week,” he added. “We’d be really interested to see how you get on with that, and to hear your stories about that.”

However, he said the main reason for inviting people to ‘share the benefit’ was that it actually built compassion – “a word used by Jesus Christ many times in the gospels, a really powerful word”.

“It’s that understanding of what others feel like – we can’t deal with a lot of things that professionals like Anglicare deal with on a day-to-day basis: some of the real heartaches and trauma, but this is one way that we can understand just a little bit, some of the needs of some of the people who live here in this community.”

The idea of *Share the Benefit* is that any difference between the money that participants spend during their week of living on the welfare benefit, and the amount they would normally spend in a week, is given to Anglicare.

Ian Coutts said that Anglicare would try to ensure that any money raised would be returned to the areas it was contributed from, to grow parish/Anglicare partnerships or other creative projects that would help make a difference in the local communities.

He said that at that stage (two weeks

before the start of Lent) about 20 parishes across the three diocese of Canberra-Goulburn, Bathurst and Riverina had committed to take part, “and we’re delighted about that”.

He pointed out that all Bible studies and resources for the program are available on the Anglicare website, making it very easy for any parish to join in.

Anglican

### e-News

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**Disclaimer:**

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Anglican Diocese of Bathurst.

# Called to a 24/7 ministry

## □ Dan Henby ordained priest in Oberon

Dan Henby was ordained as a priest by Bishop Ian Palmer, in Oberon on Monday evening, February 9.

He was also licenced to minister as a priest in the parish of Oberon.

Appointed to a part-time ministry in Oberon as a deacon 12 months ago, Dan Henby had previously served in several parishes in the Sydney Diocese following his ordination as a deacon in 2011.

St Barnabas' Church in Oberon needed extra seating to accommodate the congregation for the ordination.

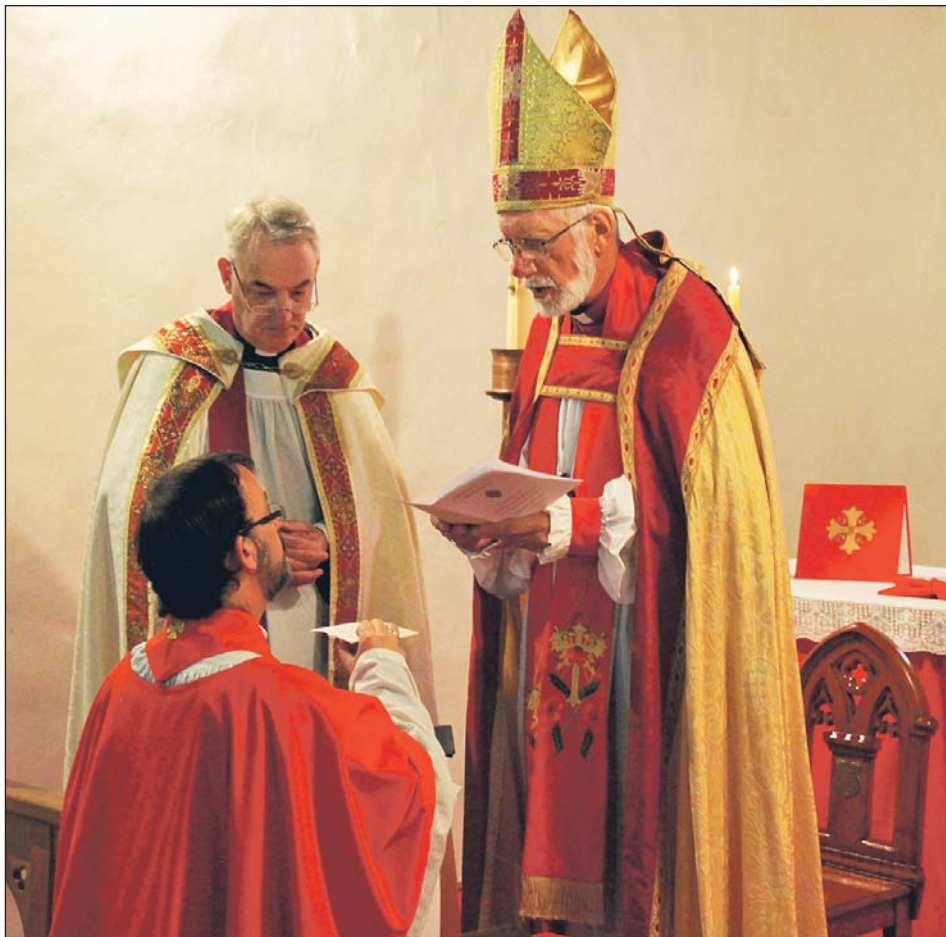
The attendance included the leaders of all the other Christian churches in Oberon, as well as Anglican clergy from the surrounding parishes.

Preacher for the occasion was South Bathurst priest James Hodson and Diocesan Ministry Development Officer, who had also led Dan's pre-ordination retreat.

James Hodson stressed that the role of the priest was to "point others to Christ", but this had the potential to become confusing: "Whenever you point others to Christ, they will be tempted to see you rather than looking through you and beyond you, to Christ."

"But that's OK," he added. "Just keep leading them to the Good Shepherd."

He said that Dan's new ministry as a priest was not about himself, but, in the words of the liturgy, he was to "proclaim



***SYMBOLS:*** Bishop Ian presents Dan Henby with a chalice and paten, symbols of his ministry as a priest.

the Gospel of Jesus Christ, seek the lost, announce God's justice, encourage and build up the body of Christ, preaching the Word of God, leading God's people in prayer, declaring God's forgiveness and blessing, and faithfully ministering the sacraments of God's grace with reverence and care".

"In a nutshell, this is what you have been called to this day," he added.

However, James Hodson made an important distinction: "We're not asking God to gift Dan to do the work of a priest, but rather to be a priest" – which he described as "a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week way of being".

He said this way of being was in order to equip the saints for their

ministry, to make disciples who in turn would point others toward the light.

Bishop Ian Palmer has licenced Dan Henby as Bishop's Priest (part-time) in the parish of Oberon.

### DIOCESAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

9th - 12th March at Shalom,  
Carcoar.

Application forms available  
from Parish Offices.

Retreat Leader - Rev'd Michael  
Deasey.

### ABM PARTNERS MAGAZINE

LENT 2015 SPECIAL  
EDITION

Now available in parishes, and  
includes excellent content -

- ◆ Updates from 2014 Projects
- ◆ Lenten Bible Studies

*Make sure you collect your copy*

### CLERGY MOVES & APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **The Right Reverend Ian Palmer** was inducted as Rector of Dubbo on Saturday February 7. The appointment is a part-time position, as Bishop Ian will also continue his role as Bishop of Bathurst.
- ◆ **The Reverend Dan Henby** was ordained Priest and licensed as Bishop's Priest in Oberon Parish on Monday, February 9.

# A Pilgrimage of Prayer: from Bathurst to Dubbo

From Sunday February 1 to Saturday 7, Bishop Ian and Liz Palmer walked from Bathurst Cathedral; to Holy Trinity Dubbo on a Pilgrimage of Prayer.

The walk highlighted the Bishop's move from Bishops court to the Dubbo Rectory, to take up a part-time role of Rector of Dubbo to reduce the burden on diocesan finances.

However, Bishop Ian said the pilgrimage from Bathurst out into the parishes of the diocese also symbolised the function of the diocese as being to serve and support the parishes, as parishes serve the communities around them.

The week included many highlights here are a few:



**WELCOME** to Orange East!



**ADVICE:** Helpful advice from a road sign along the way.

**SETTING OUT:** Departing the Cathedral, Sunday afternoon.

**SUPPORT:** Many joined in for parts of the pilgrimage, including a few at March on Tuesday afternoon.



**PATIENT:** A patient group waited to say Evening Prayer with the pilgrims at Stuart Town, Wednesday afternoon.



# Parkes celebrates 140 years

A dinner at the Parkes Services Club on Friday evening, February 20, was a highlight of a weekend of celebrations marking the 140th anniversary of the parish of Parkes.

The dinner attracted a sell-out attendance of 120 current and former parishioners, with some travelling considerable distances to join in the anniversary events.

Parkes Mayor, Cr Ken Keith, spoke of the significance of the Anglican Church and other churches in the town, saying that the strong Christian influence over many years had helped mould the character of the Parkes the local community.

Bishop Ian Palmer had been invited to address the dinner, but was forced to cancel a few days before the event as he was recuperating from the heart attack he suffered a week earlier. However, he wrote a speech for the occasion, having asked Diocesan Archdeacon (and former rector of Parkes) Frank Hetherington to present it on his behalf.

His address referred to the assets of the church that have been given over the years, and are now held in trust to ensure they are used for the purpose for which they were intended.

Bishop Ian explained that “the defence of the Diocese of Bathurst against the Commonwealth Bank of Australia was, in essence that the bank was “asking us to repay a loan with money that is not ours to give to you”.

“They are not ours to surrender. They are for the purpose for which the donors gave them; we do not process them. We have a responsibility to discharge the trust and we must see that a trust is used for



**SPEECH:** Archdeacon Frank Hetherington and current parish priest Brett Watterson. The Archdeacon delivered an address on behalf of Bishop Ian Palmer, who was unable to attend.

the purpose for which it was given and therefore it is to be used for the benefit of others and so for the glory of God.”

He pointed out that St George’s Church in Parkes “was built as a war memorial church and is dedicated to the memory of those who have served our country in the defence forces”.

“Because we are a church, built for the glory of God, our mission will be to use all that we have been entrusted with for God’s glory and that will include: proclaiming and living the very strong Christian values and message that our country has stood for in times of war.”

He listed these values as:

- ♦ **Liberty:** for those who are oppressed and enslaved;
- ♦ **Freedom:** to believe and practice our faith in Christ (and allowing others to practise their faith and worship);
- ♦ **Truth:** to set free those who live under a philosophy that is deceitful and wrong; including the deceitfulness of acquisitiveness and consumerism;
- ♦ **Compassion and working for the common good:** which is the antithesis of secularism that extols the rights of individuals rather than our duties towards others;
- ♦ **Integrity** (that is personal openness and transparency): in a culture where protecting our own interests and ourselves appears to be paramount.

“I think that our diocese is in such a

difficult place because it has lost this vision of the kingdom of God: that is, the rule of God as a loving, life-giving father in people and communities,” Bishop Ian said.

“We have become insular and inward looking. In effect we have said, ‘Look at me; look at what we have achieved,’ rather than looking for the loving purposes of God.

“In our church services we have asked, ‘What do I like in worship?’ ‘What suits me?’ Rather than, ‘What brings praise and honour to God?’ or ‘How can our worship help others to come to worship God?’

“We constantly ask, ‘What can the church do for me?’ rather than ‘What can I do through the church to serve others better?’

He said that in the Gospel of God’s love the church has a message of hope for a lost and hurting world.

The anniversary activities continued through the weekend, with a barbecue lunch in the church grounds on Saturday followed by organ recitals in the church. Historic displays in the crypt traced the life of the parish since its establishment in 1875, and a 20-minute video slide show ran on a continuous loop on the TV monitors inside the church.

Members of the parish had invested considerable time and effort into their preparations for the weekend, to make it a successful and memorable occasion.



**CELEBRATION:** Cliff Cowell and Viv Cunningham cut the anniversary cake.

# Warren priest names as local Citizen of Year

Linda Boss, Anglican priest in Warren, has been named as the community's 2015 Citizen of the Year.

Reporting the award, the Warren Weekly said that Linda had "built effective relationships with parishioners and always works enthusiastically with various groups".

Describing her ministry, the report said that she worked collaboratively with others in the community, visiting the local school classrooms weekly and spending time with the children - always giving them words of encouragement..

"She visits the bereaved, the sick, and aged in hospital and at home," the report continued. "(She) projects a warm and cheerful attitude to all. She always goes out of her way to help people in need and always shows passion, care and a gentle guidance.'

In addition to her parish ministry, Linda Boss serves as a spiritual Director of the Cursillo Movement and as a member of the Company of Good Shepherd (CGS) she is always ready to give support in other CGS parishes if needed.

She is also a long-time member of the local CWA Branch where she is the International Branch Officer and the Branch Cooking Officer, as well as the Far Western Group Vice President.

Linda is also a volunteer at the local Visitors Information Centre.

**RECOGNITION:** Linda Boss CGS, Anglican Priest in Warren, shows the certificate naming her as Warren's Citizen of the Year for 2015. Photo courtesy Warren Weekly.



# Kelso hosts Shrove Tuesday dinner

Bathurst's three Anglican parishes - Cathedral, South Bathurst and Kelso - combined for a pancake dinner in Kelso's parish hall on Shrove Tuesday, February 17.

The evening brought about 60 people together, with a good representation from all three parishes.

While many brought toppings - both savoury and sweet - to go with the pancakes, Kelso parishioners staffed the kitchen and handled the serving and washing up.

**GRACIOUS HOSTS:** Margaret Trevor-Jones, from the host parish, adds some savoury topping to Cathedral parishioner Stephen Howes' pancakes.

