

# Synod reflects on year of change

**Bishop Ian Palmer's Presidential Address to the annual Synod of Bathurst Diocese recalled a year of significant changes in many areas of diocesan life.**

The first session of the 48th Synod of the Diocese met in Bathurst on the weekend of September 18-20.

The Synod opening service in All Saints Cathedral was an inspiring gathering featuring hymns by that great contemporary English hymnist, Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith, to the organ accompaniment of the Rev'd Michael Deasey, who will retire towards the end of this year.

During the service, Canowindra priest Jono Williams was admitted by the Bishop to the role of Cabonne Regional Ministry Coordinator, and made a Canon of the Cathedral.

Bishop Ian's Presidential Address, delivered in the Cathedral after the service, has since been distributed to synod members.

After paying respect to traditional Wiradjuri custodians, he spoke of the transformational work done by the Registrar, Mrs Karen Trafford, since coming to the Diocese in October 2014.

The Bishop also paid tribute to the work of Dr Peter Miller, Head of All Saints College, now moving to Geelong College, and to Rev'd Michael Deasey as Precentor and member of the Company of the Good Shepherd. He made special mention of the invaluable support of Archdeacon Frank Hetherington, who has just celebrated 40 years of ministry since his ordination, all in Bathurst Diocese.

In the context of the recent Bicentenary of Bathurst, Bishop Ian noted that Anglican ministry began in Bathurst with the founding of Kelso church in 1825 as an offshoot of the Parish of Windsor!

## Social change

The then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Michael Ramsay, laid the foundation stone of the present cathedral in March 1965, an occasion at which Bishop Kenneth Leslie spoke of the need for "family unity" in the Diocese.

But social changes brought many new challenges and, some 20 years ago, the Diocese was experiencing considerable financial difficulties arising from what Bishop Bruce Wilson described (1993) as



**CONGRATULATIONS:** Bishop Ian congratulates Canowindra priest Jono Williams after licencing him as RMC for the Cabonne Region and also as a Canon in All Saints' Cathedral, during the Synod Eucharist.

"very poor financial management".

"There seems to be something about our Diocese and money; perhaps a spiritual issue that I will address later," he said, indicating a need for change in the management culture.

The Bathurst Goldfields on Mount Panorama was sold in April. The property had been acquired in 1958 and been the site for a variety of valuable ministries but, after insufficient attention to maintenance (with income having been used to fund other ministries) the Diocese does no longer has the resources to finance the repairs and investment required to conduct the business in a manner expected by visitors in 2014.

Bishop Ian acknowledged the sadness in this decision.

The 2014 meeting of Synod had been unable to pass the draft budget brought to it. Instead, the 2015 Diocesan budget was approved by Bishop-in-Council on December 17, 2014. To avoid requiring an impossible increase in parish contributions to the Synod Management Fund (SMF) major restructuring of the Registry was required, with all staff to

be retrenched leaving just the Registrar (Karen Trafford), a contract accounts person (Mary Fletcher) and the Bishop himself.

In all of this, Bishop Ian and Liz had to struggle with their own future until it was decided that the Diocesan Bishop would also take on the role of Rector of Dubbo, a situation unique in the Australian church. Following the restructure we are now well served by a much more efficient and accountable administration.

The matters in the Supreme Court of NSW remain outstanding. There has been a confidential settlement of the Third Case made against former Members of the Anglican Development Fund Board. His Honour called a meeting of the remaining three counsels for early October and other meetings later in the year. The need to defend the summonses was clearly demonstrated. The cost of that defence was estimated at \$1.5million but now is closer to \$2.5 million. It is not possible to state clearly how these costs will affect each parish.

In concluding his address, Bishop Ian  
*(continued on page 3)*

# Synod reflects on year of change *(from page 1)*

focussed on the New Testament reading from the Synod service (2 Corinthians 4:4-12): *God made his light to shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*

He drew our attention to the Eucharist invitation that "These are holy things for holy people, broken things for broken people!" We are a broken people with many cracks – but, picking up the experience of St Paul and the song "Anthem" by Leonard Cohen, Bishop Ian said that it is through these cracks that the light of the grace of God shines in, so that through us, cracked and imperfect "clay pots", the light of Christ shines out, albeit imperfectly, to a desperately needy world. That is our calling. And he drew our attention to our need to answer the question, "What will we / can we do for the refugees now in such desperate need?"

The Synod sessions on Saturday and Sunday were conducted in very good spirit at the Kelso church hall. Some had argued that Synod should have been delayed until after the court judgement but there was plenty of important business that needed to be dealt with now. These matters included the following:

- ♦ This was an Election Synod to choose office holders for the three-year term.
- ♦ Financial reports were received and it was indicated that work was being done to ensure that these accounts would now proceed to audit at the end of 2015.
- ♦ A Synod Management Fund (SMF) budget for 2016, with clear supporting information, was discussed and passed with no dissenting votes. Synod agreed to the Bishop-in-Council proposal for a 1.5% CPI increase in SMF contributions from parishes. This budget provides for an increased operating surplus in 2016, compared to the surplus forecast for 2015.
- ♦ Important procedural motions were passed in relation to the General Synod of the Australian Church, and the Rev'd Daryl McCullough introduced a motion of support for the work of NATSIAC (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council).

The National Director of Bush Church Aid Society, Rev'd Dr Mark Short, made a challenging presentation on the work of BCA across Australia and particularly in the more remote parts of the country.

The Rector of Holy Trinity Orange, Rev'd Mal Dunnett, presented an excellent visual report on mission work in the Diocese of Ysabel in the Solomon Islands. (He led a team from Orange to Ysabel the day after Synod.) Synod then passed two motions which will formalise a ministry partnership between the Diocese of Bathurst and the Diocese of Ysabel in the Church of Melanesia.

## Constructive discussion

The most extensive debates at Synod arose from two motions proposed by Dubbo representatives, and although both were lost, both led to very constructive discussions conducted in good spirit.

Ken Phillis moved to have a short-term group of lay people conduct a consultancy to advise Bishop-in-Council on issues relating to the structural challenges facing the Diocese. Although this motion was lost, one that preceded it, proposed by the Archdeacon, was passed requiring BIC to continue to report to the Synod on the viability indicators of the parishes and the Registry in the light of current and unfolding challenges.

Rev'd Daryl, with the support of Rev'd Phil Howes from Narromine, raised the issue of fellowship with the Anglican Church



**YOUTH PERSPECTIVE:** *Tegan Berger, Youth Representative from the Slopes region, challenged Synod with the question, 'What is church?'*

of North America (ACNA), now operating in parallel with the Episcopal Church of USA (ECUSA or TEC) and the Anglican Church of Canada. Synod considered what it means to be Anglican and what it means to be in fellowship in a global "Anglican Communion".

Ultimately a motion was passed supporting the Archbishop of Canterbury in his attempts to pursue issues of fellowship at a meeting of Primates of the Anglican Church in January.

A new draft Safe Ministries Policy was tabled, briefly considered and then referred to Bishop-in-Council for prompt action.

Towards the end of proceedings a motion of gratitude was passed for the many years of deeply spiritual ministry of Canon Margaret Finlay, now retired as the Regional Ministry Coordinator for Cabonne. Bishop Ian presented her with a continuing license to officiate in the Diocese.

Finally, Synod was treated to an inspiring address of encouragement by Youth Representative, Tegan Berger, from Forbes Parish. Tegan, who attended Synod for the first time in 2014, spoke of the more positive atmosphere this year, despite uncertainties about the court proceedings. She also challenged Synod to consider the question, "What is church?"

"Church is not a sandstone building with stained glass windows and many years of history. Church is not a building at all. It is not an organisation, nor traditions," she said. "Church instead is people together in the name of God almighty."

She acknowledged that the future of our diocese remains uncertain for now, but added: "The future of our God does not: our God does not change. He remains faithful. He remains sovereign. He remains in control."

"If we put our hope in things uncertain, in things that change, we set ourselves up to fall - to crumble, to come crashing down. But when we put our hope in the everlasting unchanging God, our foundation is firm, and though things around us may crumble, we remain safe in the father's arms."

# St Luke's Winter Concert Series

## From Gulgong Parish

St Luke's was determined to beat the winter blues this year with a series of monthly concerts by their parishioners.

We are lucky to have an excellent organist who has co-ordinated and trained a singing group, as well as solo instrumentalists and singers who were willing to contribute to the events. For a small donation audiences enjoyed vocal solos from Bizet's *Carmen* and celtic ballads to jazz and Blue Moon.

There was high classical from our instrumentalists including a clarinet and strings quartet playing *Cantabile* from Tartini, *Cello Prelude no 1* from Bach by Iain Sutherland (pictured) and *La Cathedrale* from Barrios by Rochelle Sutherland on classical guitar.

It was not all serious though as Gulgong Orchestra delighted the crowd with favourites like *Memory* and Lachlan Sutherland sawed away on his violin with some Scottish fiddle tunes. In addition to our experienced performers, it gave

others with less experience an opportunity to play in front of a very positive audience.

St Luke's singers performed several pieces including *Deep River* which was voted an audience favourite, as was the theme from *Midsomer Murders* played on the church organ by Neil Slarke. Poetry and prose readings were added to the program to give some variety. For our finale concert on September 6 we encored all the audience favourites (as voted on the day), as well as a few people who were away who want to join the fun.

None of this could have happened without considerable effort on the part of performers and organisers. There were a number of practises with accompanists, including Neil Slarke, Rochelle, Lachlan and Iain Sutherland and we were very happy to have the Gulgong Orchestra give up their time to join us. The work behind the scenes and the commitment from all the performers was inspiring and we will do it all again next year.



**CELLIST:** Iain Sutherland played Bach's *Cello Prelude no. 1*, one of several classical pieces in the program.

## ABC garden show presenter offers a few hints for Molong's community garden

### From the parish

Friday 25 September, St John's Molong welcomed ABC's 'Gardening Australia' TV presenter Costa Georgiadis to a special afternoon tea.

Costa was visiting to offer encouragement and some inspiration to parishioners and others who have been involved in establishing a community garden at St John's.

The garden has been set up around one side of the church that was a real 'no man's land' previously. It is now taking shape as a productive area, with vegetables, fruit and herbs growing. Raised garden beds allow disabled access for planting and pottering in the garden.

Costa provided lots of advice and answered many gardening questions from parishioners.

His larger-than-life personality and enthusiasm certainly made an impression, especially with the children who helped him plant a nectarine tree in the church grounds.

The community garden was established in March 2015 as a way of engaging with the broader Molong community and to offer something back to the village.



**PRODUCTIVE:** Costa Georgiadis helps Leon Paix plant a nectarine tree in the grounds of St John's Church, Molong, near the Community Garden, while parish priest Ben Edwards and family supervise. The garden has turned a 'no man's land' into an attractive and productive space, with herbs, vegetables and fruit trees all under way.

# Support services for children and families

## ❑ Anglicare Western NSW opens a new community-based facility in Orange

Families in Orange now have access to a new community-based child and family support service.

The Survive and Thrive program is a five year initiative and will provide a range of services including supported playgroups, therapeutic parenting programs, family counselling as well as services to assist families in crisis including advocacy, financial literacy and emergency relief.

A special baby and infant resource room has been established thanks to the generosity of donors and will need to be continually stocked with items such as nappies, wipes and formula.

Anglicare Western Community Services Business Manager, Danielle Davis said the program would be life changing for many participants.

“We are committed to strengthening individuals and families in our community in ways that respect their dignity and promote inclusiveness.”

“A lot of families in the community are already linked with Anglicare so it’s great that we can now offer a



**SAFETY NET:** Anglicare’s General Manager, Mission and Community Development Team, Ian Coutts (second from left) with the team at the Orange family support service. The service is aimed at putting ‘a safety net between families and state intervention’.

new program in a place they can feel comfortable visiting to access support.

The program is funded by the Australian Government to assist families with children aged 12 years and under with a key focus on early intervention for children aged 0-5.

“We want to put a safety net between

families and state intervention to prevent children being separated from parents and siblings,” Mrs Davis said.

Families can approach Anglicare to take part in the program or they can be referred via other organisations such as NSW Police, NSW Health and community agencies.

## CLERGY MOVES & APPOINTMENTS

♦ **The Reverends Leigh and Graeme Gardiner** will be leaving their current ministry positions in our Diocese and the Uniting Church Presbytery in February next year to relocate to Springwood in the Blue Mountains and commence a joint placement with Springwood Uniting Church. We will miss Leigh and Graeme very much. Both have been and are dedicated to ministry and serving our Lord Jesus Christ among the people God loves.

♦ **The Reverend Daryl McCullough** will be leaving Dubbo in December and will be commissioned as the Priest in Charge of West Wyalong. He will be commissioned on Saturday 19th December at 11am in St Barnabas West Wyalong. Please pray for Daryl, Dianne and their children in this time of transition. Congratulates to Daryl also, on being appointed a member of the Anglican

Indigenous Network (AIN) Steering Committee for the Anglican Communion.

♦ **The Reverend Michael Deasey** is retiring from All Saints’ Cathedral and moving to the Blue Mountains, but he will be doing part-time ministry in Burwood. His last service in our Cathedral will be the Advent Carol Service on Sunday 29th November at 4.30pm. We thank Michael for his pastoral care and the gift of music he has shared with us.

♦ **Dr Peter Miller** the Head of All Saints’ College has accepted an invitation to be the Principal of Geelong College (a Uniting Church School in Victoria), a position he will take up early next year. Peter has given clear leadership at All Saints’ for nearly eight years, and we are very grateful to him and wish him well in his new appointment.

# Wardrobes, witches, hobbits - and worship

❑ **Michael Deasey, who has served as Precentor (or director of music) at All Saints' Cathedral for the past 11 years, will retire early next year after taking long service leave from mid-November. He has written the following account of a recent trip to the United States:**

In June of this year I took study leave in the US state of Illinois, combining it with some annual leave, taking advantage of family living in the city of Chicago.

A lifelong ambition to hear the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in real life was realised but I wish to share with you two experiences: my visits to Wheaton College and St James Episcopal Cathedral Chicago.

Wheaton College is a 50 minute train ride from Chicago. This was not only the college of Billy Graham and where his museum is situated, but also where the organ teacher of my youth, Michael Hemans was a graduate.

But the main purpose of my day at Wheaton College was to visit the Marion E Wade Centre which houses a small museum of several famous authors, C S Lewis, J R R Tolkien, Owen Barfield, George MacDonald, Dorothy L Sayers and Charles Williams.

There in the corner of the room was



**OBSERVER:** Michael Deasey at St James' Cathedral, Chicago.

the famous wardrobe from the Lewis childhood home which I could open and shut, with the fur coats still hanging in it. I resisted the temptation to climb in, preferring to stay in an Illinois summer rather than risk a Narnia winter.

Also in the room were the writing desks of Lewis and Tolkien and other memorabilia. I spent a couple of hours in the library which contained the original

editions of works by all the authors mentioned above and other historical documents.

I had made email contact with St James Cathedral several months before I travelled and was assured of a very warm welcome. I simply wanted to observe how they operate as I have an insatiable appetite for new ideas, and to attend the Sunday worship.

Worship at St James Cathedral was a combination of the familiar and the innovative. There was much congregational participation with the music all clearly printed in the service booklet.

What worked particularly well was the Invocation (in this case 'Blessed be the one, holy and living God' with the thunderous response 'Glory to God for ever and ever') proclaimed dynamically at the West Door before the entrance hymn, which was followed immediately by the greeting, the collect and the readings.

A lovely touch was the way the children all gathered around the gospel reader in the central transept before being led in procession to 'Children's Chapel'. The crèche was up front and on the side, not tucked away out of sight and earshot. The Intercessions were not a monologue but shared by two intercessors alternately.

Finally I share with you the prayer before the sermon on one of my Sundays there.

*'Lord, speak to us through my words if they are worthy.*

*And if they are unworthy, speak to us in spite of them. Amen.'*



## Chicks Cackle Fest

November 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Claiming the Date** – The Diocese of Bathurst's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual "Chicks Cackle Fest" will be held at Ridgecrest on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

This is a craft camp for women, all women, not just Anglican Women.

**Our Mission Statement** is: *The Chicks Cackle Fest is the celebration of being women that nurtures, supports, and refreshes through the example of Christian living by the sharing of gifts, talents, and skills.*

More information will be available shortly.

# Signs of an *unhealthy* church

❑ The following list is not presented with any particular agenda in mind; nor is it presented with any particular church in mind, but rather as a checklist to remind us all of our calling, even in difficult times.

## A church is in trouble:

1. When excuses are made about the way things are instead of embracing a willingness to roll up the sleeves and fix the problem.
2. When the church becomes content with merely receiving people who come rather than actually going out and finding them ... in other words, they lose their passion for evangelism!
3. When the focus of the church is to build a great church and not the Kingdom of God.
4. When the leadership begins to settle for the natural rather than rely on the supernatural.
5. When the church begins to view success/ failure in regards to how they are viewed in the church world rather than whether or not they are actually fulfilling the Great Commission!
6. When the leaders within the church cease to be coachable.
7. When there is a loss of a sense of urgency.
8. When Scripture isn't central in every decision that is made.
9. When the church is reactive rather than proactive.
10. When the people in the church lose sight of the next generation and refuse to fund ministry simply because they don't understand "those young people."
11. When the goal of the church is to simply maintain the way things are ... to not rock the boat and / or upset anyone ... especially the big givers!
12. When the church is no longer willing to take steps of faith because "there is just too much to lose."
13. When the church simply does not care about the obvious and immediate needs that exist in the community.
14. When the people learn how to depend on one person to minister to everyone rather than everyone embracing their role in the body, thus allowing the body to care for itself.
15. When the leaders/ staff refuse to go the extra mile in leading and serving because of how "inconvenient" doing so would be.

Rainer, Thom; Driscoll, Mark; Chan, Francis; Church Leaders; Furtick, Steven (2013-04-22). *ChurchLeaders Top 100*: 2013 Edition (Kindle Locations 397-430). *ChurchLeaders*. Kindle Edition.

## Synod Photo Caption Competition



**LIGHT RELIEF:** As well as concentrating on the serious business of finances, reports and legislation, Synod delegates were invited to take part in a couple of more light-hearted challenges. One was a Caption Competition: prizes were given out to those who offered the most amusing suggestions as to what was being said in this photo. One of the winners was: "Ian, I think I left the oven on."

Contributions to Anglican e-News from parishes, ministry units or individuals are welcome. The deadline for the November issue will be Monday November 2.

Anglican

## e-News

A newsletter for the western NSW Anglican Diocese of Bathurst

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**Disclaimer:**

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# Six Months on: Recovery in Vanuatu

## From ABM:

It is six months since Cyclone Pam wreaked havoc on the island nation of Vanuatu and the church is helping to rebuild communities with the assistance of ABM.

With funds raised by ABM and the ACT Alliance, the Anglican Church of Melanesia, Vanuatu (ACOMV) has worked hard to provide relief assistance to around 13,000 people who were in need of food and clean water.

ABM raised over \$300,000 through its Vanuatu Emergency Appeal, with the majority of this funding going towards the current reconstruction phase.

Jessica Sexton, ABM Programs Officer for Vanuatu said, "It is due to the generosity and compassion of ABM supporters that both the relief and the longer term reconstruction responses were possible. We would like to sincerely thank all who contributed, and prayed for the welfare of those affected by this terrible disaster. Your practical actions have enabled short and long-term food security needs to be met, and will help equip communities to better prepare for disaster in the future."

A report on the recovery work in Vanuatu is below:

Focusing on the provinces of Penema and Torba to the north, ACOMV delivered food aid, seeds and gardening tools to 25 districts and three institutions, using the church flagship to ferry the supplies to remote communities throughout the area. This was vital to both short and long-term food security, as household food gardens provide the bulk of the nutritional needs to families, but were largely decimated by the high winds and heavy rain in March.

The impact of Cyclone Pam also left natural water sources such as rivers and streams contaminated with leaves and



**DESTRUCTION:** Damage from Cyclone Pam in Port Vila in March 2015. Copyright International SOS, 2015.

mud, prompting the need for additional water purification kits (including containers and tablets) in order to protect communities from water-borne diseases. These were also delivered in the initial relief response of ACOMV, to the affected districts.

The ACOMV Disaster Committee is currently concentrating on rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, now that immediate relief needs have been met. The assessment reports carried out in each affected community revealed several schools were in need of repairs to damaged buildings, with students being prevented from using classrooms with leaking roofs. The repair or rebuilding of some dormitories was also prioritised, as students are currently using alternative community houses and temporary shelters for accommodation.

The overwhelming need that was identified during the assessments were for Disaster Risk Reduction training, the building of Cyclone-proof evacuation centres, water and sanitation facilities, and the stockpiling of Emergency supplies.

Many communities lacked adequate evacuation shelters to protect them from the cyclonic winds and rain, and following there was a great need for water and sanitation infrastructure as waterways became muddied by debris. Due to the long disruption to supply ships, many essential items (such as soap and matches) disappeared, and the islands were unable to communicate due to disruptions to the mobile phone services.

Providing these essential buildings and supplies is therefore seen as a priority for ACOMV, in preparation for any future emergencies. This is to be complemented with community training in risk management and evacuation plans, in order to prepare people both physically and psychologically.

To assist ACOMV in the coordination of this response, ABM will be contributing toward the employment of an Emergency Response Coordinator, and a Disaster Risk Reduction mentor, in order to support the vast amount of work involved. It is expected that this response and the work to ensure communities are better prepared for any future cyclone will continue until March 2017.

## **POSITION VACANT**

### **Diocese of Bathurst**

#### **Parish of St John the Baptist Mudgee, NSW**

Our parish is looking for a priest to join us. Our parish has a strong tradition of liturgy and music. Mudgee is set in the midst of the wine producing area of the Cudgegong Valley in Central West NSW about 200 kms west of Sydney.

Further information about our parish and the region can be obtained from Marilyn Baker, Rector's Warden (marilyn baker5@bigpond.com)

# Training evangelists in Tanzania

## ❑ Funds given for mission in Africa finally put to work

By Ken Phillis

Some funds given for ministry support in East Africa have lain dormant in Diocesan accounts for a time, so Bishop-In-Council asked Dianne and Ken Phillis to look to their Tanzanian contacts to find a useful project to put \$685 to good use.

They wrote to their friends, CMS Missionaries John and Jill Morshead, in Tanzania to get their suggestion; here is the amazing result of that exchange and the project now to be funded. John Morshead writes:

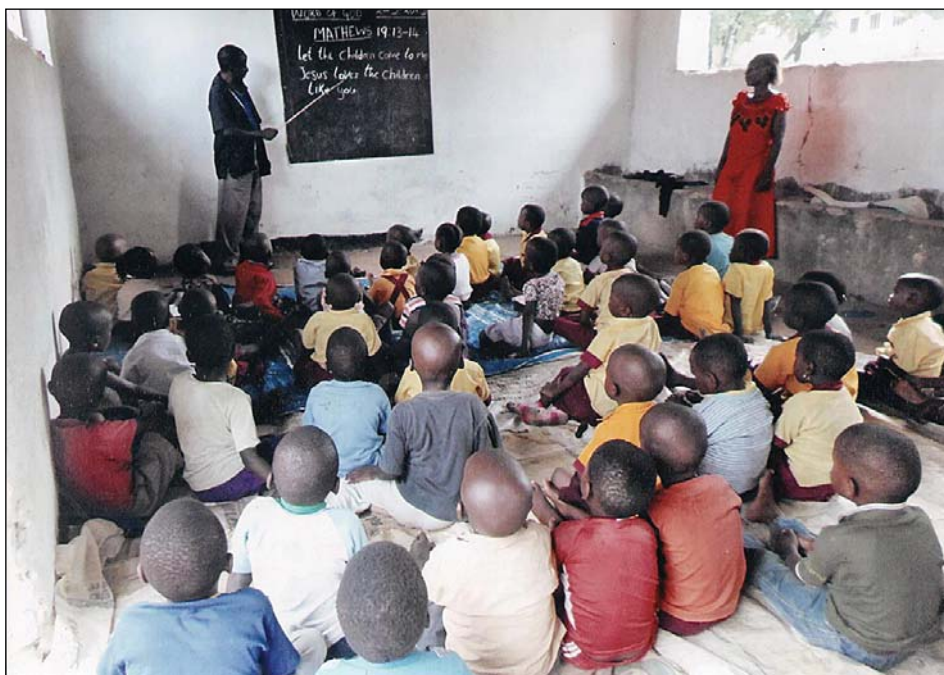
*“When Jill and I first settled in Dar, John Kayange (kai-yahn-geh) was the night guard on our compound. One day, as Jill passed him, she noticed him reading a Bible and she asked him what he was reading about. He said he was preparing a sermon to preach the next Sunday, on the topic of salvation. He said he did not really know what to say, so Jill called me to sit with him and give him some guidance.*

*He was really excited to learn what I taught him, and said it had always been his dream to go to Bible College. It just so happened that Jill’s sister Lesley was staying with us at the time and when she heard about John’s wish, she decided that the ladies in her sewing group at church would sponsor him to study theology at St Marks Theological College in Dar-es-Salaam.*

*John thrived at college and showed great spiritual maturity and a deep commitment to serving the Lord and the Gospel. On his graduation, we equipped him with some books and a bicycle, and he set off to start his own Bible school in his home at the remote village of Mlimba (near Ifakara). He said there were scores of pastors and evangelists in that region with no theological training and no Bible School.*

*He has been there three years now and is doing a fantastic job. From his own written report given to me he explains the following:*

- ♦ *He takes students from any denominational background for short 3 month courses. This enables them to still work their farms.*
- ♦ *He teaches them English, New Testament, Old Testament, Church History,*



**TEACHER:** *As well as teaching pastors and evangelists at his own Bible school in his home village of Mlimba, John Kayange teaches Religious Education in the local schools. His work will benefit from the funds raised in Bathurst Diocese to support missionary work in East Africa.*

*psychology and evangelism. His average intake is about 12 students, men and women. (He is assisted in the teaching by Bernard Haule, an Anglican priest from a nearby parish. Bernard was also one of our students and studied with John.)*

- ♦ *John also teaches Religious Education in local schools.*
- ♦ *He also runs a nursery school for local kids, many of whom are orphans. He now has 100 kids enrolled, and employs a Tanzanian girl to help run that side of things.*

*John is bringing so much blessing to the people of his district, he works hard, and does it a bit tough. The income from fees (they can’t afford to pay much!) is only about TSh 20,000 (AU\$20), so he grows his own food to get by. He recently married a local girl called Sarah. Jill and I do what we can to help him from time to time. I gave him my old laptop this year, but otherwise we haven’t done much to help him for a long time.*

*But he wrote recently and mentioned his need for Swahili Bibles, since his students don’t own Bibles!! So he needs a class set of about 12 copies. He also mentioned his need for a photocopier to produce test papers etc. and, although*

*he claims that I “promised” to help him, it wasn’t quite like that. I think I actually said I would “see what I could do”.*

*We all have great affection for John and he is a person that we could confidently commend in terms of his faith and character. It would be great if you would prayerfully consider this proposition.”*

*So that is where the Diocesan gift will go. It should realise about TSh one million (Tanzania Shillings). The twelve Swahili Bibles and a Children’s Bible have already been bought for about TSh 200,000.*

*The photocopier has been priced at around TSh 350,000. The Morsheads will negotiate with John Kayange about how best to apply the balance. Give thanks to God for this great servant of his and for his efforts to train lay evangelists to spread the good news of Jesus in a very remote and rarely visited part of Tanzania in the Kilombero Valley.*

*And remember in the midst of our financial troubles in this Diocese how much can be done in Tanzania with just a little of the great wealth that we all share in this part of God’s world.*