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**No. 32**                                      **Harbinger**                                      **June 2009**

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### **PERIGRINATIONS OF THE PICCOLO PRIEST**

During May and June I had the opportunity of spending four weeks in the United Kingdom. I had several projects, one of which was to locate the graves of some of my ancestors, in particular the Cazaly family (French Huguenots) in London, and the Graves and Little families near Carlisle in Cumbria. (I was successful in both places.)

I also made arrangements to meet up with our Presiding Bishop, M.Rev. Graham Wale, who lives on the south coast near Brighton. On Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> May, I attended the Liberal Catholic Church in Putney where Bishop Graham was rostered to celebrate. As the drive to Putney takes him two hours, the service started at 11.30 am. He was accompanied by his charming wife Kilann, who acted as his crozier bearer, and he was also assisted by Father Charles, a devoted priest of the parish, who acted as server.

The congregation was smaller than ours, but the sense of the sacred and of commitment was very strong. (A photo of the occasion will be placed on the LCC website soon.) On the Wednesday I met Bishop Graham in West Worthing where his wife works in the office of a Funeral Director, and we had a wonderful chat.

I first met Bishop Graham at the G.E.S. in Sydney in the 1900s when he had just been ordained to the priesthood, and it was wonderful to meet him again. He doubles the roles of Regionary Bishop for Great Britain and Presiding Bishop, both of which are very demanding. We include him in our prayers at the celebration of every parish Eucharist, and I ask you also to include him in your private daily prayers.

During my wanderings down Threadneedle Street in the centre of London, I came across a small church that was tucked in between tall commercial buildings. It was St Ethelburga's. It is one of the oldest medieval churches in London. It survived the great Fire of London in 1666 and the Blitz during W.W.II. Unfortunately, it did not survive the huge IRA bomb that exploded outside in the street. It has been completely rebuilt and was reopened in November 2002 as the St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace.

This multi-faith centre is doing wonderful work. It hosts workshops, exhibitions and cultural events. It brings people together from different faiths, hosts dialogue between people in conflict and provides training in peace-making skills.

They use a special prayer for the ending of violence, and it is included in this newsletter. Their website is [www.stethelburga.org](http://www.stethelburga.org).

I travelled to Llandudno (pronounced Clandudno!) in North Wales to visit an old friend. The town is on the coast with a bay either side of it and facing the Irish Sea. During my time there the sea was absolutely tranquil. My friend, Bishop Gerard Crane (of another jurisdiction) and his wife Rev. Pamela, were wonderful hosts. On the Sunday morning they took me up the small mountain alongside the town and bay (called the Great Orme – it is in the shape of a sleeping dragon.).

There we walked to an 11<sup>th</sup> century church (St Tudno, a 6<sup>th</sup> century saint) where there was to be a morning service to celebrate the coming of Summer. (The parishioners from the Anglican Church in the town came up for this event.) A retired Anglican priest conducted the service, we had an electronic organ, and the weather was absolutely perfect. We had the service outside the building, and you could look over to the sea during the service. Perfect!

Anyway, the celebrant come over to me and invited me to present the one reading (John 17:6-9) for the service. Of course, I accepted. Then, during the singing of the last hymn he came over again and invited me to give the final blessing. Naturally, I did!! What a wonderful example of hospitality and mutual respect. Between churches I will never forget the experience, nor will I forget the generosity of the celebrant or the hospitality of my friends Gerard and Pamela.

There are many other stories to relate, but I will leave those for another time.

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, 3rd MAY 2009**

**VICAR'S REPORT**

During the past year we have had the beautiful contribution of music on the harp by Ruth-Mary Love. And in January this year we heard again her angelic music and also admitted her to membership of the parish. Welcome Ruth-Mary!

In May last year, on Whitsunday, we had the pleasure of a visit from Bishop Graham, our Regionary. It was the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of the first church in Melbourne, Church of

the Holy Spirit in Punt Road, Richmond in 1918, as well as the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of this church as its successor. We received a beautiful Illuminated Address from our Presiding Bishop, M.Rev. Graham Wale, and this is displayed in the front foyer for all to see.

We also had the delight and pleasure at church on that happy occasion Bishop Allan Bradley and his wife Trish. Bishop Allan delivered the anniversary Address, and we enjoyed their company over lunch in the Social Room. There is a publication on this event available at church and it has been posted to all members. It is also important to report that there were several life-long friends of the LCC and of this parish present at this anniversary, in particular Fr. Ian Hunter and Dr. John Martin, both of whom addressed the assembly.

During the second half of the year the Vicar experienced the challenge of a post viral complication that restricted his activities for six months. During the first couple of months, until he could see properly, the services at St. John's were ably conducted by the other ministers of the parish, supported by the laity. Bishop Graham paid us a visit and ensured that there were plenty of reserved sacrament available for the parish. Thank you Bishop Graham!

In September the parish acted as host for the Provincial Episcopal Synod, the Social Room being an ideal meeting place for their business, and being adjacent to such a sacred space. The Vicar, as the Priests' Representative for the province, was in attendance, although at that stage only with one eye operating properly and his brain only partially in gear! This situation provided light relief for all present, especially our new bishop, Pedro!

On the family front, there have been two important events that should be reported here as parish events. Firstly, our new

granddaughter, Clara Elizabeth, was baptised at Katharine's home on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. The second happy event was the celebration of Beatrice's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on the day, 28<sup>th</sup> December, at St. John's.

However, the year ended on a sad note in that Bishop Christopher Bannister passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. The Funeral (30/12) was conducted by the Regionary, Bishop Graham, and the Requiem Eucharist (31/12) the following day by Bishop James White. A publication has been produced by the parish as a Tribute to Bishop Christopher. We are in regular contact with Miriam.

What I have reported are the events that have taken place within the parish. They are all very important to the life and work of the church. But there are also activities that occur behind the scenes and cannot easily be reported in this account owing to their private nature. They included the provision of sacramental healing and communion to those in need, pastoral visits and the work conducted by the Trust and Vestry on our behalf. The health and well-being of the parish depends very much on the dedication of each and everyone of us. To the Directors of the Trust, members of the Vestry, sanctuary workers and organists, I say thank-you for your wonderful work during the year.

I have the special situation (although not unique in this province), of living with the parish Secretary! To Libby, I say a special thank-you, and God bless you for your support to me and to the parish, without which we would not be able to perform our duties effectively.

The year 2008 is going to be a rather hard act to follow, but it is going to be a lot of fun.

Thank you all.  
Fred Shade

**A prayer  
for an end to violence**

God of life,

Every act of violence in our world,  
between myself and another,  
destroys a part of your creation.

Stir within my heart a renewed sense  
of reverence for all life.  
Give me the vision to recognise your spirit  
in every human being,  
however they behave towards me.

Make possible the impossible by cultivating in me  
the fertile seed of healing love.

May I play my part in breaking  
the cycle of violence by realising that  
peace begins with me.

Amen.

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ELECTION OF OFFICEBEARERS

The Annual General Meeting of the parish was held on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May. The following were elected to the Vestry:

Libby Shade (Secretary),  
Marion Gilchrist (Treasurer),  
Russell Cole (Peoples' Warden),  
Blanche White, Noel Wyndom, Alan Davis, Ken Bewley.

Congratulations on your election, and thank you for your commitment to the parish.

Following the Parish AGM, the Annual General Meeting of the Trust was held. The following were elected:

Blanche White (President)  
Libby Shade (Treasurer)  
Russell Cole (Secretary)  
Alan Davis  
Marion Gilchrist

Congratulations on your election and thank you for your work.

### OFFICERS OF THE PARISH

Priest	V. Rev. Fred Shade	9459 2670
Deacon	Rev. Alan Davis	9509 1791
Assistant Ministers	Mr Russell Cole	(M) 0407 348 229
	Mrs Blanche White	9803 0703
Deaconess	Mrs Marion Gilchrist	9511 4845
Property Manager	Mr Russell Cole	(M) 0407 348 229
Parish Secretary	Mrs Libby Shade	(H) 9459 2670
	Email: <a href="mailto:lshade@melbpc.org.au">lshade@melbpc.org.au</a>	

LCC national website: [www.libcat.org.au](http://www.libcat.org.au)

## Church Calendar

### June

Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup>

Feast of St. Alban, Martyr (Octave)  
Patron Saint of the L.C.C.

### July

Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup>

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Intent: God as Love

Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup>

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Intent: God as Peace

Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup>

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Intent: Steadfast Service

Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup>

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Intent: Purity, a day of devotion  
to the Holy Spirit

### August

Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Intent: Wisdom

Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup>

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Intent: Confidence

Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup>

Assumption of Our Lady (octave)

(Trinity 10 - Intent: Devotion)

Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup>

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Intent: Discernment

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Intent: Self-dedication

### September

Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup>

Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Intent: Good Works

Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup>

Nativity of Our Lady (octave)

(Trinity XIV – Intent: Renewal of Heart)

Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup>

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Intent: Reality of Things Eternal

Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup>

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Intent: Justice

*A complete Church Calendar is posted on the noticeboard at church.*