



From the Bishop's Desk

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

24 October 2008

24/08

FOR CHATTING THE FAITH: STORIES AND REASONS

The stories of some well known Australians *Bright Lights, Dark Nights: The Enduring Faith of 13 Remarkable Australians* by Simon Smart, is both encouraging to our own faith and also an interesting read for non-Christians. I received a copy and found it an easy and valuable read - watch out for my upcoming sermon illustrations! These stories are a great complement to *God, Actually* by another Australian, Roy Williams. Roy writes of his reasons for belief and in so doing responds to the rash of popular anti-Christian atheistic books. The two books go well together and are good gifts for Christian and non-Christian alike. Enjoy! ☺

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION - SHARING OF RESOURCES

The Parish of the West Coast is huge geographically and very small in terms of population. It has three centers, at Strahan, Queenstown and Zeehan. The Parish is asking for help, in partnership with other parishes. Holy Trinity Launceston have taken up this request and will be contributing \$5,000 for the next three years. After a visit from the Mission Enabler, Archdeacon Jill McCoy, Holy Trinity Launceston Parish Council agreed to include this local mission in their budget as well as giving to overseas mission. This is an exciting opportunity for Holy Trinity to share some of their resources with brothers and sisters who have little. Outside the financial arrangement they will explore further ways in which we they can share in partnership with the West Coast. I commend the Parish on this wonderful initiative.

VISIT TO THE EAST COAST

I had a wonderful trip to the East Coast parishes two weekends ago, which included joining men on Saturday evening at a *Beer, Beef and Bloke* night. On the Sunday I joined with the Anglican and Uniting Church at a service in Bicheno before travelling onto Triabunna and worshipping with parishioners in Buckland at a Thanksgiving Service. In the evening Gayelene and I joined with the Cathedral "Unplugged" service to thank Lindsay and Jan Stoddart for their ministry. What a privilege and joy to travel around the State joining in worship and fellowship with my brothers and sisters in Christ. PTL!

MOTHERS' UNION

I spent a very enjoyable time with members of our Diocesan Mothers' Union last Tuesday in Campbell Town at their Annual General Meeting. I congratulate Jenny Archer who has been elected as the new State President and Revd Sheila Holmes who has accepted the position of Chaplain.

PARISH OF KINGSTON

Last Sunday I had the joy of celebrating with the parishioners of St Peter's Blackmans Bay their 40th Anniversary. A time of thanksgiving to God and remembering God's faithfulness and the dedication and stories of so many.

CATHEDRAL – DEAN OF HOBART

Also last Sunday I joined the Cathedral congregation as they welcomed Canon Dr Tom Wallace as the Dean of Hobart (Locum Tenens). Please pray for Tom and his wife Judith as they minister to the people at the Cathedral and greater Hobart.

The process has commenced to find a new Dean of Hobart. Please pray for the Cathedral Nomination Committee as they seek God's guidance in this process.

PRIMATIAL ELECTION

Last week I attended the Primatial Election prior to General Synod Standing Committee and can confirm that Archbishop Phillip Aspinall was re elected and will serve for 6 more years. Please pray for him in this important role.

RETIRED CLERGY AND SPOUSES AND WIDOWS LUNCHEONS

Each year I host a lunch with the retired clergy, their spouses and clergy widows in both the North and the South of the State. These gatherings are always a special time when I have the opportunity to thank them for their ongoing ministry within the Diocese even though they are "retired". Many parishes in the Diocese have a "Retired" clergy person ministering and I would encourage you to pray for each of them as their work is invaluable.

ORDINATION

This is just a reminder that the Ordination Service will be held in the Cathedral Church of St David, Saturday 22 November at **3.00 pm**. The service will be followed by a BBQ in the Cathedral Close with a gold coin donation for Mission Afloat. Ordination is a great celebration of God's faithfulness and calling to mission. At this time I can confirm the ordinations of –

Ross Duncan, Prison Chaplain;
Mark Holland, Wellspring Parish; and
James McKee, St John's Launceston; to be priested.

Kate Boughton, Final year, Ridley College Melbourne;
Santaseelan Packianathan, Kingston Parish; and
Vic Panne, Sandford Parish; to be deaconed.

Please pray for the ordinands and their families.

Yours sincerely in Christ's service
Shalom

John Harrower
Bishop of Tasmania