



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

1 February 2008

02/08

From the Bishop's Desk

Dear Friends

REVD THEVATHASAN PREMARAJAH (PREM)

Last night I had the privilege of commissioning the REVD THEVATHASAN PREMARAJAH (PREM) as Priest in Charge of the Parish of Deloraine. Please pray for Prem, his wife Yogi and the Parish as they settle into their ministry together.

MISSION SUPPORT OFFICERS

The role of a Mission Support Officer is principally one of support for the clergy and lay leadership of parishes within their network. The Bishop's six strategic challenges to the Diocese will require the Mission Support Officers to act as agents of change, serving and encouraging the clergy and local church leaders in becoming the church we are called to be in Tasmania into the future.

THE VENERABLE JILL McCOY

At the same Service the VENERABLE JILL McCOY has been collated as Mission Support Officer for the North West Mission Network and I ask for your prayer and encouragement of Jill in this new and challenging role.

THE VENERABLE HELEN CHICK

It gives me great pleasure to announce the appointment of the HELEN CHICK as the Mission Support Officer for the Northern Rural Mission Network.

The Northern Rural Mission Network is an extensive rural area covering Break O'Day, Dorset, Furneaux Islands, Evandale/Nile, Northern Midlands, Cressy, Longford/Perth and Quamby.

I am delighted that Helen's gifting can be ministered in this broader setting. Helen is a team player, an inclusive leader, creative, pastoral with good communication skills and a passionate discipleship concerned to live and share God's rescue plan.

Helen will continue her current ministries as Priest in Charge of the Parishes of the Furneaux Islands and Dorset.

The appointment commences on the 1st February and Helen's Commissioning and Collation as Mission Support Officer will take place on Sunday 3rd February during my pastoral visit to the Furneaux Islands. Please pray for Helen in her new role as Mission Support Officer.

BOB and JAN McKAY

Bob and Jan finish their current ministries on Sunday February 10th at North Launceston and with Christian radio. They leave on the Spirit of Tasmania February 13th for their new ministry with Bush Church Aid at Roxby Downs (turn right at Woomera/North of Port Augusta - Bob's description) in the Diocese of Willochra. Bob and Jan can be contacted on email interims@bigpond.net.au, mobile is 0409 686 768 or home number is 08 86710270.

*A Celebration of the Institution of the Lord's Supper, the Renewal of
Commitment of Christ's Ministry, and the Blessing of Oils*

WEDNESDAY

19 March 2008

11 am Cathedral Church of St David

AND

4pm St Andrew's Westbury

Can I please encourage all clergy and laity to attend one of these important and very moving services.

For further details contact my Personal Assistant, Sandra Fagan – 62202015,
The Dean, Dr Lindsay Stoddart – 62 344900 or
Revd Jo Pyecroft – 63911042

Light refreshments will follow each service

THE BISHOP AND THE SERPENT

My escapade with the serpent is gaining notoriety beginning with the above titled article in the *Mercury* of 8th January, a cheeky letter to the Editor on the 12th suggesting a link between my poor theology and the snake bite as the punishment from the three Wise Men on Epiphany, a follow up lifestyle article by Linda Smith in the *Mercury* of 23rd January and Arthur Wherrett's article in the February *Tasmanian Anglican*. Such is the public Office of the Bishop of Tasmania!

The short version of the story is that we were relaxing. Arthur Wherrett and I had finished stacking hay for the donkeys in the stable, after collecting it from Dover during the latter part of a very hot Saturday afternoon. I decided to show Arthur how some willow logs that we had cut and stacked over winter had started to sprout shoots and send roots into the ground.

It was dusk. We walked to the log pile beside the nearby creek. Moving the logs to show their growth, I suddenly felt a sharp sting on my forearm. Instinctively, I grasped my forearm and in doing so brushed away something that I thought was a slug or perhaps rotting foliage. I assumed the stinging sensation was caused by a jagged edge of a falling log.

The stinging in my forearm lessened my enthusiasm for the log pile and so we set about unhooking the float. The sting was painful. I could feel it was swelling, although I could not see it because it was on the back of my forearm. Thinking now perhaps it was a spider bite I walked into the house, straight to the bathroom and began rubbing on some ointment.

In the kitchen my wife, Gayelene, noticed me rubbing my forearm and, upon looking at it, saw to her consternation fang puncture marks! Being a mere male I was not easily convinced it was a snake bite. Gayelene rang the reptile rescue service. The clear advice

was that if it looks like a snake bite and feels like a snake bite then treat it as a snake bite - and quickly! I spent the next 20 hours in the Emergency Department of the Royal Hobart Hospital where I received outstanding care. I was very fortunate. It was a dry bite (little or no venom).

My beloved bride, upon being queried by puzzled staff in the Emergency Ward as to why she rang the reptile rescue service, rather than the ambulance smiled weakly and replied, "He is a male. He would not go to the hospital. He would not listen to his wife. He did not believe it was a snake bite. I rang the reptile service to convince him to go to the hospital!" At this point in her reply, the bride of 38 years of married life is shaking her head in despair, if not disbelief. The women in the group, every last one of them, exchange knowing looks – the sisterhood. I look down. Nothing to add. Sorry, fellas.

Life is a gift from God. It hangs by a thread. It is fragile. It is a privilege and a responsibility. Thank God for life, every day.

What is life for? – To love God and to love your neighbour as yourself. Enjoy!

See <http://www.tasmaniananglican.com/>



Beyond Imagination The Gathering

1st March 2008 10am – 5pm

Door of Hope,

40 Glen Dhu Street, South Launceston

Can I encourage you to make every effort to attend this important Diocesan event and invite your family and friends. There is a full program including the Idea of North – a world recognised a cappella quartet, the return of Peter Gray and his amazing wobbly wire, Cameron Semmens the Tasmanian poet extraordinaire, Scripture Union Children's Program and Infants Creche and the all new Gathering Gallery

Further information can be found at <http://www.anglicantas.org.au/>

SOME DIARY DATES

1-4 February	Furneaux Islands
10 February	Parish of Buckland
15-17 February	General Synod Standing Committee
24-26 February	Retreat with Ven Dr Chris Jones and Ven Ross Nicholson
26 February	Ordination
1 March	The Gathering, Launceston
2 March	Parish of Holy Trinity Launceston
5 March	Anglican Book Room closing service, St George's Battery Point

Yours sincerely in Christ's service
Shalom

John Harrower
Bishop of Tasmania