



Anglican Diocese of Tasmania *a healthy church... transforming life*

12 May 2008

09/08

From the Bishop's Desk

REVD HELEN PHILLIPS

I am delighted to announce that the Venerable Helen Phillips has accepted appointment as Priest in Charge of the Parish of Howrah. This three-quarter-time appointment will commence near the start of August 2008, and will see Helen continue her roles as Mission Support Officer for the Hartz Mission Network and as Enabler of the Parish of Channel Cygnet.

Helen began her working life as an early childhood teacher. She has made a huge contribution to ministry to families and children in this state, both through Scripture Union and as the Diocesan ChiFam worker. Helen has served on the staff of St Clements Kingston and Clarendon Children's Home. She has a passion for seeing children and families come to know Jesus. The very successful *Bethlehem Street* presentation last year is only one example of the application of her creative gifts to making Jesus known. An equipper and helper, Helen contributes across the diocese in ministry training, enabling and parish consultancies. Please pray for Helen and her husband Ray, who serves as the Diocesan Finance Officer and for the Parish of Howrah as they work towards this new and exciting ministry on the Eastern Shore.

RIVERLINKS PARISH - CELEBRATION and ORDINATIONS

A great celebration of God's faithfulness and the hard work of the Riverlinks Parish was experienced in the reaffirmation of Christian discipleship and the ordination as deacons of KAYE GREGORY and PATRICIA ANDERSON. St David's Riverside was the venue and friends arrived from far and near to join in the occasion. Every member of the Parish had the opportunity to reaffirm their discipleship, music, prayers, Bible reading, Ian Wheeler's a fine sermon and table loads of hospitality afterwards, and then into cars and buses for return journeys. Two younger members of the George Town crew were enthusiastically discussing the merits of various ice cream parlours on the return journey to continue the celebrations! Lots of joy in the Lord's service. Great fun. A great God. PTL!

RURAL BIBLE FORUMS

In his 'Ministry Development Officer – Christian Formation' role, the Revd David Rogers-Smith (Enabler, Riverlinks parish) is coordinating Rural Bible Forums for the diocese. The purpose of the RBFs is to complement local parishes' existing training programs, assist with theological and biblical formation in the diocese, and model biblical preaching that is faithful to the text of Scripture and applies it to our

personal and corporate Christian lives. A RBF day will encourage, challenge and equip our church leaders and members by God's Word in fellowship with God's people. Christians from other churches are most welcome to attend.

Three parishes are hosting their inaugural RBF this year:

Break O'Day, Saturday 28th June, St Paul's Anglican parish hall, St Helens,
11.00am-4.00pm

3 Bible talks by Rev David Rogers-Smith on 'Paul's Body Language in 1 Corinthians'

\$15 (includes lunch & afternoon tea)

Sorell, Richmond and Tasman, Saturday 12th July, Sorell, 11.00am-4.00pm

3 Bible talks by Rev Anthony Brammall on 'God's word and God's people: 3 Old Testament perspectives'

\$15 (includes lunch & afternoon tea)

Ulverstone, Saturday 11th October, 11.00am-4.00pm

3 Bible talks by Ven Jill McCoy

\$15 (includes lunch & afternoon tea)

May I encourage both clergy and laity to book into one of these Forums. I believe them to be extremely important as we worked together creating a healthy**church**....transforming**life** in the Diocese of Tasmania

BEREAVEMENTS

I have been advised of the deaths of Dean Michael Webber and Bishop Owen Dowling this week. Bishop Dowling died in Clare Holland House Respite Care after bravely battling cancer for several years.

Dean Webber had a private funeral last week and Bishop Dowling's funeral was last Friday in Canberra.

A Memorial Service for Dean Webber will be held at 11.00am Monday 12 May at All Saints Church, South Hobart.

A Memorial Service to celebrate +Owen's special ministry will be held on Monday 19 May 2008, at 11.00am, at St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn.

Please pray for Dean Webber's wife, Mary and Bishop Dowling's wife Gloria.

'DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL MATURITY'

This course in the basics of Christian maturity is an excellent discipleship resource. I recently delivered it with Canon David Rietveld at Wellspring Parish over a three hour period divided into various sessions. Participants found it helpful and a good review of some of the 'basics': Bible reading, prayer, devotional time, giving, fellowship and emphasising the development of good 'habits' or disciplines for the Christian life. I am happy to teach it in your parish.

CLERGY CHRISTMAS PARTY

PLEASE NOTE DATE AND VENUE – LONGFORD 6 DECEMBER 2008

I have decided to move the Clergy Christmas Celebration to the North of the State to accommodate the Northern and North West clergy and their families in lessening the travel. The Parish of Longford will be the hosts and I will advise further details closer to the date.

Please mark Saturday 6 December 2008 in your diaries. I do know that this date does not clash with the Hobart or Launceston Christmas Pageants.

I look forward to meeting with as many as I can in our upcoming Tasmanian Synod.

Yours sincerely in Christ's service
Shalom

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Harrower', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Harrower
Bishop of Tasmania