

Gilgandra Ordination

Two local women ordained for ministry

Brenda Yager was ordained as a Priest and Annie Younghusband was made Deacon in a joyous celebration in St Ambrose' Anglican Church in Gilgandra on Saturday June 2.

Brenda has served as a Deacon in Gilgandra parish, as well as other parishes in the North-Western region of the Anglican Church where ministry is provided through the Company of the Good Shepherd (CGS), for the last five years, since her husband Grahame was commissioned as Rector of Gilgandra in 2013.

The ordination took place within the context of a service that parish priest Grahame Yager described as having a 'Gilgandra flavour', beginning with a brief children's talk for the 'littlies' (which also contained a strong message for the adults).

The singing was led by St Ambrose' regular music group, with the exception that retired priest (and former Cathedral Precentor) Michael Deasey filled in for



GOOD SHEPHERD: As Annie Younghusband looks on, Bishop Ian hands Brenda Yager her licence to serve in the parishes under the ministry of the Company of the Good Shepherd.

Annie Younghusband, who normally plays the piano.

Linda Boss, who recently retired after 13 years of service as the CGS Companion in Residence in Warren, led the pre-ordination retreat and preached at the ordination service.

She pointed out that the Gospel reading from John 10:11-18 (read by Brenda and Grahame Yager's son Grahame), in which Jesus describes himself as "the Good Shepherd", happened to be the Lectionary reading for the day – but was particularly appropriate for the occasion.

She said Jesus' description of the Good Shepherd "mirrors the relationship God offers all God's people".

"It's also the relationship that has brought Annie and Brenda to ordination," she added. "The test of any relationship is, how much are you prepared to give up for it?"

"Our relationship with God calls us to be present and active ... we are all called to be the

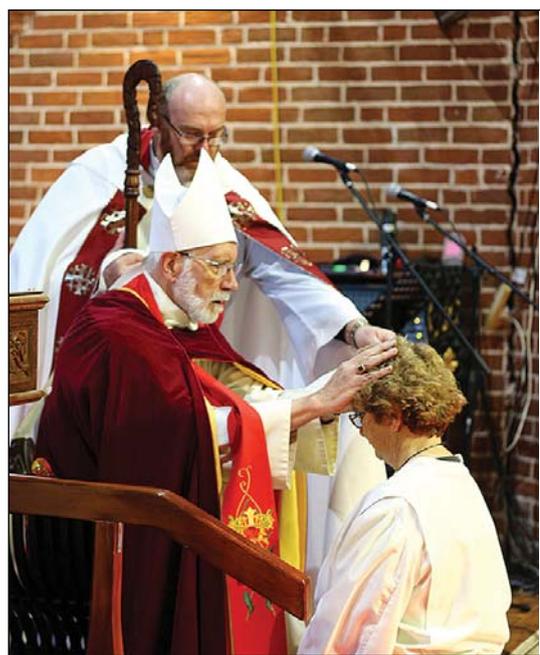
Good Shepherd, attentive to those around us."

The service drew on the creativity of both ordinands: the service booklet featured artwork drawn by Brenda Yager during the time she and Grahame were living in and ministering to the Bourke-Brewarinna district, and a hymn entitled 'But God' was written by Annie Younghusband.

Even with quite a bit of additional seating for the occasion, St Ambrose' Church was full as friends and relatives had come from across central and western NSW, as well as a few from interstate, to take part in the celebration.

At the conclusion of the service Bishop Ian handed Annie Younghusband her licence to serve as a Deacon in the parish of Gilgandra, while Brenda Yager was licenced as a priest in the parishes of the Company of the Good Shepherd.

Following the service, the congregation enjoyed a generous light lunch served in the parish centre, Feetham House, with many overflowing onto the verandahs or enjoying the warm sunshine on the surrounding lawns.



HANDS ON: Tim Fogo holds the Bishop's pastoral staff as Bishop Ian lays hands on Annie Younghusband, making her a deacon in the Church of God.

24 hours of Regeneration

❑ Regener8 brings encouragement to Cursillo community

The first Cursillo 'Regener8' short weekend attracted 42 participants, stretching the available accommodation at The Lodge and nearby cabins at the Ridgecrest Conference Centre near Burrendong Dam.

The gathering, held from Sunday afternoon June 11 through to the following afternoon, was aimed at encouraging people who had enjoyed the experience of a Cursillo weekend in the past and wanted a 'refresher' without the time and cost commitment of a three-day Cursillo.

While the Cursillo Movement in this Diocese has held 'renewal' weekends in the past which have met with a ready response, this was the first time such an event had been offered in more than 20 years.

The program was developed by the Cursillo Secretariat to coincide with Men's 45 Cursillo which was held at the Ridgecrest Conference Centre's main site from Friday June 8 through to Monday evening, June 12.

The theme of Regener8 was 'Identity', and the program began on Sunday afternoon with some group activities that invited people to think about the way they saw themselves or understood their own identity.

After dinner Amy and Lizzie Watterson ran a very entertaining evening program that brought young and old together for some team competitions, before Natalie Quince wrapped up the day with a brief evening prayer service and a meditation on Identity.

Lew Hitchick presented the opening talk next morning, on the topic: *Who am I?* He spoke about various false understandings of his own identity that he had worked through, as he gradually learned what it meant to trust in his true identity as a child of God.

Michelle Watterson then gave a challenging talk entitled *Who is God?*, and described something of her personal journey of faith as she deepened her own understanding of God while following God's call on her life – a call that has led her to ordination as a priest.

Brett Watterson presented the final talk of the program, on the topic of *Who is the Church?* He drew on the Five Marks of Mission (formulated over 20 years ago by the Anglican Communion) and showed how these can be aligned with the talks presented on a Cursillo weekend.

The Marks of Mission are:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers;
3. To respond to human need by loving service;
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation;
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The marks present a picture of a church that is active in mission and outreach, care for others and care for creation.

Brett then further developed the responsibility of the church in mission, showing that each of God's people has been called to discipleship – a calling that includes discipling other people and bringing them into relationship with Jesus.

Thanks to the team for their dedicated service in bringing this renewal weekend to reality, and a special thanks to Bruce and Gail Lindbeck for their role in running the kitchen.

Thanks too, to Jacinda Jackson and Amy and Lizzie Watterson for running the children's program, enabling parents to join in the weekend knowing that their children were also enjoying learning about their identity in God.



LONG-SERVING: Gail Lindbeck, who attended Women's 2 Cursillo in 1985, cuts the cake she and Bruce Lindbeck (watching on) provided for the inaugural Regener8 'Cursillo Short Weekend'.

Men's 45 Cursillo

On the same weekend as Regener8, the Cursillo Movement also held Men's 45 Cursillo at Ridgecrest Conference Centre.

The weekend attracted ten candidates, and feedback from those who took part has been outstandingly positive.

Please give thanks to God for the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those who took part, and pray the God continues to guide and encourage them in their everyday service to God's church.

Anglican

e-News

A newsletter for the Anglican Church in
Central & Western NSW

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Handling conflict in the church

□ Peacewise training helps turn disagreements into opportunities to glorify God.

A two-day training session held in Kelso's Holy Trinity Parish Hall in March presented more than 70 people, both clergy and lay leaders, with tools to help understand conflict and handle it more graciously and constructively.

The course was presented by Wendy Koneman from *Peacewise*, a ministry aimed at promoting peace and reconciliation in relationships through Biblical principles and the power of Christ.

During the first day of the course, under the topic of *Everyday Peacemaking*, Wendy showed that conflict presented three opportunities:

- ♦ to glorify God;
- ♦ to serve other people;
- ♦ to grow to be more like Christ.

She pointed out that approaches to conflict can range from extreme 'escape responses (denial, flight and even suicide) through to extreme 'attack' responses (assault, litigation or murder), with several peace-making options in between the extremes.

These options included overlooking the incident; reconciliation; negotiation; mediation; adjudication; and accountability.

Throughout the rest of the day, she developed these ideas to show how a Godly approach to conflict involves careful listening, apology, negotiation, forgiveness and renouncing sinful attitudes.

The second day of the course was entitled *The Heart of Peacemaking*, and explored the subject at a deeper level to look at more entrenched and complex issues.

Wendy showed how our identity is a starting point from which we respond to conflict. She explained that many of us have developed an understanding of who we are, based on our performance, possessions or popularity.

"A desire for a good thing becomes bad when it becomes controlling," she said. "When we are prepared to sacrifice or punish someone to get it, then our good thing is controlling us."

She added that controlling desires were typically:

- ♦ something we crave (must have);
- ♦ something we fear (happening or not);
or
- ♦ something where we trust ourselves rather than God.



APPRECIATION: (above) Bishop Ian presents Wendy Koneman with a token of appreciation following her two-day presentation.

JENGA: (right) Annie Younghusband removes a piece from the Jenga tower, which Wendy used to illustrate the complexity of conflict resolution.



Participants were asked to role-play a challenging conflict situation set in a church context, initially showing how entrenched responses escalate the conflict, but then exploring meaningful resolution by using some of the techniques taught in the course.

While the course helped most participants to see that conflict could be resolved in a constructive and God-honouring way, many felt they had just begun a steep learning curve.

Wendy acknowledged the skills involved took time to learn and use effectively, comparing the process to learning to drive a car with manual transmission: early attempts will be rather bumpy, but it

will improve with practice and eventually become something that does not require much conscious thought.

Bishop Ian had invited the Peacewise presenters to run the course in Kelso after he had undertaken it himself last year. He encouraged all clergy, Church Wardens and parish office holders to take part.

He is hoping to offer a similar opportunity next year.

Cursillo Notes

Diocesan Ultreya

I spoke with some of the Gilgandra Cursillistas recently, and they are well under way with their plans for the first Diocesan Ultreya for 2018 – happening in Gil on Saturday July 28. The day should be a great opportunity for a reunion for those who took part in the very successful Men’s 45 earlier this month, as well as last year’s Women’s 48.

Ultreyas are just one of the tools Cursillo offers to encourage people in their ongoing Christian journey, along with Group Reunions and regular prayer support for one another. I urge all Cursillistas who can comfortably make the trip to Gilgandra on July 28 to endeavour to be there with us for a special time of encouragement, worship and friendship.

Hong Kong

The Anglican Cursillo Movement in Australia has been invited to take Cursillo to the Anglican Diocese of Hong Kong, and a team made up largely of members of the National Secretariat will be presenting the first Cursillo in

China from October 11-14.

Bishop Ian, our National Episcopal Advisor, will be part of the team, with his wife Liz joining in as Team Musician. Sylvia and I will also be taking part.

All told, we will have a team of 13 and I expect we will be in for an interesting experience as we try to bridge the cultural differences. I realise, for instance, that the Australian sense of humour is quite different to that of Asian cultures.

Most members of the team will be attending the National Cursillo Secretariat meeting in Cairns from August 24-26, so this will comprise our first ‘training day’.

The only other opportunity for team training will be in Hong Kong the day before the Cursillo starts – so please pray that we will bond quickly into the strong and caring community that makes Cursillo such an effective experience of God’s love.

Secretariat changes

This year has brought some changes

to our Diocesan Secretariat, with both Linda Boss and Gary Neville standing down as Spiritual Advisors.

Gary was formally decommissioned from his role at the Men’s 45 live-in training weekend at Lake Canobolas Scouts Campsite at the end of April, and Bishop Ian decommissioned Linda Boss and outgoing Treasurer Fiona Nott at the Secretariat meeting in Dubbo on May 12.

At the same meeting, the Bishop also commissioned Ross Craven as replacement for Gary Neville, as well as new Secretariat members Sylvia Hitchick and Graham and Ruth Wilson.

Looking forward to seeing quite a few of you in Gilgandra on July 28!

Ultreya!
Lew Hitchick,
Diocesan Lay Director.



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