

Encounter

EASTER EDITION 2024

Anglican
Newcastle



Encounter

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At Easter, Christians put forward their view of the world.

**BISHOP
PETER'S
COLUMN**

The hope that guides them comes from God. They base their confidence in the story of Jesus – who died and returned to life.



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GETTING TO KNOW REVEREND ANTHEA

In this Q&A, Reverend Anthea shares some of her experiences and what she hopes to achieve in the role..

"...being responsible for the youth programs and getting to know the families and the wider parish brought me joy."



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Kilpatrick Court's beautiful pet therapy dog Rocky retired last month.

ROCKY RETIRES

Residents and staff enjoyed cuddles and also shed a few tears.



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CHRISTMAS WRAP

That's a wrap!

Volunteers, Samaritans staff and the wider community worked tirelessly to prepare for Christmas events in Singleton and Newcastle.





Easter hope

There are three significant promises in the Easter stories. First, God offered us eternal life. Secondly, God will actively engage us in this life. Thirdly, we can create kind and caring communities. God wishes these promises to give us hope.

God has not promised that our lives will be without suffering and sadness. We grapple with depression, despair, and death. Yet, God directs our gaze in a different direction. God invites us to consider how we will navigate our life. We know life will confront us with the upsetting and challenging. But, through it all, we endeavour to be people of hope and love.

In some world views, our span of existence goes from conception to death. They see nothing more. A Christian worldview holds that God

knows us throughout all time. God calls people into being and invites them to be part of his life forever. The more people know of God's ways, the more God expects people to abide by them. We know God's love and God wants us to express that love.

Many people without an explicit faith embrace the hope of heaven. They cherish the idea that their loved ones are with God and that, one day, there will be a great reunion. They, too, carry the hope of eternal life. Many people who do not see themselves as religious are committed to making the world a better place. They strive to be a good person making good choices.

At Easter, Christians put forward their view of the world. The hope that guides them comes

from God. They base their confidence in the story of Jesus – who died and returned to life. They place all of life in the context of a bigger story.

Hope is difficult to sustain when disaster strikes. I am not sure there has been a time in human history without calamity. Our world, right now, seems filled with toxicity.

Greed, selfishness, abuse of power, and oppression fill our news feeds. The first Easter was no different. Jesus experienced the controlling violence of both the Roman Empire and status seeking civic leaders. The writers of the New Testament testify to their experience that God is with them. They are never alone.

In the Christian worldview, God assures of his presence. God guides us towards love and helps us see the blessing of love in our lives. People show love in kindness towards a stranger in need or in supporting a close friend. We see love in true reconciliation. We experience love when we forgive someone or are forgiven.

Christians place their confidence in Jesus's promise that they will continue to know God blessing them and others. Whether in the moment or in hindsight, we can be grateful for God's guiding hand.

The final aspect of the Easter story is God calling people to be with each other. The church is not a building or institutions. It is the multitude of disciples who desire to live the Way of Jesus. The Church, in this description, is at its best when its charity, integrity, and goodwill is clear.

Since the earliest days of Christianity, this has often been an ideal to strive for rather than the day-to-day experience. Church people are to understand being like Christ is a lifetime journey. People who know that they get things wrong and commit to renewing the way they live. People who support and sustain others as they experience the joys and challenges of life.

I wish for you all the hope of Easter and the courage to live the Way of Jesus.

+Peter

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Some news

A few weeks ago, Bishop Peter shared the news with the Diocese that he has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He and his family appreciate the messages of goodwill and support. So far, the news and prognosis are very good. He says: "the Christian hope is a great source of encouragement to me."



Anglican and Catholic bishops meet in Rome



POPE FRANCIS GREETES BISHOP PETER STUART IN ROME.

Bishop Peter Stuart has represented the Anglican Church of Australia in Rome and Canterbury at the Summit of the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM).

Bishops from 27 countries attended the summit earlier this year.

Bishop Peter, alongside Bishop Greg Homeming, the Catholic Bishop of Lismore, were commissioned by Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin Welby for the work of witnessing to unity and reconciliation.

Here is Bishop Peter's daily account from the summit.

Day 1

A big part of the Ecumenical Summit in Rome was listening to each other. We were presented with a rich tapestry from across the globe.

Following a tour of St Peter's Basilica, we worshipped together using an Anglican service.

Day 2

The day began in Rome. It was a day of many sessions bracketed with prayer, reflecting our two traditions.

We discussed Synodality and Justice and Mercy. We heard firsthand about Sudan and the Middle East.

Part of each representative's focus was to consider how what we hear should impact Christians where we come from and to identify common responses by Anglicans and Catholics.

The mornings were crisp (two degrees) with clear skies.

Day 3

Our second summit day began with the experience of Holy Communion where the Anglicans could not participate. We all experienced the pain.

We listened to the Catholic journey of Synodality. With help from two theologians, the Anglicans recognised that there were spiritual practices that could deepen their Synod work.

We spent the afternoon listening to the firsthand accounts of trauma being experienced in different parts of the world.

There is much to enrich our understanding of what it means to be called to the office of a Bishop in the Church of God.

We ended the day in prayer.

Day 4

From Rome.

A special service in the Basilica of St Paul outside the walls.

Bishop Greg from Lismore and I were commissioned for the work of Christian unity by Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin.

The homilies were based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan and the call to love.

We were greeted by Pope Francis and Archbishop Justin.

Day 5

From Rome to Canterbury.

A travelling day. In just a few hours we did what Augustine would have taken days to do.

I had a brief personal conversation with Archbishop Justin. He was encouraged as I shared that Bishop Charlie, Bishop Sonia, the Wednesday morning Cathedral congregation, and I pray for him.



Much of the conversation among the bishops was about prayer.

We prayed at the Church of San Gregorio al Celio where St Augustine was sent to England by Pope Gregory the Great in 597 to be the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

We also had a nighttime spiritual walk-through of Canterbury Cathedral.

Day 6

We had a significant session on Safeguarding, which included hearing directly from a Canadian survivor.

We were taken through the impact of clergy abuse in many countries and cultures.

We began drawing our experience together with a view to sharing some common themes with the Church.

In John's Gospel, we hear that disciples are friends. We experienced great receptivity of one another founded in great hospitality offered to one another.

Day 7

Cardinal Stephen Chow preached, "the twelve apostles and disciples were not called to form camps working for their own missions or competing against each other. They were called to become an assembly, a community, a communion, a synodal koinonia, praying and discerning, teaching, and serving for the mission of our Triune God."

Our time was spent in prayer and worship as well as in finalising a witness to the church of our experience these few days.

It is common for bishops to be asked to take up national church responsibilities as part of their episcopal role. I had no idea that, when I became the Chair of the Ecumenical Relations Commission, I would experience this blessing. I have carried the Diocese in my heart and mind. I hope in a small way these posts have helped people share this experience.

+Peter ^{^1}

Inspiring a true sense of *belonging for all*



Linda Wilson is grateful to work for an organisation that prides itself on being inclusive.

As we celebrated International Women’s Day 2024 with the theme ‘Inspire Inclusion’, Newcastle Anglican’s Executive Director Quality, Risk and Safety shared what it meant to her.

“Inclusion is not encountering bias or discrimination,” Linda says.

“To have inspired inclusion is more than that. It is to be empowered, contributing, and adding value.

“It is a true sense of belonging and finding a place where we are encouraged to be our best selves, where we speak and are heard.”

International Women’s Day is celebrated on 8 March each year. It is an opportunity to recognise women’s achievements, raise awareness about discrimination, and take action to drive gender equity.

For Linda, it is a chance to ponder the past, present, and future.

“I celebrate the women that have been leaders before me and I take time to rejoice in the opportunity I have to work closely with the many wonderful women around me,” she says.

“I think about the women who have not had the opportunities, or who have encountered bias, repression and worse, and what I, and we, can do better for them.

“I also think of the experiences my daughters will have and what can be done for a better future for them.”

After joining Newcastle Anglican more than a decade ago, Linda believes the organisation has developed a reputation for fairness and opportunity.

However, she added more could always be done to improve gender equity and working conditions for all.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR QUALITY RISK AND SAFETY, LINDA WILSON.

"I see it in our long history from being a church leader in women's ministry, in pursuing gender equity in leadership and governance roles, in providing a safe workplace and services for males, females and LGBTIQ+ people," she says.

"Similarly, to the wider workforce, we have areas of our work dominated by particular genders and we can work to provide more opportunities here.

"Equity is not just about achieving equal numbers for men and women, or simply having inclusive strategies for gender diverse people.

"It is also about how we support our workforce and the steps we can take to ensure it meets the needs of our people by being flexible and adding value to their working conditions."

Visit www.internationalwomensday.com for more information about this year's event.



Imagine a world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination.

A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive.

Newcastle Anglican believes everyone is created equal.

We acknowledge and celebrate the uniqueness of everyone.

On International Women's Day, we proudly reaffirmed that our community is a place of inclusion and belonging for all persons.

We are committed to achieving gender equity.

In our senior leadership team, 30 out of 42 people are women.

That's 71%.

We also have six female members in our Executive Leadership Team.

You can read more about our commitment to inclusion [here](#).



Getting to know

Reverend Anthea Haughain

Lakes Grammar – An Anglican School recently welcomed Reverend Anthea Haughain as its new school chaplain.

In this Q&A, Reverend Anthea shares some of her experiences and what she hopes to achieve in the role.

Q Where were you based and what did you do before joining Lakes Grammar – An Anglican School?

A Before coming to Lakes Grammar, I did a two-year formation placement in the Parish of Gosford. I really enjoyed getting to know the parishioners and other partner organisations and was heartened and encouraged by their inclusive way of sharing the Gospel.

I had previously been employed as the Children and Family Minister at the Peninsula Parish. Being responsible for the youth programs and getting to know the families and the wider parish brought me joy. Under the caring encouragement of the then rector, Father Michael Davies, I entered discernment which led to formation and ordination. It was a journey of discovery, not only of myself but also of the diocese and what future ministry may hold.

Prior to working in the diocese, as well as tutoring high school students in German and Spanish language, I supported and taught English as a second language to refugee families. Hearing their stories about what they had gone through before arriving in Australia and the challenges they still faced was a reminder of the importance of Jesus' words in Matthew 25:35, 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me...'



Q What are your goals or objectives at Lakes Grammar? How have you found the role so far?

A My time at Lakes Grammar so far has been highly enjoyable. The staff are incredibly proactive and have been so welcoming and supportive of all newcomers.

My goal is to echo the diocesan ethos by offering spiritual care for the school community in an inclusive and accepting way. I have been encouraged by the

value the staff place on empowering each student to be fully who they are so they can flourish and achieve their best in life.

I see the Gospel being lived out each day there, often by people who may be surprised to know that that is exactly what they are doing.

Q You were ordained at Christ Church Cathedral in December. What was that experience like for you?

A For me, ordination day at the Cathedral was a mixture of humid weather, anticipation, and thankfulness.

Being together with the group I had shared the discernment and formation journey with was a delight. We were well looked after by the Cathedral staff, with small acts of thoughtfulness being appreciated by us all.

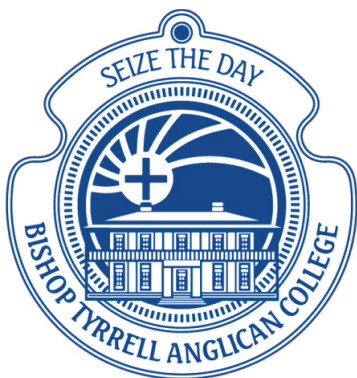
Archdeacon Rod Bower, as Director of Mission, who had put so much hard work and care into our discernment process, looked relieved that we had all managed to remember his instructions. We will all miss his humour and accessibility.

The nerves gave way to relief and, when Bishop Peter laid his hands on my head, with all the other clergy joining in, I felt a sense of belonging. Turning around to face our families and friends was an emotional moment, and I was glad of the support of my loved ones, as well as the Gosford and Peninsula parishioners who had made the journey north in support.

Knowing God has called me to ordained ministry is a privilege and I look forward to the journey ahead. Being a part of the mission of Newcastle Anglican gives me hope about ministering in an organisation that works and lives each day in the way of Jesus, the way of love for all.

As part of her introduction, Reverend Anthea was also asked a number of questions by the school community. You can read her responses on our [Facebook page](#).





★ Bishop Tyrrell
Anglican College

Celebrating 25 years

Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College (BTAC) is celebrating its 25th year in 2024.

Principal Paul Humble warmly welcomed both returning and new students at a whole college assembly.

A special welcome was also extended to the new teaching staff, who were eager to contribute to the thriving college community.

Founded in 1998 as a Christian Learning Community, this remains one of BTAC's core principles.

The college strives to provide a values-based learning experience that inspires students to learn, lead, and serve.

As part of its celebrations, BTAC is planning to host an anniversary ball later this year.



Kindergarten class of 2024

There was an air of excitement at BTAC's junior school as its newest kindergarten students joined the college community.

It was a heartwarming sight to see the eager faces on the young ones and older peers as they share their educational journey together.





Easter fun with a *message of love*

Term 1 is always an exciting and busy time for schools.

With a mid-term Easter break this year, we were all busy sharing and preparing chocolate treats, making ever-more complex Easter hats for the parade, and looking forward to hearing from our new chaplain, Reverend Anthea Haughain.

While Easter traditions vary across the world, Lakes Grammar students enjoy an annual Easter egg raffle, yummy pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, and Easter chapels, which often involve some entertaining student performances.

The message we all need to take from Easter is God's love for all of us. Whether we are one of the 15% of Australians who attend church regularly, or the one third who plan to attend over Easter, the message is clear – we are loved and cared for. No matter who we are.

Lakes Grammar's values of compassion, integrity, justice, wisdom, and courage are seen in the way students, staff and the community support and love one another.

The Building Learning Power attributes are designed to help students produce good results and become good learners.

They also develop learners who are consciously aware of behaviours such as perseverance, self-control, openness to experience, empathy, and tolerance to diverse opinions.

Lakes Grammar aims to create a culture where this is deliberately developed to 'build better futures' for the learners of today and beyond.







★ Manning Valley
Anglican College



Action-packed start to Lent

It was a sugar-filled feast for students and a delightful celebration as Manning Valley Anglican College (MVAC) took part in Shrove Tuesday, also called Pancake Day, last month.

While the pancakes were full of everything buttery and delicious, they brought an added sweetness this year through the college's long-standing, service-learning ethos and partnership with Anglican Aid Abroad.

This year, the donation will go towards Saint Mary's School in the Anglican Diocese of Lahore in Pakistan. Anglican Aid Abroad helps with the provision of school fees, uniforms and other school requirements and even supplies food to keep young minds alert and active.



Following Shrove Tuesday, MVAC hosted chapel services to mark the observance of Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent.

College leaders Harrison Thomas, Eden Rogers, Kobe Mathiske, Amber Northam, and Chapel Prefect Angus Roohan capably and confidently led the chapel services.

The MVAC community was delighted to welcome the Reverend Natalie Quince and Mrs Alyse Gray (from the Anglican Parish of Taree), Reverend Mark Harris (from the Anglican Parish of Forster-Tuncurry), and Elizabeth Falckh (from the Anglican Parish of the Camden Haven).

May the tradition of the Ash Wednesday services put MVAC students, staff and the community on the pathway to observing a holy and godly Lent.





Enjoying new facilities

Scone Grammar School has had a fabulous start to the new year.

Staff and students are excited to be using new facilities and are enjoying the presence it brings to the front of the school.

The new teaching spaces, secondary staff area, and administration spaces are working well and supporting what the school is aiming to achieve.

Many positive developments occurred over the holiday period.

The playground is looking superb with a strong grass cover, while there has been a freshening up of the change rooms and secondary toilet block.

Work has also been done to add a new path, extend the stage in the quadrangle, and complete landscaping in the primary area. The grounds and maintenance team has been extremely busy, and Scone Grammar is grateful for all these developments.

Principal Paul Smart introduced the 2024 motto: 'Give more than you are asked for!'

The motto is seeking to encourage students to work hard in their learning and look to be challenged, not just do the minimum. The passage from Luke's gospel reminds us to give generously of ourselves.

Scone Grammar also hosted its Leaders Induction Service last month. It was a joy to gather and share in this special time in the life of the school.

**Give more
than you are
asked for!**

2024 Motto



Scone Grammar School





Scone Grammar





**Come and join
the largest volunteer base in NSW**

**Do you love working with children?
Are you willing to do some checks
and training?**

**Special Religious Education (SRE) –
or School Scripture teaching
– could be for you!**

What is Special Religious Education?

Commonly known as scripture, SRE has been in NSW public schools since the government took over from the churches in coordinating education in the late 1880s.

Under the Education Act 1990, time must be allowed for scripture in NSW public schools.

Initially students had one hour per day of religious education. Now it is a minimum of 30 minutes per week.

SRE teachers follow an authorised curriculum and have ongoing training and support.

The curriculum also allows for General Religious Education, covering world religions, which can be run by NSW Department of Education teachers under the HSIE subject area.

Why become an SRE teacher?

Newcastle Anglican’s SRE Coordinator Kate Baker says she loves working with volunteer SRE teachers.

“I have found they are generally community-minded, generous, and faith-filled people who just love to give,” she says.

“Many of them love teaching scripture so much that they teach for decades.

“When I ask SRE teachers what motivates them, I get a variety of answers. Many of them say their love for Jesus, and the opportunity to educate students in the Christian faith really motivates them.

“Others talk about the satisfaction and encouragement they get from teaching students and witnessing ‘lightbulb moments’ and answering genuine questions about faith, meaning, and purpose in life. ”

If teaching SRE is something you would like to consider, please speak to your local minister and SRE contacts in your parish.

You may need to go into a classroom and observe a lesson before deciding (you will need a Working with Children Check for this).

Please also feel free to contact Kate if you have ideas on how to promote and encourage more people to invest in this amazing ministry opportunity in NSW public schools.

Fun facts from our diocese

- SRE teaching is the largest volunteer base in NSW, with some 10,000 volunteer SRE teachers.
- Newcastle Anglican currently has about 100 authorised SRE (volunteer) teachers.
- In 2021, around 40% of our volunteer SRE teachers in the Newcastle diocese were professional teachers (mostly retired) or educators. This was consistent with a survey five years prior.
- 95% had experience in volunteer kids' ministry at church for an average of 19 years.
- 95% were also at least diploma-level educated, with 68% degree-qualified or above.
- The average SRE teacher in 2021 was aged 55 and had most likely been teaching for over 20 years, or under five years. A report five years prior showed the average age to be 65. So, SRE teachers appear to be getting younger.

Email

katebaker@newcastleanglican.org.au
for more information.



Support available during University journey

The higher learning academic year is now in full swing.

For Anglican students and staff at the University of Newcastle, the chaplaincy office is a great place to get spiritual, pastoral, and practical support.

Andrew Eaton, from the Parish of Wallsend, has been the Anglican chaplain at Callaghan Campus for five years. He is on campus during Orientation Week and on Fridays through semester.

Andrew, and most of the other chaplains, is a Justice of the Peace.

Chaplains can certify documents and sign affidavits for you. They are available for prayer and spiritual support, theological conversations, or for a coffee and chat when all you need is a friendly and confidential ear.

Keep an eye out for times for prayer, holy communion, meditation, or conversation.

These will be advertised on the boards around the V building at the University of Newcastle.

Chaplaincy is in room vg-03, near the bus stop.



ANGLICAN CHAPLAIN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE, ANDREW EATON.



KOORI MATTERS

by Aunty Di Langham

The Sturt Desert Pea is the state symbol from South Australia.

The Nunga story talks about a young woman evading an arranged marriage by eloping with a young suitor. She is killed and the flower is a symbol of the girl's death.

In our culture it is called the "flower of blood".

Some contemporary Aboriginal people have been using this symbol to represent the blood that was shed during the invasion of our land and the following Frontier Wars.

For a couple of days, many of our people were wearing the desert pea flower as a memorial to our people. It's a bit like the red poppy worn on ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.

The Desert Pea is beautiful. It grows in very arid places. It is for sorrow, and we all know that memories can help us to find our way through the arid places of grief. I find the flower comforting.

Aunty Di Langham

Director of Reconciliation



Samaritans turns 40 in 2024

Samaritans was established on 14 October, 1984 to fulfill the social mission of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle. This work involved providing relief to those suffering poverty or distress.

Samaritans exists to reach out and walk beside those in need. Like the Good Samaritan, every day our people respond with love to those in need.

Almost 40 years on, Samaritans operates more than 100 support services throughout Newcastle, Hunter Valley, Central Coast, Mid North Coast and Mudgee regions.

Throughout these regions, we offer support to many people in need including young people and families, those with disability or mental health challenges, people experiencing homelessness or crisis, and the wider community.

Many Samaritans programs operate thanks to the generosity of local supporters. We are a local charity, supporting locals.

Keep an eye out for the upcoming Winter Appeal, which raises money for Samaritans Student Accommodation service at Wickham.

If you would like to help, you can donate at any time.

Visit www.samaritans.org.au/donate 





Help your community *in times of need*

Disasters often bring out the best in our communities as people rally to support each other in times of need.

Samaritans Disaster Recovery team works with government and non-government organisations to provide an effective and coordinated response in emergencies, such as bushfires, floods, and storms.

Working in close partnership with local Anglican parishes, Samaritans volunteers offer emotional and ministry support and material aid to affected people who arrive at designated evacuation centres.

The Disaster Recovery team has services located in the Central Coast, Hunter, and Mid North Coast regions.

It is currently looking for team leaders who can help to promote interest and build a support network of local volunteers.

These volunteers will be able to respond to disaster recovery efforts at the evacuation centres.

Samaritans also aims to re-establish disaster recovery teams in the Newcastle/Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Singleton, and Mid Coast areas.

All volunteers receive support from Samaritans Regional Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Jo Eddie.

A friendly volunteer business partner will also help new recruits to navigate the onboarding process.

If you are interested in supporting your community in this way, please visit:
www.samaritans.org.au/get-involved/volunteer-with-us



You can also contact Jo on 0427 856 766 or email jo.eddie@samaritans.org.au.

Building friendships

It's a 'money can't buy' experience that is helping to curb a major issue in home care.

An Anglican Care Friendship Group on the Central Coast has improved socialisation and mental stimulation for residents over the better part of a decade.

Central Coast Home Care Manager Lenore Smith said the group started about seven years ago to support people with poor mobility.

"With home care, depression is the biggest problem from both loneliness and isolation," she said.

"So, the group has been a big help in this area. It has allowed these people to create friendships and they've maintained them.

"A lot of them exchange phone numbers and support each other when they are at home on their own.

"In our area, the only day groups available were for people with dementia. So, people we support with mobility issues had nowhere to go.

"This group is for those who need hands-on assistance to get out and about but are still able to interact with their peers."

The friendship group usually involves an exercise program, social cup of tea, a hot lunch, and competitive games.



It has allowed these people to create friendships and they've maintained them.

There is also a different theme each week, with previous events focusing on the Olympics, a 'trip' to Hawaii, and the Melbourne Cup.

Ms Smith added it also strengthened connections between staff and residents.

"Two of our staff members run this group and we're very proud of it," she said.

"On competitive days, it's staff who have to ride the horses for events like the Melbourne Cup, and the residents get to throw dice to see how many blocks we can move.

"They get very competitive, and everyone gets involved. It allows residents to meet new people all the time."

Visit www.anglicancare.com.au for more information about other services across our facilities.



Delicious desserts



Bishop Tyrrell Place staff cooked pastry with some residents to make cheese and cranberry tarts. They were delicious and enjoyed by all.



Cheers to volunteers

A shoutout to our wonderful volunteers at Scenic Lodge. Many of these volunteers have been supporting our staff and residents for more than 10 years. We appreciate all that you do to help the people we support.



Rocky retires

Kilpatrick Court's beautiful pet therapy dog Rocky retired last month. Old age is something we can all relate to, and Rocky is starting to feel the load. Residents and staff enjoyed cuddles and also shed a few tears. Rocky has loved brightening the faces of residents over the last couple of years. Happy retirement, Rocky, from everyone at Kilpatrick Court.



Week of celebrations

East Lake Macquarie Dementia Service recently celebrated cultural and spiritual days of significance.

The festive week started with Shrove Tuesday, with pancake making and tastings of different toppings.

Valentine's/Friendship Day was celebrated with a concert, craft, card making and, of course, chocolate tasting.

Lunar New Year celebrations included a group craft project, food, music, armchair travel, cooks club, and even tastings of dragon fruit for the Year of the Dragon.



Horsing around

Storm Village residents enjoyed a great afternoon patting and feeding carrots to a horse named Faith.





KILPATRICK COURT RESIDENT MOLLIE, 100, WAS CAPTURED ENJOYING THE DAY BY TALENTED LIFESTYLE TEAM MEMBER PAIGE SWAN

Love and friendship is in the air

Anglican Care celebrated Valentine's/Friendship Day with laughter, fun photo booths, craft, and tasty food.

Take a look at some more photos from Kilpatrick Court and Alkira Respite and Day Therapy Centre.





Enjoying the seniors festival

Participants from East Lake Macquarie Dementia Service enjoyed an outing to a concert and morning tea as part of the NSW Seniors Festival.

A lovely morning tea and singalong was had by all.

The NSW Seniors Festival went from 11-24 March.



My 50-year journey

Bruce McAteer

Reverend Bruce McAteer celebrated his 50th anniversary of being a deacon on 15 December 2023. He shares with us the highlights of his journey, from Newcastle to Sydney and, eventually, the Central Coast.

My journey in ordained ministry began when I discerned a call whilst living in Sydney.

I was accepted as a candidate for the Diocese of Newcastle in 1971 and commenced at St. John's College Morpeth in 1972.

I was ordained deacon in December 1973 to serve this role in college.

During 1974 I was also an honorary deacon in the Parish of Morpeth. I served curacies in the Parish of Taree (1975-1978) and the Parish of Cessnock (1978-1979), and I was Rector of the Parish of Wyoming (1979-1987).

In July 1979, I was appointed as Rector of the Parish of Casino in the Diocese of Grafton and, in 1989, I accepted the position of Diocesan Registrar/General Manager.

I served in this capacity until 2004 when I was appointed as the General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Australia.

In 2008, I moved to the Parish of St. Luke, Mosman, in the Diocese of Sydney, from which I retired in 2014.

Since retiring and moving to Kincumber, on the Central Coast, I have become a member of the Parish of Terrigal and I assist as an honorary associate priest when required.

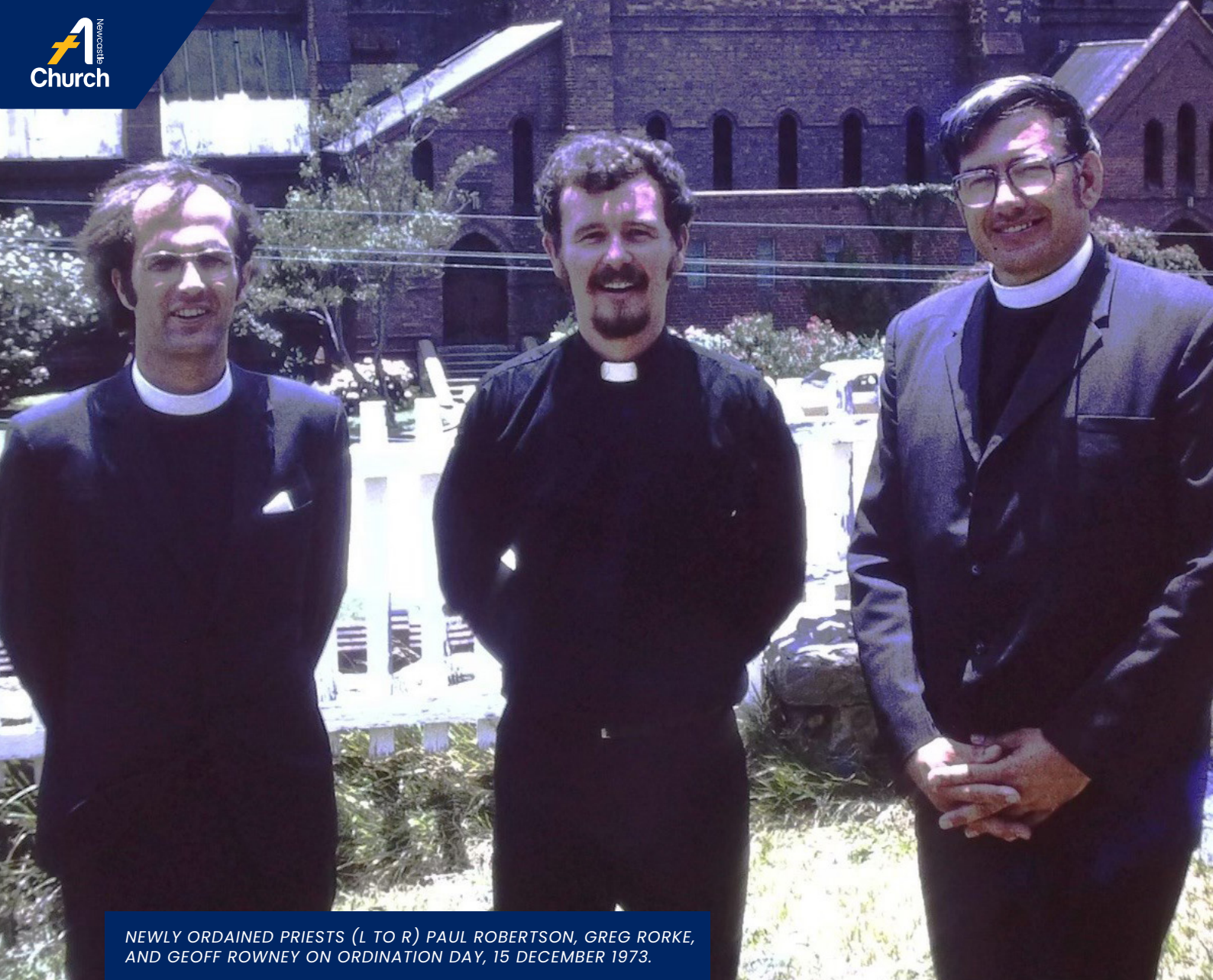
I have also undertaken a number of locums in both the Diocese of Grafton and Newcastle.



I enjoyed conducting services in the various centres of the parish and interacting with some wonderful Anglicans.

Some of the highlights from my time as a deacon were being able to work with the late Canon Robert Mawson and to minister each weekend and in college holidays within the Parish of Morpeth.

I enjoyed conducting services in the various centres of the parish and interacting with some wonderful Anglicans. I learnt that the 'servant ministry' role of the deacon is the basis for all ministry.



NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS (L TO R) PAUL ROBERTSON, GREG RORKE, AND GEOFF ROWNEY ON ORDINATION DAY, 15 DECEMBER 1973.

My 50-year journey

Paul Robertson

Reverend Paul Robertson celebrated his 50th anniversary of being a priest on 15 December 2023. He was the first deacon in the history of the Diocese of Newcastle to be ordained priest in full 'Catholic' vestments. Here is his journey.

I was ordained a priest 50 years ago in Christ Church Cathedral on 15 December 1973.

The occasion for me had its fair share of crisis, drama, and stress.

I was stuck in New Delhi, India, with a useless Cathay Pacific airline ticket, courtesy of my

London travel agent. It could get me back to Australia, but only after the ordination.

Ah....now British Airways could get me home in time, but I would need to buy another ticket.

In the end, I arrived in Sydney on 12 December 1973.

I had returned after three years in England at Durham University, having been made a deacon the previous year in Durham Cathedral and graduating with a degree in Biblical Studies and Theology.

Prior to the ordination, there was a quick reunion with the others to be ordained priest with me: Greg Rorke and Geoff Rowney. And the three to be made deacon: Terry Frewin, Bruce McAteer, and Graham McLeod.

The focus, however, was on the rehearsal.

Changes were afoot. A new bishop had arrived, and he was determined to make his mark.

What better place to start than at an ordination, by changing a few things. Priests had previously been ordained in simple surplice, cassock, and red stole.

We were now to be ordained in full 'Catholic' vestments. This meant cassock, alb, amice, chasuble, and stole. Because the colour was red for the Feast of St Thomas, red chasubles had to be found, along with dalmatics for the deacons. Red chasubles were rare in those days.

The ordination went ahead on Saturday 15 December.

The six candidates were on parade for all to see as we made a figure of eight procession around the Cathedral, chanting the Litany.

Being a Robertson, in front of Rorke and Rowney, I was the first deacon in the history of the Diocese of Newcastle to be ordained priest in full vestments.

A dubious honour?

The irony was that I was from the evangelical stable, along with Rorke, and we sat uneasily in this new garb.

To us, it was akin to Saul's armour on a young David who, as we know, preferred only his trusty slingshot against Goliath.

Nevertheless, we blazed the trail for those who came after us, and who rejoiced in this advanced form of apparel.

Fifty years on, what was then an innovation has become the accepted tradition.

Yet, as with half a century ago, the tradition may change again.

The first Bishop of Newcastle, William Tyrrell, wore the white rochet and black chimere, and his candidates for ordination wore the simple black gown.

Times change, and so does fashion – even clerical dress.

I went on to be appointed curate at St Peter's Hamilton. It was at Hamilton where the most important event of my life occurred: marriage.

I met a beautiful young woman, Noreen Drury, a dairy farmer's daughter from Central Lansdowne, near Taree.

***Fifty years on, what was then
an innovation has become
the accepted tradition .***

We were married in St Peter's Church on 15 May 1976.

In the years that followed, there was another curacy at Cessnock and further post graduate study at the University of Newcastle.

Nine years as rector at Scone saw to the reestablishing and reopening of Scone Grammar School.

I then spent a year on exchange back in the Diocese of Durham, and 22 years as rector at All Saints' Church New Lambton.

There was more study; lecturing part time to ordinands in Church History at Morpeth, until the college closed; and pressing for the purchase of property to establish Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College while serving as Area Dean of Newcastle West.

I was also a pre-retirement locum in Ireland before actual retirement in 2010.

As I thank God for 50 years as a priest, I am grateful for the opportunities given to lead and to serve among God's 'royal priesthood', the body of Christ.

In the time that remains, Noreen and I spend as much of it as we can with our grandchildren. Family life has become so much more important.

We now live in a multicultural, multi faith, secular Australia – a world away from 50 years ago.

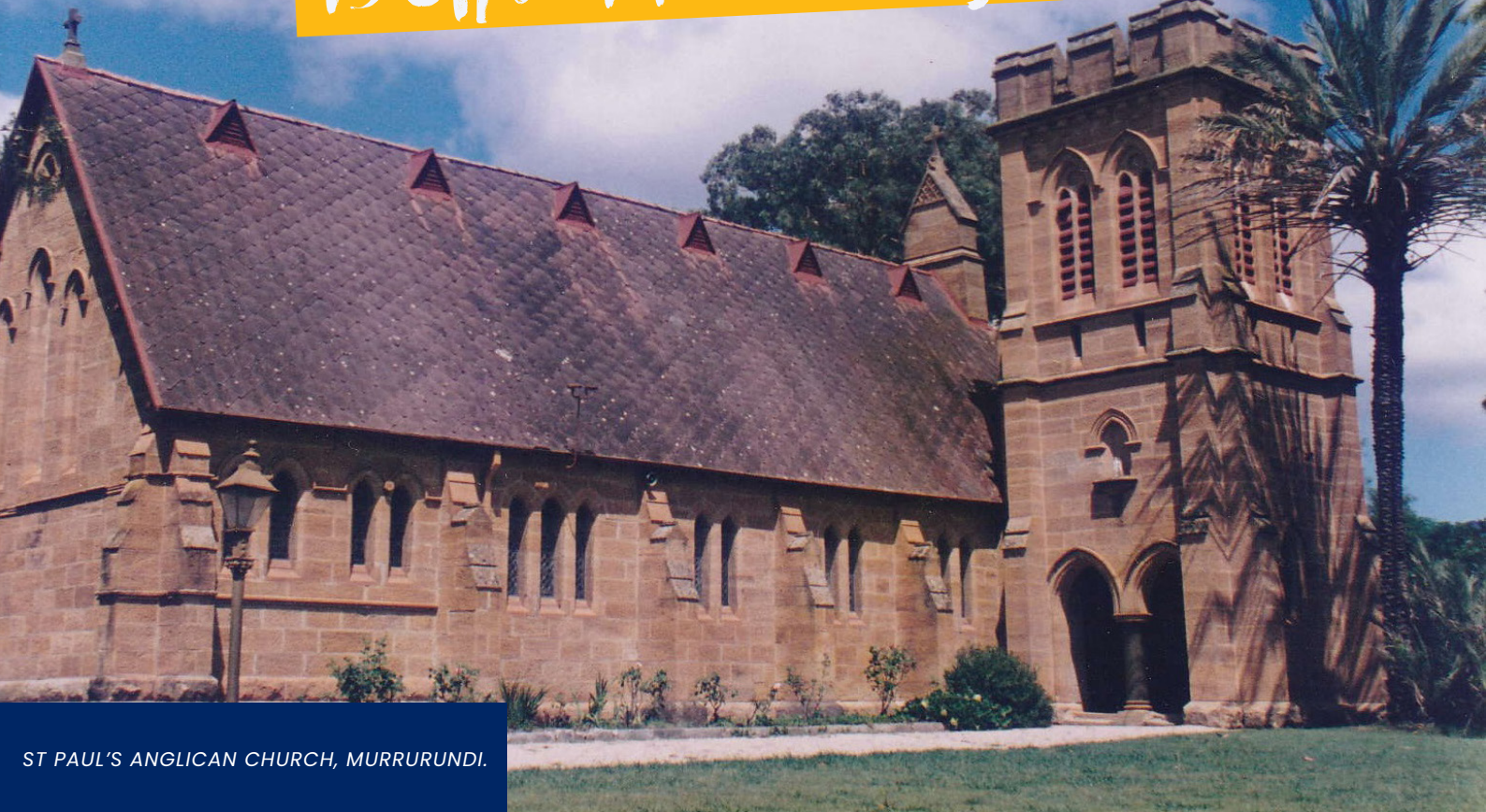
Our prayer is that in their journey, our grandchildren may encounter the living Christ and find life, meaning, and purpose in Him. As is our prayer for all who may read this.



**A RECENT PHOTO OF PAUL ROBERTSON
AND HIS WIFE NOREEN.**

Historic church's

150th anniversary



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, MURRURUNDI.

St Paul's Anglican Church, Murrurundi, is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2024.

The historic parish in the Upper Hunter has undergone many changes over the years.

On 16 July 1843, the first Church of England service, presided over by Bishop Broughton, took place in the Murrurundi Court House.

The first St Paul's Church was a wooden structure built by A and WJ Mackay for 230 pounds.

In 1872, the parish council decided to build a new church to cater for the increase in parishioners.

John Horbury Hunt, a prominent architect, was approached to design a stone church to accommodate 200 people and the cost was not to exceed 1000 pounds. James Sherwood's tender of 1200 pounds was accepted.

The parish council called for subscriptions to pay for the construction of the new church. The main subscribers were FR White (200 pounds), JP Lukes (50 pounds), PW Wright (25 pounds), F White (25 pounds) and the Bishop of Newcastle (25 pounds). Reverend WDR

Lewis was the rector of the parish during the development of plans for the new church.

On 24 April 1873, the foundation stone was laid for the new church.

Reverend Lewis died suddenly on 17 October 1873 and his body was interred under the sanctuary of the new church.

The new church was formally opened on 24th June 1873, and was consecrated on 12 October 1877 by the Bishop of Sydney.

During 1880, a memorial reredos (an ornamental tile mosaic covering the wall behind the altar) was erected as a memorial to Reverend Lewis.

In 1900, serious cracks appeared in the south wall of the church. The wall was secured by installing iron rods along it.

Eight years later, the wooden shingle roof was replaced with fibro tiles. A stone tower was erected in 1912 by the White family as a memorial to FR White.

Acetylene gas was installed in the church during 1912 and the pipe organ in the church was partly destroyed in 1921.

An electric generator was installed in the church in 1925 and the church was connected to the town electricity supply in 1932.

A new altar replaced the old one in the sanctuary in 1964. Red carpet was laid in 1986.

A severe hailstorm in 2015 damaged the roof of the church which was already in need of replacement. The roof was repaired using imported slate tiles.

Refurbishment of the wooden floorboards and the pews also took place at this time.

At the end of 2007, Father Jim Hudson resigned from the parish – its last stipendiary priest.

The parish was then left in the capable hands of local ordained ministers Reverend Barbara Morgan, Reverend Wendy Jackson and Reverend Peter Rothnie.

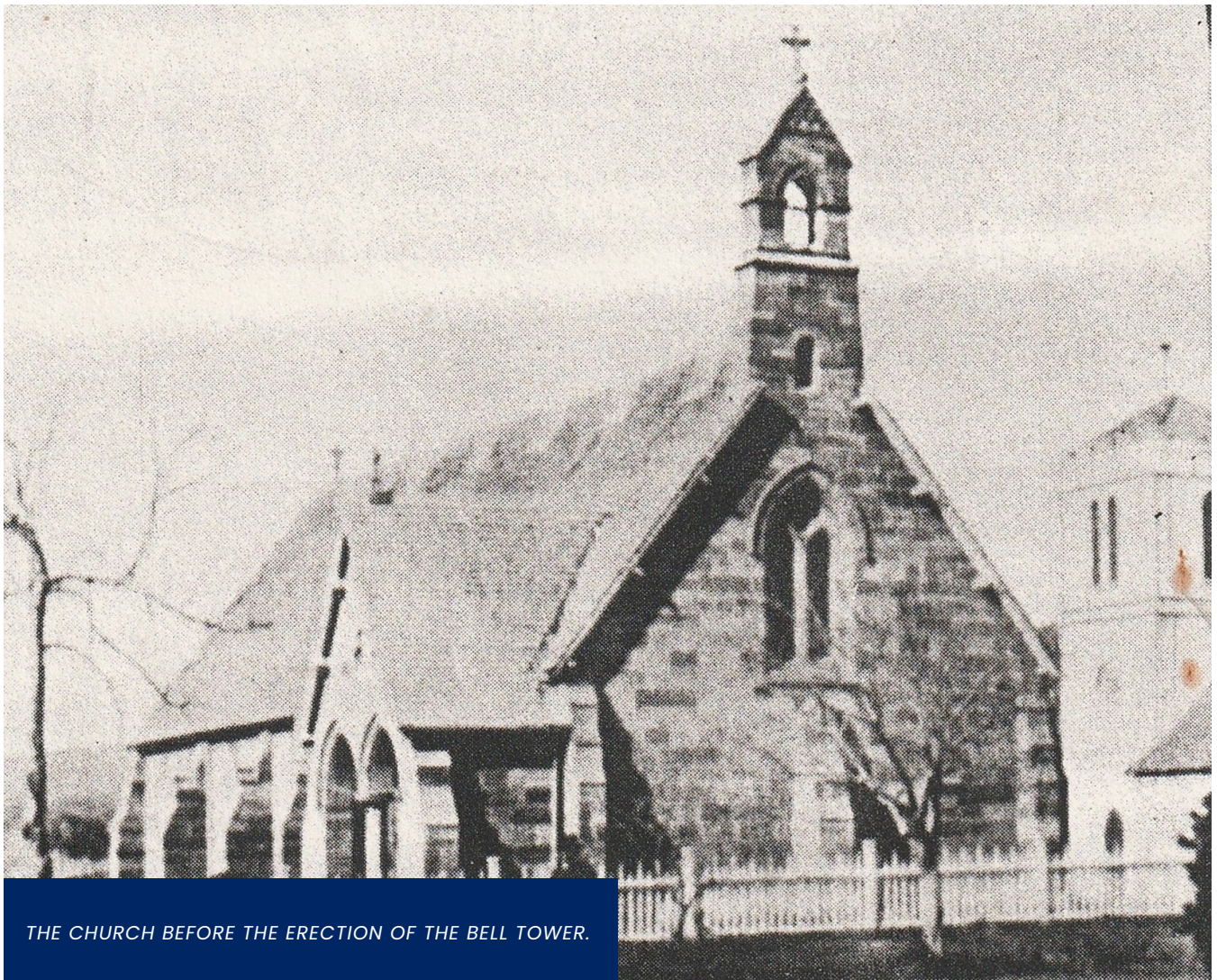
Reverend Barbara Morgan's ministry continues as St Paul's Anglican Church celebrates its 150th birthday.

The occasion will be celebrated with a special service on Sunday 23 June. Bishop Sonia Roulston will officiate.

The service will be followed by refreshments in the church grounds and the Parish Hall. A historical display will be mounted in Murrurundi Museum's annexe (the former Presbyterian church, now affectionately called 'God's Waiting Room').

If you are interested in attending this event and/or have items that may be suitable for the display, please contact Reverend Barbara Morgan on 0419 844 306 or Michelle Cooper on 0478 397 149.

If you have contact information for former priests and parishioners, please forward those to either Barbara or Michelle.



THE CHURCH BEFORE THE ERECTION OF THE BELL TOWER.



Communities come together to *Celebrate Christmas*

Newcastle Anglican’s service agency Samaritans held its 2023 Christmas Appeal to support thousands of local families who are struggling.

Samaritans President Bishop Peter Stuart said the charity had been sharing Christmas generosity, kindness, and goodwill with as many families as possible for more than 20 years.

“Every year, Samaritans supports thousands of people in our community who do not have sufficient resources for food, utilities, and basic living needs,” he said.

“We know that people’s emotional and financial struggles become more intense

during the festive season. Often, it is harder to get support.

“Samaritans is committed to making a positive difference.”

Thanks to the generosity of the local community, Samaritans received another influx of financial donations and gifts for its toy warehouse.

Volunteers, Samaritans staff and the wider community worked tirelessly to prepare for Christmas events in Singleton and Newcastle.



On Christmas Eve, an annual tradition came full circle as Singleton celebrated a special lunch at All Saints Anglican Parish Hall.

This signalled a return to the original venue where the event was held nearly 20 years ago.

The wet weather on the day didn't dampen spirits.

Wonderful volunteers helped prepare food onto platters and serving bowls, while hampers, puddings, custard, and cold drinks were also made available.

Every guest received a gift from Santa and his happy elves. It was an event full of joy, laughter, and togetherness.

You can [watch NBN News' coverage](#) of the lunch or check out Samaritans [Facebook page](#) for more photos.

On Christmas Day, about 1,200 people packed Foreshore Park for Samaritans annual lunch in Newcastle.



Samaritans is committed to making a positive difference.

Here is a snapshot of what was delivered on the day:

- **20 hams carved**
- **3,000 soft drinks and water**
- **1,000 serves of pudding**
- **600 toys distributed**

[Watch this video](#) to see some of the magic from the day. You can also view more photos [here](#).

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers, donors, sponsors and staff for helping Samaritans deliver another year of Christmas activities for the people we support.





Anglican Newcastle

Anglican
Church Newcastle

Anglican
Schools Newcastle

Anglican
care

Samaritans