



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

4 November 2008

From the Bishop's Desk

25/08

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

YOU TOO CAN RECEIVE THE BISHOP'S NEWSLETTER!

As I travel around the Diocese it has been brought to my attention that, incredibly, there are those who do not receive this communication and want too! Please let people know about this e-news letter and that it is available to everyone. Please ask people to contact my Personal Assistant, Sandra Fagan 03 6220 2020 or email bishop@anglicantas.org.au Thank you.

PARISHES

Since last writing to you I have visited the WEST COAST PARISH which included the Commissioning of Ray Keating to the Local Ministry Support Team. I also had the joy of presenting Clarice Walker and Vera Whittington with certificates of appreciation for their many many years of work in the Parish and Kevin Bailey had me standing on a chair to pull away the material covering the plaque to officially open the Trinity Hall. "Bishop John is tall so I put the plaque up there." – a good yarn, and a tall story! Another great time with the Westcoasters.

CONNECTIONS – SOMERSET CHURCH PLANT of THE IMAGINE PROJECT

I left the West Coast early Sunday morning and joined the people of Somerset for worship in a tent!! Yes, a tent. A tent on the park foreshore near the Somerset surf life saving club rooms. They are a pilgrim people on the move for the glory of God and seeking to connect with their community. Please uphold this church plant in your prayers. Keep informed about 'Connections' - an exciting initiative of The Imagine Project at <http://will-briggs.blogspot.com/>

LATROBE PARISH

Later that Sunday afternoon I meet with Latrobe parishioners and we discussed future ministry models. Julius Kearon is completing a ministry review and I am very grateful to him for his commitment and wisdom. Please pray with the parish.

KINGSTON PARISH - THE OPENING OF 'THE CENTRE'

Last Saturday I joined with the people of the Kingston Parish in the opening of 'The Centre', their new ministry facilities. Please take the time to pay a visit and to be encouraged by what God is doing in our midst in energy and creativity to bring Jesus' way of life and love to Tasmania. Congratulations Pete Adlem and the Parish for their faith in action. May God bless the work of your hands in growing the Kingdom of God.

MISSION TO SEAFARERS

This important outreach ministry has increased significantly over the past year with over 900 more visits from seafarers to the Hobart Centre than the previous year. Increasing

numbers of Bibles are distributed. Thanks to the Bible Society for their generous discounts. Please uphold the Mission to Seafarers in your prayers.

DEAN OF HOBART

Expressions of interest have been called for the position of Dean of Hobart and information packages are available from the Registrar, Mr Russell Morton at 03 6220 2020 or email Russell.Morton@anglicantas.org.au

If you have suggestions of suitable persons for this position I would be grateful if you could forward their names to me.

PARLIAMENTARY PRAYER BREAKFAST

Last Tuesday I joined with 220 politicians, heads of organization and churches for the Tasmanian Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast with guest speaker, George Savvides, Managing Director of Medibank Private. I am greatly encouraged by this event organized by Awakening Tasmania/Fusion. This was the third year this event has been held and each year it gets bigger and bigger. The goals of the event are to encourage, support and resource politicians, business, community and church leaders in the community leadership; to build vision and cooperation in capacity building the state of Tasmania to reach its God given potential and to pray for this state and its people.

CLERGY CONFERENCE 2009

ALL active clergy please note the dates for the 2009 Clergy Conference so that other dates/events are not placed in your respective diaries to prevent you from joining me at this very important time. After much consideration we have cut the time down so that clergy are not away from their parishes and family for so long. See you at the Tamar Valley Resort from Wednesday 4 November (**early start**) – Friday 6 November (**later finish**): that is three full days and two nights.

CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

This is an excellent learning opportunity for all Anglicans and is especially recommended for use by Ministry Support Team members and licensed lay leaders.

I would encourage you to prayerfully consider undertaking this course and for further information about studying with your local group please contact David Rogers-Smith or go to www.riverlinks.net.au to obtain a copy of the Prospectus and enrolment form. I cannot emphasize too much the importance of continual learning through reflection on life, hand in hand with the systematic study of Scripture and theology. The basics of this course were part of my preparation for missionary work in Argentina. Gracias a Dios!

SERMONS/TALKS

During my visits to parishes/organizations I am encouraged by some excellent preaching/teaching. You may care to view sermons by Revd Peter Johnson and Bishop Phillip Newell given at the Northern and Southern Retired Clergy luncheons respectively. An address by Dr James Boyce at the Anglicare 25th Anniversary celebration last month is also of interest. These resources can be found at www.anglicantas.org.au

Yours sincerely in Christ's service
Shalom

+John

John Harrower
Bishop of Tasmania