



Anam Cara Community

Waterholes: 4 February 2017



Light, Holy Island Lindisfarne. Photo, Jane Macqueen

Welcome

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 5th February 2017.

Why this newsletter? This newsletter is one of the ways by which we hope to promote community. The Anam Cara Community is intended to be much more than simply a group of likeminded people. We hope it will continue to grow into a community that is a sign of God's presence in and love for the world, a dispersed community of contemplatives whose lives and action bring peace and healing to all of God's children. We are a Community of Prayer, and believe that as we pray together, God calls us deeper into fellowship with one another.

Who is welcome? The Anam Cara Community is proud to welcome anyone, from any background or faith community (or none!). We are an open and inclusive community that affirms the dignity and worth of all humans, the value of the environment, and seeks to model a way of living with one another and the world that points to the love and care of God for everyone. Individuals who wish to formally join the Community are welcome to become associates.

Community News

Welcome to the first Waterholes newsletter for 2017. We are very thankful to those who support the Community through contributing reflections to Waterholes to encourage us in our spiritual journeys. Once again we have a full roster until after Easter and we do express our appreciation to all who contribute.

Subscriptions - Thank you to those who have responded to our reminder about Membership Subscriptions and have renewed your memberships to the Community for 2017. Your commitment is an encouragement to us as we seek to grow community and it also allows us to offer further ministry through your financial contribution.

Photos - I know we have some keen photographers amongst us! For a number of people who receive Waterholes the photographs are the part of the newsletter that speaks most to them and allow them an entry into quiet contemplation and thanksgiving for our beautiful world. So photographers... please continue to send me your offerings! I use a photograph containing water for our opening photo and the second one is a reflection of anything that speaks to your soul.

Servant Leaders meeting - On Saturday 11th February the servant leaders will meet for prayer and reflection and to finalise plans for the year. Your servant leaders are: Kate Campbell, The Rev'd David Head, Sue Hopkins, Jane Macqueen, Carolyn Raymond, The Rev'd Heather Toms and Val Lawrence. If you have any requests or concerns or hopes or dreams for the Community please contact Jane via email so we can include your thoughts in our meeting time.

Thank you - Anne Turner would like to pass on her appreciation for the many expressions of support and sympathy following Brian's death. They have brought her so much comfort at this time of deep grief.



Coming Events

Date for your diary:

The first Community QUIET DAY for 2017

ASPECTS OF PRAYER

will be held on

Saturday 18th March 2017

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Stratford.

9.30/10.00 am – 3.30 pm

Sue Hopkins a Servant Leader of the Community will lead us as we come together to explore the spiritual discipline of prayer.

“I am more and more convicted that without prayer nothing of any value ever comes into being.” *Bishop John McIntyre.*

What to bring: your lunch, pen & notepad.

Tea/coffee/water & Morning Tea provided.

Donations welcomed nil - \$15 depending on means.

To let us know you are planning to attend or for further details, contact:

Jane Macqueen: jemacqueen@gmail.com

Sue Hopkins: 5182 5542

For your Prayers

Part of the joy of the Anam Cara Community is the gift of being called to pray for others. If you would like the Community to pray for you, or for someone else, please email or call Jane ([0411 316 346](tel:0411316346) or jemacqueen@gmail.com) who will add them to the prayer list, and ensure they are included in our roster of prayers.

At present, your prayers are asked for:

- The Cathedral Parish and Susanna Pain in her leadership and ministry.
- The servant leaders of the Community as they meet on 11th February.
- The Rev'd David Perryman, Emma, and the parish of Avon as they begin a new ministry with David as Curate in Charge. For David's induction on 6th February.
- The leadership of Anglican Earthcare Gippsland as they prepare for their AGM and in their leadership in our diocese in caring for the environment and the earths resources.
- For Lyndal as she lives with an aggressive form of Motor Neurone Disease and her family in their care for her.
- Associates and Friends who have asked for our prayers: Norma, June and Linda. John who has recently begun another round of chemotherapy and his family, Grace and David.

- For all young people and families as they return to school.
- For those living in poverty, for the homeless and all welfare agencies as they seek to provide appropriate support.
- For all grieving the loss of loved ones in tragic accidents and violent incidents.
- For victims of domestic violence and child sexual abuse and those who care for them.
- For all refugees and asylum seekers in this time of continued uncertainty that they may find hope and restoration from the despair and persecution from which they have fled.
- For our Government and all leaders of the world for wise and compassionate decision making.
- For President Donald Trump and his advisors.
- For the people of Syria and the entire Middle East Region, Afghanistan, and African countries as they suffer terror, cruelty and abuse from aggressors.
- For all nations and people suffering flood drought, starvation and the effects of extreme weather events, fire and earthquakes.

A number of parishes in our Diocese are seeking new incumbents. I include this prayer to encourage us in our prayers for the diocese and for wisdom and discernment for all clergy appointments advisory boards.

A prayer at the time of choosing an Incumbent.

Bountiful God,

give to these parishes faithful pastors

who will faithfully speak your word

and minister your sacraments;

an encourager who will equip your people for ministry

and enable us to fulfil our calling.

Give to those who will choose, wisdom, discernment and patience,

and to us give warm and generous hearts,

for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Prayer of the Day.

Faithful God,

you have appointed us your witnesses,

to be a light that shines in the world:

let us not hide the bright hope you have given us,

but tell everyone your love,

revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord,

who lives and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,

for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reflection

Isaiah 58.1-9a (9b-12); Ps 112; 1 Cor 2.1-13 (14-16); Matthew 5.13-20

The Rev'd David Head, Rector St Mary's Morwell

The Wonder of Light

The theme of today's readings is one of being light to others and of using the gifts we are endowed with to clearly enable and proclaim God's Love.

In the Isaiah reading from Chapter 58, God encourages the prophet Isaiah to proclaim- and even shout out! - and not to hold anything back and to be like a warning trumpet to sound abroad what are truly the ways of peace and justice that God desires of his people. They are to be a people who share their bounty with the poor and the homeless and to be a light that shines in the darkness of surrounding injustice.

Psalm 12 sings of the blessings of life that flow to the world as we live the ways of God's love and purpose. The 1 Corinthians 2 reading has Paul exhorting the early Corinthian Christians to let their faith not rest in human wisdom but in the power of God so that others may see and understand the gifts that God bestows on his people as they generously share them with others.

The Gospel of Matthew chapter 5 takes up this theme very powerfully as Jesus encourages us to shine as a light in the world. We depend so much on electricity. We just flick a switch and we have light to dispel some of the darkness and to keep fresh and cook our food. Without power, we feel very vulnerable and insecure and unable to control so many aspects of our lives.

Light is and always has been a basic need of all people across the millennia of human existence. Jesus wisely used this image of light that is basic to human existence as a metaphor for our living a God-centred lifestyle and existence as well. If our faith in God and our discipleship of Christ is to have any impact in our world, and on the lives of others, then we must be like lights shining and like bright beacons in a world smothered by injustice and ethical darkness. Our integrity, our compassion, our loving acceptance and hospitality to others must shine and stand out, says Jesus, like a city built on a hill. If our light is not turned on, if we are not connected to God's Holy Spirit and we have no warming fire power, then we are in darkness, we are cold and hidden, and we are of no value in assisting and guiding others.

What is light? Scientifically speaking it is a form of electro-magnetic radiation to which the eye is incredibly sensitive. What we call white light and clear daylight are a combined mixture of all the colours of the visible spectrum, that, separated by raindrops or a prism, we call the rainbow. The speed of light is incredible. It travels at about 10 million times the freeway speed limit and is the

fastest thing that we know exists. Light is a paradoxical sort of energy force as it appears to travel as a continuous wave and also as short discreet bundles of energy called photons both at the same time! This new knowledge about light is equally as wonderful a modern-day metaphor for us being, as Jesus says, like light to the world. Our love and our compassion and peace and desire for justice are to be both wavelike in their continuous washing over the world around us and they are also to be like bundles of energy that pulse out and enrich and empower the lives of others. Most of us, in fact all of us, travel through life at far below the speed limit of love and goodness that Jesus asks of us – that of the speed of light. But, nevertheless, every flicker we can offer combines to give greater light to the world.

It is truly an astounding image for us, as technologically modern day Christians. The sun's light, it's electromagnetic radiation, shines down upon us as pure and colourless, but as it hits the earth's atmosphere *and the different densities and angles of the water vapour and dust particles in it as well as on the solid objects on earth below*, it is broken into the myriad variety of wondrous colours that we see in nature around us in the extraordinary beauty of our earth. Only when we reunite the variety of differently refracted rays of colour do we then have pure and colourless light restored. And, so it is with Jesus Christ the living Word of God. God's Word, God's light, has shone upon our earth through Jesus Christ the Son of God, pure in its heavenly splendor. But as Christ's light is refracted and absorbed and reflected back by each person who responds to Christ's light and energy then it becomes a unique light wavelength breaking forth from that person in a unique shade of colour. The beauty of Christ's Church can only be seen and revealed when, in the community of believers, all these various and at times seemingly disharmonious colours are reunited into a pure unity of the light of God's love and purpose.

This I believe is what it means to seek the truth in love. Truth is only achieved when all the frequencies and fragmented wavelengths of light that have been refracted by the infinite prisms of life's experiences somehow are reunited in Christ so that each is able to understand the other in love and to recognize that each person represents a different but necessary part of God's infinite rainbow of meaning and light. Reflect on this in your life.

Photo Reflection



Support on the Journey

The Anam Cara Community's ministry is to be a support to those who are on the inner journey into God. Each person's journey is different, and we recognise that there are some for whom the Christian tradition is difficult or not supportive. We're committed to finding ways to hear the needs of each Associate, and support them as we can.

Contacts:

- Website: www.anamcaragippsland.org
- To subscribe to or unsubscribe from the mailing list contact Jane
- Soul carer (Community Leader): Jane (0411 316 346 or jemacqueen@gmail.com)
- Secretary / Librarian: Sue 03 5182 5542
- Treasurer: Kate
- Postal mail: Anam Cara Community c/o PO Box 928, Sale, VIC 3850
- Diocesan Director of Professional Standards (to make complaints or express concerns about our ministries): Ms Cheryl Russell 0407 563 313, cherylr@gippsanglican.org.au

Love and prayers

Jane Macqueen

On behalf of the Servant Leaders

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