

This Week's Diary

Sunday March 18 4th Sunday in Lent	Holy Communion	7:30am
	Holy Communion	9:30am
	Bible Study Group	5:00pm
Monday March 19	Trinity Foundation	8.00am
	Morning Prayer	8:30am
	Evening Prayer	5:30pm
Tuesday March 20	Morning Prayer	8:30am
	Evening Prayer	5:30pm
	Diocesan Historical Society	7.00pm
Wednesday March 21	Holy Communion	7:15am
	Morning Prayer	8:30am
	Holy Communion	10:30am
	Evening Prayer	5:30pm
	Choir Practice	7:30pm
Thursday March 22	Morning Prayer	8:30am
	Bishop in Council	9.30am
	Evening Prayer	5:30pm
	OAGS Council	7.30pm
Friday March 23	Morning Prayer	8:30am
	Evening Prayer	5:30pm
	Men's Dinner	6.30pm
Saturday March 24	Holy Communion	5:30pm
Sunday March 25 Fifth Sunday in Lent	Holy Communion	7:30am
	Holy Communion	9:30am
	Bible Study Group	5:00pm

Readings: Jeremiah 31.31-34, Psalm 119: 9-16, Hebrews 5:5-14, John 12:20-33

Parish Office:

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9.00am - 1.00pm Monday to Friday
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Rector

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Associate Priest

The Rev'd Canon Margaret Finlay
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Pastoral Worker

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Honorary Assistant Priest

The Rev'd Jane Chapman
0412 353 010



Holy Trinity Anglican Church - Orange

Growing, loving and serving God in the Community

18th March 2012

Fourth Sunday In Lent

From The Rev Jane Chapman

Our reading from Numbers this week starts with the Israelites becoming impatient with the journey on which God, through Moses, leads them. They are up to their necks with their "wilderness experience" and manna from Heaven is now boring and miserable.

To top it off, God sends a bunch of deadly snakes and they have started to die. When they repent and ask Moses to intercede with God, what happens? The snakes keep coming and biting, but God arranges a cure...which involves the snakes again!

And yet, how very like life as we can experience it. So often it is hard to make sense of how the God in our lives answers our prayers.

An Old Testament theme seems to say: "I have seen the plight of my people. I have heard their cry, and now I am moved to act."

What neither the people then, nor we now, are able to do is to control the moment or the manner of God's response.

In faith, we are called to hope that God has heard and seen us, and *will* act. In faith, we await the timing and the manner of that action. It may seem early, late or arbitrary (by our standards), yet still we are called upon to trust. What we can be assured of

is that the action, or – to our puzzled eyes – the *in*action of God will be motivated by love.

The psalmist acknowledges that life is tough, (a true wilderness) but he remains confident that the loving kindness of God will triumph over adversity.

Paul picks up this theme in Ephesians, in a passage that is a hymn to the kindness, the mercy of a God, whose nature is to call us out of a life of self-preoccupation and self-indulgence, into an aliveness in Jesus who becomes our way of life.

Jesus takes up this message in conversation with Nicodemus, with the ironic twist of speaking about light and dark with a man who dares only to visit him at night!

As the one who is becoming our Redeemer, Jesus stands poised between the light of his salvific role and the encroachment of darkness. It is his job to drive back. From here, his whole consciousness is of a God who sees, who listens and who cares.

It is Jesus himself who is God's action on our behalf.



To our visitors Welcome to our parish community.

We hope you enjoy your worship here today.

Please stay on for a cup of tea after the services if you are able.



Prayer Response

Good Shepherd, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In our Prayers

- The Anglican Church in South East Asia
- Bishops Richard and John, Archdeacon Robert Howell, and diocesan leaders
- Those for whom terror, violence and suffering are everyday realities
- Those affected by flooding
- Faith, in waiting for prayer to be answered
- The Rudd and Marr families in their grief

Each Wednesday during Lent, Holy Communion is celebrated at 7.15am in the Chapel.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday— 1st April

Please Note: Holy Communion will be celebrated in the 9.30am Family Service

- On Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd, Wednesday 4th April, Holy Communion will be celebrated at 7:15 am in the Chapel
- Thursday 5th April: Meal in Passover Style, 6.30pm. Please bring lamb, a salad or drinks to share. Unleavened bread will be supplied.
Liturgy of the Last Supper, at 8pm

Good Friday

9.00am Morning Prayer
5.30pm Evening Prayer

Easter Eve, 9:30 am Working Bee

Easter Day, April 8

7.30am and 9:30am
Christ Church, Borenore,
9:30 am

- **Blessing of the Harvest, 15th April 10 am**

Lectionary Reflection

Numbers 21.4-9; Psalm 107.1-3, 17-22;
Ephesians 2.1-10; John 3.14-21

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (Jn 3.16). From the beginning, God desired to live with his People, but the People of God did evil in his eyes. Yet the Lord did not abandon them, “He sent forth his Word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave” (Ps 107.19-20). God sent his Son to “make us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions” (Eph 2.5). It is one thing to die for a friend, but it is another thing to die for an enemy. God sent his son to die for us so that we may be alive together.

- Pray for those who feel rejected or alone, those who feel like enemies of God. Pray that they may find new life and reconciliation.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Province of South East Asia

Please remember that Bush Church Aid money boxes should be returned this month.

Men’s Fellowship Dinner, 6.30pm, March 23. All men are welcome to attend. Names to the Parish Office for catering purposes, please.

The Parish Paper is available for delivery today. Many extra names have been added. It is vital to deliver it as quickly as possible please. Speak to Bill Marshall (6362 3185) if you can help. Thank you.

‘mainly music’ will now commence in Term 3. Helpers are still needed to establish the group. Speak to Rachel Budden for more information.

Lenten Reflections 2012

A number of typographical errors have been found in the document prepared within the parish. Please contact the Parish Office for the corrected version.

The Rev Dr Max Wood is preaching this afternoon at 4:30 pm at Evensong in all Sts Cathedral. All are welcome to attend.

Theatre Luncheon Thursday, 29 March - proceeds to Blayney Anglican Parish. Tickets available - please see notice board.

Bible and Lenten Study Groups

Christian Life and Witness training sessions are being held at the Christian Outreach Centre, Cecil Road at 7:30 pm on Monday and Wednesday evenings, and 10 am on Thursdays, in preparation for the **Reality Event** in May.

The Tuesday evening Bible study group is in recess until after Easter.

“Towards the Light” Studies:

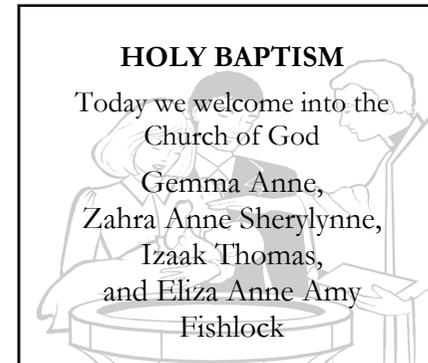
Tuesday, 10 am to 11:30 am for women; contact Julie Jeffriess 0458910034

Wednesday, 12.30pm-1.30pm in the Choir Vestry with Jane; bring your lunch.

“And it was good”:

No meeting next Thursday.

Copies of “Towards the Light” are available from the Parish Office for \$10. They provide excellent reflections on the gospel readings for Lent.



Parish Council Notes

Thursday, April 15, 2012

Apologies: Mark Bessen, Ann Holden, Ray Norman, Allan Fox.

- Father Frank is still negotiating to fill another position.
- David Ironside was reappointed as chairperson.
- Minutes of the Annual Meeting were presented and confirmed.
- A number of elections were held over, including committee appointments, until the next meeting when all members can be present.

Recommendations from the Annual General Meeting are:

- *Appoint a person to keep mission giving before congregations*
- *Using “Managing Change” as a study*
- *Regularly transfer budget amounts into a separate account*
- *To conduct close negotiation with Holy Terrors regarding “mainly music”*
These will be discussed at the next meeting.

General Matters:

Audit and auditor for 2012: this matter was referred to the churchwardens for a detailed report.

Diocesan Income Account: a report from the Diocese on the management of present financial crisis was tabled. This matter was also referred to the churchwardens for reporting and recommendations.

Finances: (March 15, 2012)

General Account, \$12,872;
Trust Account \$33,394

Workplace Health and Safety: a report was discussed in detail; some matters were actioned for immediate attention; others will be discussed in April.

A number of ground and maintenance matters will be finalised soon.