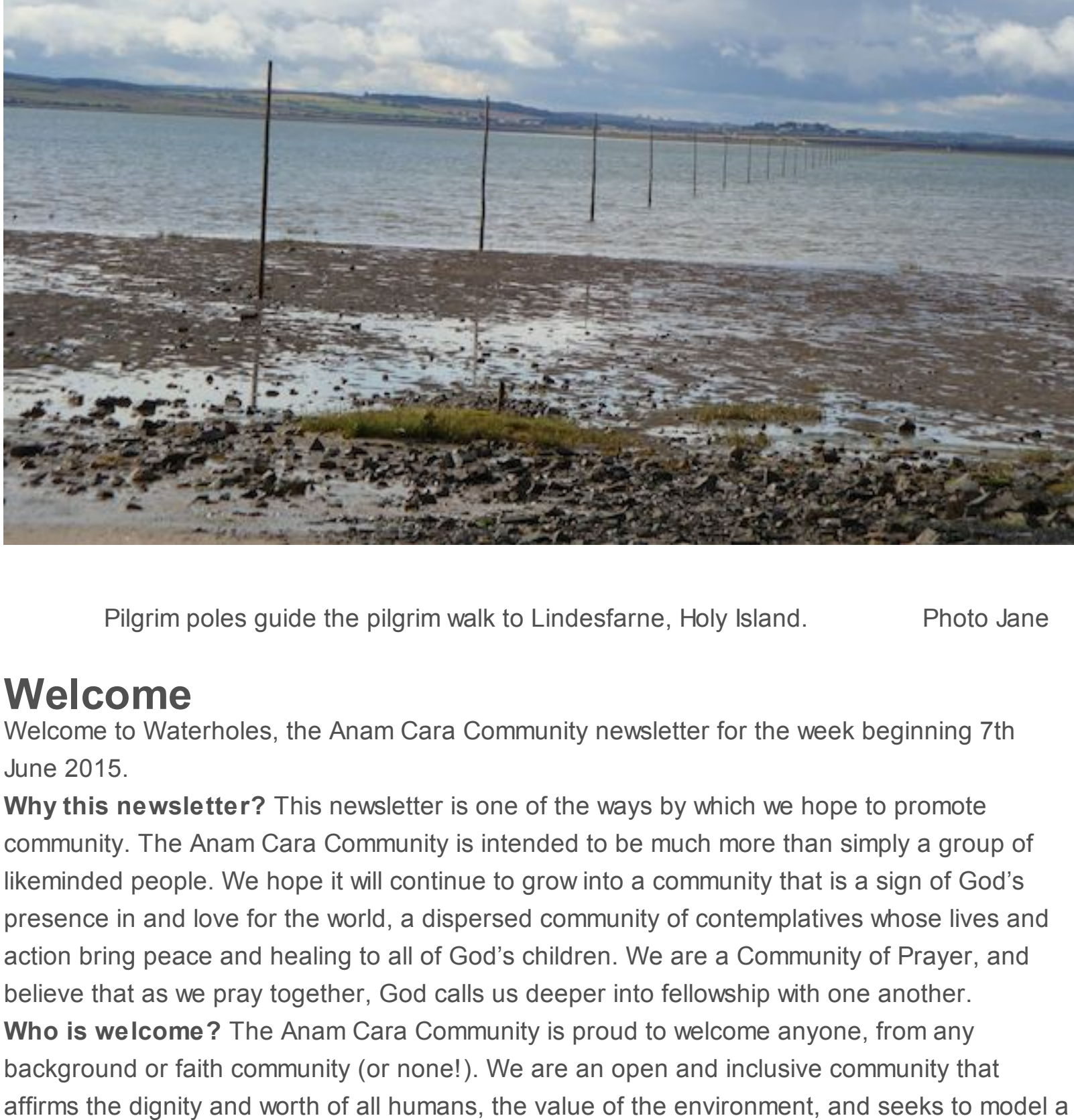




Waterholes: 6 June 2015



Pilgrim poles guide the pilgrim walk to Lindesfarne, Holy Island.

Photo Jane

Welcome

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 7th June 2015.

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.

Vale Bishop John

Today is the first anniversary of Bishop John's sudden death on 6th June 2014. I encourage those of you who knew and loved John to take some time today to sit with your memories, to give thanks for his life and to reflect on whatever it was in your relationship with this humble and godly man that drew you closer to God and inspired you in the way you live your life.

Many of us are thankful to have received photos and stories from Jan as she has journeyed through this past year. I include today her gift to us of a photo specially chosen and her own most poignant words as she journeys with her own grief and ministers to us in ours.

I pray that the photos in Waterholes today may be a symbol of the love and prayers that transcend time and distance and in the mystery that is God join our hearts and souls as we reflect with John at Wilson's Prom and with Jan on Holy Island.

"Remembering Johnny

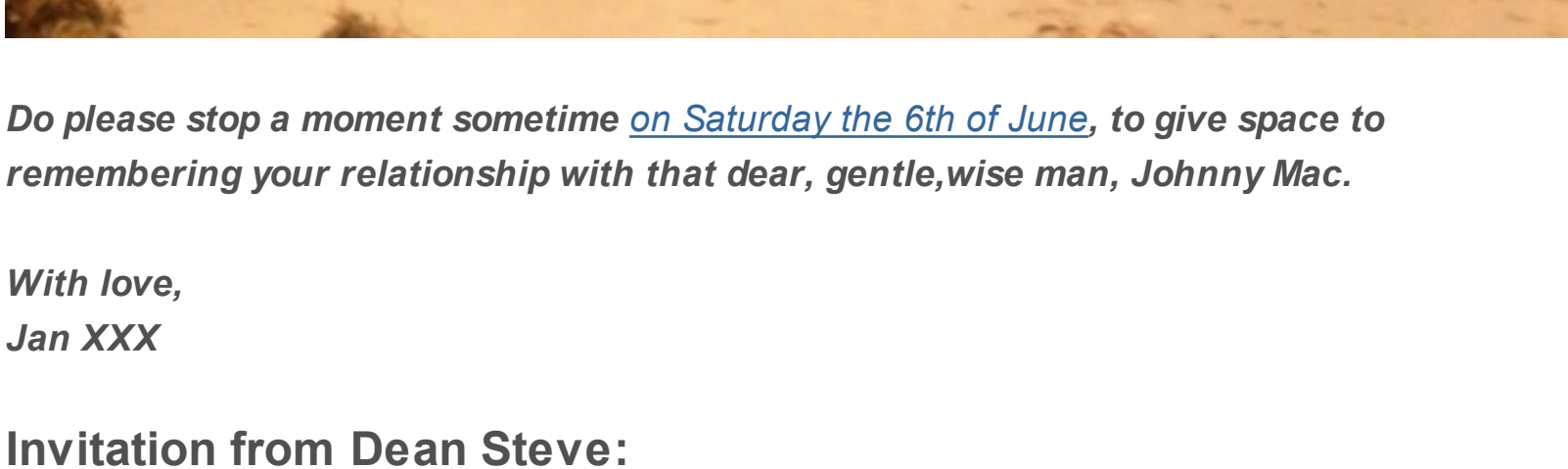
As this week leads to the first anniversary of Mac's passing from this mortal life on 6th June, I thought I would send a group email to let you know where I will be around this time.

Combining both a big walk and a retreat, I will be walking about fifty miles over five days along the Northumberland Coast with Lisa, to then have four nights at the Franciscan monastery in Alnmouth. We adjusted some original ideas to come to this plan.

We will meet in a B&B at Berwick-Upon-Tweed on the evening of Wednesday 3rd. On Thursday we will catch a bus south to Beal from where we will walk about five miles across to Lindisfarne, Holy Island - when the tide is out. Lisa wrote a beautiful email to five vicars to tell of our special walk and to ask for hospitality along the way. We needed four overnight accommodations but two villages were closer together. Well, all responded positively and kindly - but one of the alternatives regretted declining because he will be away in Durham. He did offer names of B&Bs which he felt would perhaps suit our particular need. In the meantime however, the other vicar came through! Soon (Lindisfarne within 2 hours) we had our, almost biblical, request fulfilled. We are expected by Brother Joe at Alnmouth in the later afternoon of Monday 8th. On Friday morning we will return to cousin Anne's in Acton, Chesire.

On a slightly broader note, Steve, the Dean at Sale Cathedral, has organised a Memorial and Thanksgiving Eucharist at 4pm on Sunday, for Mac.

I have taken a photo of a photo I have with me, to include here. It is a blurry image of Wilson's Prom, Gippsland, and I need to tell you that the silhouetted figure is Johnny, but I think it is evocative of mystery and another world. I like it for this occasion of memory.



Do please stop a moment sometime on Saturday the 6th of June, to give space to remembering your relationship with that dear, gentle, wise man, Johnny Mac.

With love,
Jan XXX

Invitation from Dean Steve:

On Sunday June 7th at 4.00pm there will be a Memorial and Thanksgiving Eucharist to mark the 1st anniversary of the passing of our former Bishop, the Rt Rev'd John McIntyre. There will be a supper of soup and bread afterwards for those who would like to join us in the Cathedral Hall.

Please RSVP the Dean (bluespreacher@bigpond.com) so we know how many to cater for.

Coming Community Events

1. Quiet Day

led by: The Rev'd David Head, Rector of Heyfield

'Praying with Icons'

Saturday 20th June

9.30am - 3.30pm

Greenmount Retreat House, Greenmound Road, Yarram.



Directions to Greenmount Retreat House: nearing Yarram - from Traralgon (sign posted), turn left at T- junction, travel 1km and turn right into Greenmount Road (signposted); from Sale, turn left into Greenmount Road opposite Yarram Golf Club. The Retreat House is the third property on the right (500 metres along). VicRoads 104 E2

BYO lunch. Tea, coffee and morning tea supplied. Donations appreciated \$0 - \$15 depending on means. RSVP: Jane 0411 316 346 or jemacqueen@gmail.com

2. Quiet Day

- Saturday 15th August
- St James Anglican Church, Grey St Traralgon

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:

- Jan and Lisa McIntyre as they walk, reflect, laugh and cry together. Jessica and Paul and John's mum Vicky. Jan's mum Marion and cousin Anne where Jan has found a home in the UK.
- For one another, as we remember Bishop John. Particularly remembering his closest friends in their grief.
- Cheryl Russell and the Servant Leaders as Cheryl leads a time of professional development on 13th June.
- David Head and Heather Toms as they prepare for the Quiet Day on 20th June.
- Sue Hopkins as she returns to St Vincents for further tests, for the specialists who are searching for answers, for Sue as she manages her constant pain and hopes to be at the Quiet Day on 20th which she has organised!
- Associates who are unwell and have asked for our prayers: Barb Logan, Chris Venning, Norma and June.
- Chris Venning as he discerns the next stage of his ministry.
- Karena King.
- For Asian and European nations struggling to recover from the devastation of natural disasters.
- For Asian and European nations as they respond to the refugee crisis. For all refugees and asylum seekers. For joyal and compassionate policies in our own country.
- For all involved in the Royal Commissions investigating child sexual abuse and family violence, especially for the victims; their care and support. For the people of Ballarat, all survivors and their families in their continued suffering.
- For Victims of Domestic Violence, Unwanted Children, Women's Refuges, Rehabilitation Centres – Halfway Houses, & those who support them.
- Leaders and families in our Muslim community as they care for their young people to inspire lives of peace and life and not terror and death.
- All families around the world touched by tragedy as a result of the inhumane actions of others, the people of Yemen, Pakistan, Nigeria, Syria, Iraq, hostages and prisoners and those suffering who are known only to God.

Some of our Associates are in a place where we are privileged to offer ongoing prayers for them:

- Anne Turner as she faithfully continues her ministries of soul care and prayer and journeys with her deteriorating body.
- Larissa Dial and her family as Larissa continues to struggle with relapsed ovarian cancer and receives palliative chemo.

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

Almighty God,
give us such a vision of your purpose,
and such an assurance of your love and power,
that we may ever hold fast the hope
which is in Jesus Christ our Lord;
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Reflection

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 8.4-11(12-15) 16-20; Ps 138; 2 Cor 4.13-5.1(2-5); Mark3.20-35

Reflection by The Rev'd Marilyn Obersby, Associate Priest, St James, Traralgon.

In my twenties I lived in an ecumenical Christian community called 'House of the New World' - named from the NEB translation of 2 Corinthians 5:17: 'When anyone is in Christ, there is a new world.'

We produced our own paper, called "Free Slave", because in Christ we are truly free, but we choose to lay our lives down in the service of others, as Jesus did. To live in such a way is costly, since the society around about us lives by a different set of rules. In today's Gospel reading we see that it was so for Jesus. Those in authority had great trouble with Jesus' words and actions, especially because they resonated with the mass of 'little people', - those kept in order by the strictures of the religious leaders of the day. His was a promise of freedom from the daily oppression they endured.

Ched Myers wrote a political commentary on the Gospel of Mark, where he examined the politics which led to Jesus being killed. It is called: "Binding the Strong Man".

Today the strong man is still very much in evidence in our world, probably even more so, since there are so many more nations and so many more inhabitants on our planet. Systemic oppression, slavery in various forms, economic coercion exist in almost every country. In our own nation, the federal cabinet this week was debating in secret about whether or not it could or would render Australasian stateless, who are seen to have acted in ways that are against our national interests. We are also ignoring our obligations under the international refugee convention by pushing boats back into other nations' territorial waters or international waters, not to mention housing and processing all asylum seekers offshore. And the list could go on, not only for our nation, but for many of the world's nations.

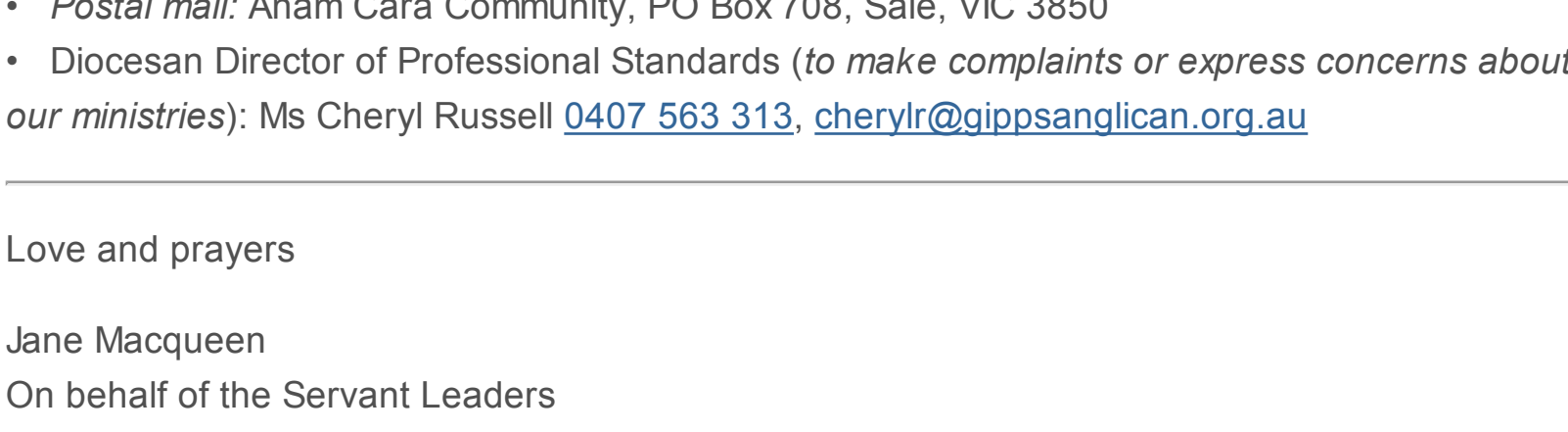
There is no doubt there are humanitarian crises happening in several parts of the world, and as Christians, we are charged with speaking out against the injustices we are aware of, here and overseas. We are also charged with doing what Jesus did, being a voice of hope, liberation and healing to those who are experiencing a living hell.

Sometimes, when I watch the news and see the latest ISIS atrocities, or cruelty to animals, or hear the latest horror stories from the commission on sexual abuse of children by various institutions, or any one of a number of terrible events, I feel overwhelmed and helpless. To pray seems to be such a small thing. Yet I do know the power of prayer, the petition or protest to a politician or other influential figure does make a difference, especially when others do the same.

At those times, when I feel most helpless or powerless, I remember the words of that Sunday school song: "Jesus bids us shine, with a pure, clear light; like a little candle, burning in the night. In this world of darkness, so we must shine - you in your small corner, and I in mine."

Nelson Mandela summed it up when he said: "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." Surely that is what will bind the strong man and help bring about the freedom of the reign of God in our world.

Photo Reflection



Lindesfarne, Holy Island. Photo Jane

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](tel:0411316346) or jemacqueen@gmail.com)
- Secretary / Librarian: Sue ([03 5182 5542](tel:0351825542))
- Treasurer: Kate
- Postal mail: Anam Cara Community, PO Box 708, Sale, VIC 3850
- Diocesan Director of Professional Standards (to make complaints or express concerns about our ministries): Ms Cheryl Russell [0407 563 313](tel:0407563313), cheryl@gippsanglican.org.au

Love and prayers

Jane Macqueen

On behalf of the Servant Leaders

APBA & NRSV portions, TIS hymns 'Reprinted with permission.
Copyright Broughton Publishing Pty Ltd.'

Copyright © "[CURRENT_YEAR]" "[LIST:COMPANY]", All rights reserved. "[IF:REWARDS]" "[HTML:REWARDS]" "[END:IF]"

"[IFNOT:ARCHIVE_PAGE]"
Our mailing address is:
"[HTML:LIST_ADDRESS_HTML]" "[END:IF]"

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)