



Advent 2022

The Statement from the Heart came out of the most extensive consultation of First Nations people ever. To gain the agreement of such a diversity of people from all over Australia, urban and remote, from the centre to the Torres Strait, is an extraordinary thing.

The Statement is also beautifully written, concise, powerful and deep. It speaks into our understanding of what it is to be Australian and what it is to be an Australian church and it has been endorsed by both the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council and the National Aboriginal Bishop.

All this means that Australians generally, and the church in particular, need to listen very carefully to it. Scripture teaches us to pay particular attention to voices crying in the Wilderness.

Any prophetic call is likely to be strange and Challenging. But it may also be the way to hear the voice of God for our time.

Five years ago on 2017 the Anglican Church of Australia responded to the historic Statement from the Heart and General Synod supported the call for a constitutionally-entrenched First Nations' Voice to the Commonwealth Parliament and asked the Public Affairs Commission to prepare resources in consultation with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council. →



Thanksgiving Service

Members of Mothers' Union around the Diocese met at Mount Barker church on Monday 28th November for their End of Year Thanksgiving Service celebrated by Fr. Daniel Irvine.

It was quite like 'old times' as Jasmine and Connor came too. We welcomed a new member from the branch at Southern Suburbs and Commissioned the members of the Executive for the coming three years.

After the Communion service we adjourned to the church hall for lunch and a short meeting.

16 Days of Activism

"Give up your violence and oppression and do what is just and right" Ezekiel 45:9 (NIV)

During the United Nations' 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (25 November - 10 December),



ABM has responded with an 8-part study designed to help the church listen to the Statement from the Heart and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christians.

Mothers' Union joined with thousands of other organisations to raise awareness of the campaign against Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

GBV is one of the most widespread violations of human rights. It can affect any person at any time; it takes place in many forms; it spans many societies. It can be part of a culture's social norms; it can be hidden behind closed doors.

Violence against women and girls remains the most pervasive human rights violation around the world. Already heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic, its prevalence is now being further increased by the intersecting crises of climate change, global conflict and economic instability.

Whatever form it takes, GBV is unacceptable. We strive to do all we can to end it.

Pray that the action of many will help shine a light into the darkness. John Wesley said *"Prayer is where the action is."*

So let us be assured that prayer is also the 'real work'! Our prayers will make a difference as we petition our righteous God.

James 5:16 states that when a believing person prays, great things happen.

As believing people, let us make the most of God's open door to us and pray with faith for gender justice.

(Adapted from Mother's Union Prayer Diary 2022 p79)

It is hoped that we can begin using this study early in the New Year following the Wednesday morning Eucharist and perhaps at some other convenient time in the parish.



Farewell Doris

Doris Court was born on 29th March 1935 and died in Strathalbyn Aged Care on the 13th November 2022

She lived at Stirling until she married John Court and they moved to Mine Flat Road, Strathalbyn.

After John died she tried to manage the farm on her own, with help in later years. Almost all the cows were personally named and she called them all "her girls".

When she became less mobile she had help from Resthaven but in the end she needed continual help. and spent the last seventeen months of her life in Strathalbyn Aged Care.

Beryl Jean Merrick née Ackroyd, 1920-2022



Beryl was born in South Kensington, a Sydney suburb on the 31st December 1920 and even before her mother Adelina

had time to bring her home her father Percy had bought the first of a series of hotels in country NSW which would be home for her over the next seven years.

They then moved to Woonona, a suburb of Wollongong and she attended the local primary school before gaining a scholarship to Wollongong High School. She began studying dressmaking at TAFE but did not complete the course due to the outbreak of WW2.

She met Eddie Merrick at a dance in 1938. In 1942 when they were thinking of marriage Eddie asked her if she would like an engagement ring or a block of land. She chose the land but they went to the Randwick Races on the Queen's Birthday in 1942 and Eddie had a good win — so she was able to have the engagement ring as well.

They were married on the 4th September 1943 and Beryl's brother Jack who was in the Airforce was posted to Darwin two days before the wedding.

Happy Birthday David



David Dridan turned ninety on the 15th December and you can read all about his artistic achievements in the latest issue of "The Southern Argus". I am sure that we all join in offering him our congratulations and best wishes. I have taken the liberty of including a portrait which appeared in a catalogue in 2016. It was painted by Barry Humphries who also wrote the "Foreword" to the publication, saying of David that "his talk is as entertaining as his brush is adroit".

Celebrating Christmas



Sun 18 December - Advent 4

8.15 am Holy Communion,
St Mary's Milang

10.00 am Holy Communion,
Christ Church Strathalbyn
6.00 pm Lessons & Carols
Christ Church Strathalbyn

Wednesday 21 December

9.30 am Holy Communion,
Christ Church Strathalbyn

Sat 24 Dec - Christmas Eve

4.30 pm Crib Service,
Christ Church Strathalbyn
7.30 pm Holy Communion,
St George's Meadows
7.30 pm Holy Communion,
St Mary's Milang

Sun 25 Dec - Christmas Day

9.30 am Holy Communion,
Christ Church, Strathalbyn

Wednesday 21 December

9.30 am Holy Communion,
Christ Church Strathalbyn

Eddie's sister Peggy, the Bridesmaid, who was in the Navy was more fortunate. She arrived just three hours before the service was due to start.

Dianne was born when they lived with Beryl's Grannie while their house was being built and the family was able to move into it in June 1949. It was to be their home for forty-nine years.

Beryl started teaching needlework, at first part-time and then, on the headmaster's recommendation, full time.

Eddie died in June 1998 and Beryl moved to Strathalbyn in March 2001. She loved the town and joined a number of different organizations.

She especially enjoyed being with her family and would travel far and wide to watch her great-grandchildren playing their sport. She is greatly missed by all her friends and especially by the members of her family.

The Anglican Parish of Strathalbyn

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev'd Andrew Klynsmith
Mobile: 0401 935 823

Newsletter Editor: The Rev'd Alex Stone

Website: <http://strathalbynganglicans.org.au/>

Telephone: (Parish Secretary) 0412 311 629