



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

21 December 2007

24/07

From the Bishop's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

So much has been and is happening – some notes on my desk:

BETHLEHEM STREET LIVE!

It was an absolute joy for me to visit *Bethlehem Street Live* at Snug last Friday. It was a living experience with the sounds, sights, smells and the real Star of Christmas creatively and engagingly present. The very positive comments from visitors, school children, teachers, parents and grandparents was very encouraging. I thank the Ven Helen Phillips and her band of hard working helpers for all they did to bring to life this outstanding mission initiative. Celeste and Priscilla, missionaries from Argentina working with Kingston Parish, are taking it back for *Bethlehem Street Live 2008 in Argentina*. Please consider this a possibility for your Christmas outreach next year. Why not speak to Helen? See photos at <http://www.tasmaniananglican.com/news/>

DAVID RIETVELD

It is with pleasure that I announce the appointment of Revd Canon David Rietveld as the Rector of the Parish of Bay West and Holy Trinity. The commissioning will form part of the 10am worship service this Sunday 23 December. I ask for your continued prayers for David, his family, the staff and parish as they build their life of worship, fellowship and witness.

SPEECH NIGHTS AT COLLEGIATE AND HUTCHINS

The Hutchins School Speech Night was a top-class celebration of our fine boys' school. The music and sheer energy of the stage performance was exhausting - just to watch! The Collegiate School celebrated with all the students at the Derwent Entertainment Centre. This 'first' proved a great success with all the girls seated behind the wide stage area and the sense of the full school being together for this wonderful celebration. Grammar was also a great celebration and the Ven Ross Nicholson represented me there. Achievements and dedication to service are properly acknowledged at these end of year events. Congratulations to these terrific schools for their fine year and may God's continued blessing be upon them.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE – WARWICK DEAN

The Principal of Hutchins sent out an inspiring Christmas message entitled, *The Star on The Tree*. Thank you, Warwick, for this personal Christmas reflection. See <http://www.anglicantas.org.au/resources/star-christmas-tree.html>

PARISH VISITS

Recent visits include:

Parish of Bellerive 25 November. A highlight was the launching of *St Mark's Bellerive Reflections: Looking forward - looking back* by historian and parishioner John R Sargent. This is a substantial history, 276 pages, with photos, documents, participation lists and interpretation an important contribution to our self-understanding and enabling us to give thanks to God for those who have gone before us and a reminder to spur us on to leave a heritage rich in Christ and the sharing of his love with our neighbours. Contact the parish for copies.

Parish of All Saints South Hobart 2 December.

Beginning the Christian year with all the intimacy of St Gabriel's on Mt Wellington and the high ceremony of All Saints was both enjoyable and inspiring. David O'Neill does a fabulous job of leading worship in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. I was privileged to hear some personal stories of growing discipleship in Christ. This was very moving. This rich fellowship culminated in the gift of a fine white wine bearing the All Saints label! Thank you.

Parish of Launceston South 9 December

The recent illness of faithful and gentlemanly Ven Warwick Letchford and the new locum ministry of Chris Archer were features, as is the desire of the parish to move forward. The nomination committee has begun work and I ask your prayers for the Holy Spirit to move in the life of the priest to lead this community as they seek to live for Jesus and be a parish in mission. Also uphold the lay leadership in their demanding ministries.

ENABLER MEETING AT ROSS

This was a significant exchange of experience and wisdom with enablers from around Tasmania convened by James Collins. Issues included the isolation and 'no money, no neighbours' feature of some communities, the pooling of resources- eg. *Bethlehem Street Live*, the need of enablers to belong to a parish, the replacement of team members and the celebration of these diverse ministries.

I am very grateful to the enablers for their dedicated service.

CONGRATULATIONS SCOTT SARGENT

The Chaplain of the Launceston Church Grammar School, Scott Sargent, has qualified Bachelor of Education from the University of Tasmania. Well done!

ORDINATION OF THE TWO ASSISTANT BISHOPS

Already plans are coming together for the Ordination of Chris Jones and Ross Nicholson on 26 February 2008. Just for clarification, 'Ordination' is the descriptor of this Service as per *A Prayer Book for Australia 1995*. 'Consecration' is an earlier term used in the *Book of Common Prayer 1662* and *An Australian Prayer Book 1978*. More info early in the new year.

If you are up with youtube look at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFWpA-JedA>

SOME DIARY DATES

20 December	Christmas service at Glenview
23 December	10am Commissioning David Rietveld, Rector, Parish of Bay West and Holy Trinity
24 December	Christmas Eve at Cathedral Church of St David
25 December	Parish of Sandford
10-13 January	CMS Summer School Port Sorell
13 January	Ordination service of Revd Aileen Fitzgerald, Burnie
23 January	7.30pm Commissioning Ken McDermid, Priest-in-Charge, St Paul's Glenorchy
26 February	7pm Ordination of Bishops, Cathedral Church of St David The Ven Dr Chris Jones and the Ven Ross Nicholson
1 March	<i>Beyond Imagination</i> , Diocesan Gathering, Launceston
1-3 April	Bishop's Retreat, Blackman's Bay
23-25 May	Tasmanian Synod, Launceston
6 –10 October	Clergy Conference, Launceston

DIOCESAN OFFICE HOURS/CONTACTS

The Diocesan Office will close from midday Friday 21 December and re-open Monday 7 January. For all urgent calls please contact the Registrar, Mr Russell Morton on 0407 535 080. For urgent Anglican Camping matters please call the Ven Helen Phillips on 0429 865 733.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

At the Enablers' Meeting the story was told of asking children, "What are the 's' words of Christmas?" and receiving the replies: santa, sleigh, snow! – Well, with children's talks you just never know what answers you will receive. May the true 's' words of Christmas: shepherds, sheep, stable, singing of angels, census (sorry!), and the Son of God be at the heart of your Christmas.

Yours sincerely in Christ's service
Shalom



John Harrower
Bishop of Tasmania