



# NQ Chimes

February 2008

Volume 2 Issue 1

## THE RAINFOREST GARDEN & OUTDOOR CHAPEL AT ST ANDREW'S PORT DOUGLAS

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During the time Christian Ford was priest in charge of the Parish of Mossman / Port Douglas he and his parishioners shared many dreams about things they would like to see happen. Several of these dreams became a reality because of prayer, imagination, co-operation, donations and quite a lot of hard work.

Because St Andrew's has a generous amount of grounds, Christian dreamt about the possibility of making a labyrinth, an outdoor chapel & a large garden. ( We must admit that part of the motivation for the garden came from our desire to stop parents from driving through our grounds as a short cut to retrieve their children from The After School Child Care Centre !) Luckily there was a willing parishioner who took on the planning of the garden, so this was our first project.

The long grass was poisoned, plants were collected from Council & donations from private gardens, cardboard cartons were flattened out for mulch, & a working bee organized. It was hard work digging holes in our clay & shale composite soil – we often had to flood the area to soften things up enough to get a spade through. However at the end of the day we'd planted an area of about 15 metres long by 3 metres wide. Christian installed an irrigation system & although it looked rather scrappy, we'd made a good start.

Ergon delivered a huge pile of mulch, free & our next task was to spread it around the plants, using wheelbarrows, buckets &



spades. This took place over many weeks, but eventually the giant mound was dispersed & with the coming of the wet, plants starting growing in earnest & everyone was amazed how quickly it started looking good. Now, about

## Cathedral prepares to celebrate centenary

Holy Trinity Cathedral in Wangaratta turns 100 this year, and a range of activities is planned to celebrate the centenary of this icon of the North East Victorian rural city.

Running throughout May to September 2008, reunions, events for bellringers, schools and choirs, an anniversary dinner, musical events and special centenary services will be held.

An exhibition of cathedral memorabilia will also take place, featuring photographs, press cuttings and publications dating from the laying of the foundation stone in December 1908.

To make the exhibition as comprehensive as possible, the call has gone out for contributions from former Cathedral parishioners, choristers and clergy, wherever they may be around Australia.

"We already have a fascinating collection of historical documents covering the cathedral's first 100 years, but would appreciate loans and donations of suitable material to help commemorate this milestone," said Eunice Cardwell, a member of the centenary committee.

"Photographs of significant cathedral events would be especially welcome. If anyone has items of interest, we would be delighted to hear about them."

The centenary committee can be contacted through the Cathedral Office at 6 The Close, Wangaratta 3677. Tel (03) 5721 3719. Email: wangarattacathedraloffice@bigpond.com.au

Mother church of the Diocese of Wangaratta, covering north east Victoria from Melbourne into NSW, Holy Trinity Cathedral was built in three stages from 1908. The first took a year and saw half the current nave completed at a cost of 5,500 pounds.



Next to be constructed were the chancel, Lady Chapel and vestries in 1923-24 for 17,500 pounds, while the third stage resulted in the roof of the nave being raised and the west end and baptistery being built from 1961-64 at a price of 155,000 pounds.

The fourth and final stage of construction remains to be done. The cost of a permanent belltower will be millions of dollars and the parish continues to consider design concepts and funding opportunities.

"2008 will be a chance to celebrate what has been achieved as well as the cathedral's 100 years of ministry to the town and diocese of Wangaratta," Miss Cardwell said.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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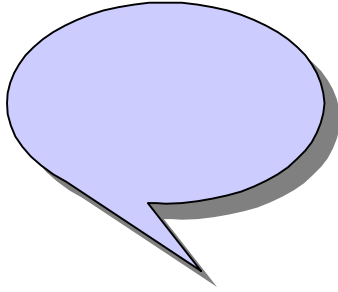
**Eunice Cardwell**

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### CATHEDRAL WEBSITE

[The Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta - The Cathedral Parish of Wangaratta](http://www.theanglican.org.au)

## Bill's Blog




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When January arrived, I realised that it was time to tidy my desk, pack my bags and get myself organised.

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Way back, not long after I had been consecrated Bishop, a letter arrived inviting new bishops to attend a course titled "On Being a Bishop" at Canterbury Cathedral, England. Coming from a farming background where my father and brother trained sheep dogs, I thought this must be a bit like "Bishop Puppy School". Thinking this could be very helpful, I made an application which included a reference from the Primate supporting the application. An acceptance was received, I was granted a place.

When January arrived, I realised that it was time to tidy my desk, pack my bags and get myself organised. Excitement built up and thoughts about learning objectives became a reality. However, it rained and it rained and when I left the Diocese, roads were cut, trains were not running the full length of their track and the weir just down from where I live, was flowing over. So I set off to the airport in the rain, the first part of this wonderful learning experience...



.... and it was wet, (in fact very wet in the UK) and it was good (or "all good" as the young ones say!)

*Places:* The course was held at the Lodge of Canterbury Cathedral. My room overlooked the Cathedral the place where Augustine came, where Thomas Beckett was murdered, and where we worshipped each day. I felt a real sense of history as I walked the Cathedral at night by candlelight, climbed the Bell Harry Tower to look over Canterbury and learnt something of the way the Cathedral was built. One day was spent in London at Lambeth Palace, where the Archbishop of Canterbury lives, a fascinating place. So the place where I lived for eight days and the places visited formed the second part of this wonderful learning experience

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... and it was wonderful to visit these places.

*People who shared their wisdom with us.*

The Cathedral staff led us in worship, cared for us, challenged our thinking and guided our learning. They were just wonderful. We met the staff of the Anglican Communion Office and heard of their valuable ministry. I knew the office existed, but I had little idea how they serve our Anglican Communion. Like so many aspects of Church life they do a massive amount with minimal resources. It was a great joy was to spend time with the Archbishop of Canterbury. His humility, his wisdom, his godliness and his knowledge just radiates and flows from him. It was a delight to be with him as he launched the Lambeth Conference at a Press Conference. A retired bishop shared the place of prayer in episcopal ministry. Others lectured us about the Bishop as liturgist, teacher, pastor and preacher. Learning from key people within the Anglican Communion was the third part of this wonderful learning experience....

..... and it was an inspirational experience just to sit at their feet.

*People who attended the course.* Course participants came from Australia, Canada, India and various countries of the African continent. Less than one third of the course participants were white. That says something about the composition of the Anglican Communion. Learning from each other was so enriching. Hearing how the bishops of the Sudan and other places have to minister and the dangers they face daily, makes ministry North Queensland a "piece of cake" and we have so much to thank God for in our Diocese. The course participants were the fourth part of this wonderful learning experience .....

..... and it was enriching to meet them and learn from and with them.

*Worship.* We attended the Cathedral for the Daily Offices and the Eucharist. One evening we participated in a candle light tour of the Cathedral concluding with a prayer service where Thomas Beckett's grave was located. It was very moving and one could not help but have a sense of history and faithfulness through the ages. The preaching was just superbe and inspiring. We certainly praised God. So worship was the fifth part of this wonderful learning experience .....

..... and it was wonderful to be a part of worshipping God at the Cathedral.

The Launch of the Lambeth Conference: I certainly had no idea that the Lambeth Conference would be launched when we visited Lambeth Palace. It was a very special moment in history and this was the sixth part of this wonderful learning experience ....

..... and it was fantastic to be a part of it.

And the seventh part of this wonderful learning experience is to go on reflecting upon the insights gained, so that my ministry as a bishop continues to grow and develop under God and the Kingdom of God is extended here in this diverse and wonderful Diocese of North Queensland.

Lent is early this year. It is my prayer that each one of you will have a holy and blessed Lent. May you use Lent with intention and in a deliberate way to prepare yourself to proclaim the Risen Lord at Easter.

Yours in Christ,

+ Bill.

From the pen of the MDO comes ...

## Got Soul

Dear, dear Aggie,

O you are a one. When you said in your last note that there yet more pearls to come from my pen, I was mortified. Pearls indeed. They're not pearls, dear, they're nuggets; 24 carat nuggets. All that Christmas cheer has gone to your head.

My *bon mot*, as you so lovingly put it, is about the Three Wise Men this time. I know that we've celebrated their Feast – that's the one which the old BCP labelled in its usual loquacious way *The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles* (I'm glad to have moved away from all that wordiness) – but I'm amazed to discover that the Wise Men are alive and well and living in a bookshop/movie theatre near you. I thought they'd gone home.

Not on your life. These blokes, who sport names like Dawkins, Hitchens and Pullman – not Melchior, Balthasar or Gaspar, as Archdeacon Bede would have us erroneously believe – have come to us this time from the West, not the East. And what crowds they're pulling. Thousands upon thousands of innocent, vacant minds being suckered along but some not-so-well-meaning cobblers who think they know a thing or two.

Gone is the Overhead Star; gone is the Enquiring Mind; gone is the Bowing Down in Worship. We don't even have Frankincense or Myrrh any more. All we have left is a Golden Compass, an alethiometer if you will, which reveals the truth when the engravings on its face get lined up but does not, repeat not, get involved with any kind of logic. Curious, wouldn't you say?

Just as I was getting used to this assault on

my brain, one of these sages spoke. It was Pullman's voice, clear as crystal. He was brassed off by what he called CS Lewis' 'smuggling of belief' under the guise of fantasy.

His counter, listen to this, was 'to do for disbelief what Lewis did for belief'. But he didn't stop there. Statements like: 'I am all for the death of God,' and 'My books are about killing God' just rolled off his tongue. And there was more, like a bad attempt at a coup de grace, As if. 'I am of the Devil's party and I know it,' he said and 'I'm trying to undermine the basis of Christian belief.'

Well, doh. Forgive me if I sound disinterested but isn't this the same thing that Pullman has accused Lewis of doing? Isn't he making a play to be the new top dog? Hardly a rivetting argument. In any case, it's all a bit pedestrian and ho-hum if you ask me.

I sometimes wonder at these new guys on the block. Their skill with words, their inventiveness, their imaginative and creative leaps of faith are fantastic. That's not in dispute. What I wonder about, though, as G.K. Chesterton did, is that the worse moment for these atheists is when they are really thankful and have nobody to thank.

In any case, I've heard it all before. My mind went back to when Bishop John Robinson was all the go. When not being called as a witness in the *Lady Chatterley's Lover* censorship case, his prestigious mind was flogging the 'God is Dead' argument that Friedrich Nietzsche began in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

As the words and the point-scoring raged

back and forth, I remembered seeing a photo of some graffiti on a wall at a University somewhere that read "God is Dead, Nietzsche," followed underneath by another hand that wrote "Nietzsche is dead, God."

That kind of sums it up. Men of good will, like Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkein, Owen Barfield and others had sought the truth and found it, and the truth has set them free. I count myself in that company, as I know you are. They, like us, found this truth, not by placing faith in an alethiometer, for heaven's sake, nor even in a religious

bureaucracy, but in a child who was a saviour and king, born in a manger in Bethlehem.

Wise men still seek him, Aggie, but O the joy when he finds them.

I've temporarily run out of nuggets but I look forward to your response which I know will not be long in coming and ought to bring a few new ones to the surface.

Keep the faith  
Phil

## PEP to run at St Matthews Mundingburra

PEP is Parenting Education Program  
It is a 5 session program intended for parents and is subsidised by MU Australia.  
The facilitators who run the program have all undergone training to equip them for the task.

A number of programs have already been run in the diocese., and now Townsville will have its first program, planned to start early March.

Facilitators Fr Lindsay Howie and Jenny Howie will run the course at St Matthews Mundingburra.

We strongly encourage families where there are two parents to do the course together. This enables both parties to hear the information and be involved in the course which will benefit the family greatly.

Babysitting will be provided should the need arise.

The dates for the program will be consecutive Tuesdays except for the middle session:-

Tues 4, 11 March; Mon 15 March;  
Tues 25 March, Tues 1 April.

The night begins with supper at 7pm and ends at 9:15pm

The cost of the program is \$40 per individual or couple.

Numbers are restricted so early bird registrations are encouraged.

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE: 24 FEB.

If interested please call Jenny Howie after hours 47291417.

## Downside Up

By Rev Ray Fishwick

### Coming Home

At last it is all over, 07 has gone the way of all the other years, and here I am at the beginning of an 08, new years resolutions are all behind me because I never made any, I hate to disappoint myself I get quite cross and my eyebrows go up another notch.

So what am I going to do with myself this year eh!!, what great things could we achieve if we put our heads together.....mmmmmm, just think about it, you and me, ready to give this old world of ours a swift kick in the pants to get things moving along.

Start big, leave nothing out, don't be scared to try anything, but first open your eyes and get out of bed, take your pills, eat your wholemeal and branflakes, drink the prune juice, Clean your teeth have a shower, stare at the old man in the mirror that looks like last weeks kitty litter, smile and give him a wave, Oh look he waved back, isn't that nice silly old begger, he looks worse than last week, needs a shave too.

Open the door go to the church, say your prayers, remember all the things you have got to pray for, and the people, yes all of them, yes even him too, say thank you to God for letting you live another day. Why does he let me get into trouble all the time and then treat me like a friend all over again I ask you isn't God funny picking someone like me.

2008, well, another year older, and we start off by thinking that all we have to do is lie here in bed in recovery.....what recovery?, what bed? I'm in church; no your not your still in bed thinking about getting up, but I don't have to, because its my day off, so there.

RAYMOND GET OUT OF THAT BED, THE YEAR WILL BE OVER BEFORE YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO SAY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL THE PEOPLE.

Yes dear, coming dearest one, just getting out, one leg, two legs, fall over my shoes, Stub my toe, I'm awake now thank you God, what day is it, what time is it??

One day I will wake up and find myself asleep in a place without the big RAYMOND GET UP NOW OR ELSE, yes dear, just one more minute, I've got the whole year ahead of me, no need to rush is there, is there? The droning noise in my head seems very loud and the ding dong sound that you know tells you to fasten your seat belts please is repeated prior to landing, in Cairns ! Oh I'm back! the holiday is over, hello world lets get at it, there is lots to do this year; together lets make a difference, you and I God, eh! you and I, like before.

May your dreams be all you want them to be, and much more besides. Have a great year.

Ray Fishwick

## Mystery Worshipper

**Mystery Worshipper:** Churchmouse

**The church:** St Martin's Catholic Church Cannonvale Queensland.

**Denomination:** Used by the Anglicans – and the Lutherans, - and the Catholics – and the Presbyterians – and who knows who else?

**The building:** It was built, I would say, about 20 years ago. It's a cement block structure built in a modern style. It's clearly a community church. The Roman Catholics built it on Presbyterian (or Lutheran?) land and everyone who uses it pays some kind of rent.

**The church:** The congregation that day was made up of 3 family groups and a small number of individuals.

**The neighbourhood:** Airlie Beach is just next door. This is a major tourist centre of the Queensland Whitsunday Coast. Holiday makers do not good church-goers make and today proved it.

**The cast:** The service was led entirely by a visiting priest from Townsville called Ian.

**The date & time:** 25<sup>th</sup> December 2007 at 9.45am.

**What was the name of the service?**

Christmas Day Service.

**How full was the building?**

The congregation was about 22 strong in 3 little groups plus some individuals sitting alone.

**Did anyone welcome you personally?**

The one regular parishioner and her friend made sure that everyone had a hymn book and a prayer book. There were no notice sheets. I was personally made feel welcome.

**Was your pew comfortable?**

Yeah, I reckon. There was certainly a lot of space to move around in if I didn't like the person near me.

**How would you describe the pre-service atmosphere?**

Chaotic. The minister was walking around as if he didn't know where anything was. Later on in the service he told us that this was correct – and it showed.

**What were the exact opening words of the service?**

"Good morning and welcome to our Christmas Day Service. Are there any visitors who have come further than from Sweden, like the couple at the back?"

**What books did the congregation use during the service?**

Each person was issued with *An Australian Prayer Book* and *An Australian Hymn Book*.

**What musical instruments were played?**

A CD/tape deck was there but because the tape hadn't been cued in correctly, the minister dumped the idea of using taped music and we sang the songs unaccompanied.

Did anything distract you?

It was stinking hot and very sweaty. The fans weren't much help.

Was the worship stiff-upper-lip, happy clappy, or what?

It was kind of casual. The priest tried hard to keep it formal and friendly and pretty well succeeded.

Exactly how long was the sermon?

12 minutes.

On a scale of 1-10, how good was the preacher?

I'd give him a 7 or an 8. He certainly tried to involve everyone and made a good point.

In a nutshell, what was the sermon about?

Being Christmas, he was fairly locked into his theme. He developed the 'Receiving, Believing, Becoming' idea from the Gospel of John.

Which part of the service was like being in heaven?

The people seemed friendly and relaxed. There were mostly visitors at church that day, so it's a hard question to answer.

And which part was like being in... er... the other place?

At the beginning as the minister fussed around getting stuff ready was distracting. But then, it was really his the first time in the place, so I shouldn't be too hard on him.

What happened when you hung around after the service looking lost?

I didn't hang around. No-one did. We all wanted to get home for Christmas lunch.

How would you describe the after-service coffee?

There wasn't any although I overheard one lady tell the minister that she had some sandwiches and coffee for him. There weren't any invitations for us to join him.

How would you feel about making this church your regular (where 10 = ecstatic, 0 = terminal)?

I wouldn't do it because I'm from somewhere else. Anyway, a church that gets used by all different denominations may sound a good idea but it doesn't work. Rent-a-church is not always a good idea. I think I'd try to find somewhere else if I lived there.

Did the service make you feel glad to be a Christian?

I'm not sure that it helped much but then again, it didn't hinder it much either. I'm just glad that my faith isn't connected to a building.

What one thing will you remember about all this in seven days' time?

I will never forget how hot it was. The sweat just poured out of me.

*Cont from page 1*

3 years later we have lots of tall trees, flowering shrubs, happy birds & no drive throughs! The garden continues to expand with sporadic bursts of energy & enthusiasm, with a recent planting of 20 trees & shrubs along the back fence & adjacent to the car parking areas.

Whilst on a driving holiday about two years ago, in the Riverina area, my husband & I visited parks which incorporated outdoor chapels & these were maintained by the towns' Parks & Gardens Depts. We bought a postcard of one, which we mailed to St Andrew's & took our own photo when we

discovered the second one. On our return my husband indicated to Christian that he would be happy to build an outdoor chapel similar to the ones we'd seen.

Next began the big search for suitable logs at suitable prices – some came from the local Killaloe Tip, some from an electricians' collection of old telegraph poles & some from private properties. The site was decided on & work began. It's a very simple design – a large log flattened on one side on top of shorter logs is the altar. Another log with a long piece retained on one side is the Bishop's chair, (complete with a cassia canopy), a



smaller log & round slice of timber is the credence table, another upright log with an angled surface is the lectern. Behind the altar & in the garden is a cross about 3 metres high, made of two smaller logs wired together. Birds often perch on the

cross & my granddaughter observed that the cross has a peace sign as well – there is a small fork on the top of the upright arm of the cross. The congregation sit on logs which are in two rows & there is room to place chairs if required. Local businesses were approached by letter & several logs, a new wheelbarrow & a trailer load of deco were donated & greatly appreciated too.

We held a short service of Praise & Thanksgiving last October when Christian returned to our parish to conduct a friend's wedding, but we are eagerly awaiting the official consecration when Bishop Bill can fit it in his busy schedule, maybe in May. So far we have little shade so we need to hold a service late in the day; however two rain trees & two figs have been planted nearby as well as two pioneer trees so it won't be too long until we do have shade.

Julie White

## **Children’s Service in the Cathedral**

It was December 24 and a hot day in Townsville. At 5.30 in the afternoon St James Cathedral was rapidly filling with people, from under 1 year old to over 70 years of age. The service sheets were rapidly running out. By the time the service started the Cathedral had about 200 people in it. They had come to celebrate the Birth of Jesus in a service geared for children.

Bishop Bill led the service that was made up of singing, story telling and prayers. Traditional carols, like *Away in a Manger*, were sung and the story of Jesus birth was told. The story was told from the perspective of the Inn Keeper. He tried all night to get to sleep and every time he got close to sleep was woken by a knock at the door. Eventually he too went to the stable to see the child. The story was told with pictures presented on the screen. All the children were invited to sit on the carpet in the Choir area for the story telling.

Then the nativity scene was set up with all the children participating in placing the figures of Mary, Joseph, Jesus and the shepherds and angels. The nativity scene was then blessed by Bishop Bill and sprinkled with Holy Water from an Aspergillum (a Holy Water pen).

The service concluded with some prayers for the world. People left with a sense of the joy of Christmas, having celebrated the birth of Jesus. Many expressed their desire to return next year to hear the story again from the perspective of the Donkey on the road with Mary and Joseph.

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### **Calendar**

**FEBRUARY**

- Saturday 9th                    9.00am Central Region Consultation St Matthew’s Mundingburra
- Thursday 14th                8.00am Executive Meeting Conference Rm, St James PI
- Friday 15th                    2.00pm Induction New Principal & School Leaders Trinity Anglican School Cairns
- Saturday 16th                Launch Cathedral Conservation Appeal St James Cathedral
- Saturday 16th                Diocesan Council Meeting Conference Rm, St James PI
- Sunday 17th                  Diocesan Council Meeting Conference Rm, St James PI
- Tuesday 19th                Provincial Bishop’s Meetings Brisbane
- to Thursday 21st
- Saturday 23rd                9.00am Southern Region Consultation Mackay

**MARCH**

- Friday 7th                    6.00pm Ecumenical Service JCU Academic Year St James Cathedral
- Sunday 9th                   5.45pm RA’s Commissioning Service & Dinner St Mark’s College
- Thursday 13th               8.00am Executive Meeting Conference Rm, St James PI
- Friday 14th                   6.30pm Induction – Rev Barbara Blackford Holy Trinity, Ingham
- Wednesday 19th            4.00pm Area Deans Teleconference
- Tuesday 18th                7.00pm Chrism Mass St James Cathedral
- Saturday 29th               Preaching Workshop Mount Isa
- Sunday 30th                 9.00am Chrism Mass/Confirmation/Baptism St James Mount Isa