

VISION AND STRATEGY



Our Vision

Being the people God is calling us to be through fulfilling the two great Commandments: to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbour (anyone we encounter who is in need) as ourselves.

Lay Retreat 25th-27th August

Retreat is a time to refresh your relationship with God and this year the weekend will be wrapped in the **Seven 'I Am' Statements of Jesus from John's Gospel**. The retreat will take place on Friday August 25th to Sunday August 27th 2023 at the wonderfully welcoming St John's Retreat Centre in Shoalwater. It is an opportunity to engage with both the **'Deeper Prayer'** and **'Learn Christ'** strategies.

Sue Kalab will be using her artistic gifts to help make statements with calligraphy and Sue Roberts has a special hearts project to share. There will be quiet activities for anyone needing something to do while listening in the silence. There will be beautiful liturgies and prayer trays in the chapel and new going deeper sessions. For those needing complete rest and refreshment you are welcome to spend the weekend joining in as much, or as little, as you choose.

Please consider prayerfully whether to come to the retreat and/or to sponsor someone from your parish or organisation. **A registration form can be found on the back page of this newsletter. There is also a limited amount of financial help for any who may need it.**

For further information and bookings please contact **Kat Pearce** via email: office@bunbury.org.au

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2023

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*And so much
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Four Strategies, One Vision

Our vision - ***Being God's Church in God's World through fulfilling the two great Commandments: to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and our neighbour (anyone we encounter who is in need) as ourselves*** - is broken down into the four strategies outlined opposite.

Each parish, Anglican Community and organisation in our diocese can tackle each of the strategies in the way that best suits them. As you can see from this and previous editions of the Vision and Strategy newsletters, there is a great variety of ways in which we are fulfilling God's two great commandments. It is inspiring and encouraging to read about these and hopefully we are learning from each other.

Its important to remember that as we move onto a new strategy we don't leave a previous strategy behind. Instead we aim to build on each strategy. Our deeper prayer lives and our learning more about Christ will lead us to love one another and be salt and light in our communities. And as we do this, we continue to pray and 'Learn Christ'.

Although we are just about to introduce the 3rd Strategy - ***Growing in love for, and encouragement of, one another*** - we will continue to report on what's happening with regard to the first two strategies. To make it easier to see which strategies are being discussed we use the strategy colour codes in the headings of our articles: green for 'Deeper Prayer, blue for 'Learn Christ, purple for 'Love one Another' and pink for 'Being Salt and Light'.

We are also trying to capture stories of how these strategies are working in your parish or Anglican Community or organisation. What are you engaging with at the moment? What would you like to do next? Please do get in touch and let us know what you are up to via ***bishop@bunbury.org.au***

The Four Strategies

Deepening and Growing our prayerfulness as individuals, groups and churches

Learning more about Jesus Christ in order to become more like Christ

Growing in love for, and encouragement of, one another (within our churches and diocese)

Being salt and light in the places and among the people God has placed us (in our communities)



Interview with Bishop Ian

Our current vision and strategy runs from 2021-2025. We are now at the half way mark! We thought this would be a good time to ask Bishop Ian for his thoughts on how he sees the vision being fulfilled.

Bishop Ian, what do you think is going well with the Vision and Strategy so far?

I am really happy with the variety of resources we have been able to produce or recommend to support the vision and strategy. With Learning More about Jesus Christ, for instance, we prepared a Resources Brochure last August and have since reported on how you have been making use of those resources, as well as introducing further resources in successive editions of this Newsletter.

We have surveyed our parishes and organisations about what they have been doing with regards the Vision and Strategies. We received 20 replies for *Deepening our Prayerfulness* and 13 replies for *Learning More about Jesus Christ*. That is out of around 40 parishes, Anglican communities and organisations in our diocese. It is possible that not everyone who participated has replied, and it is also possible we are not quite reaching everyone with this information.

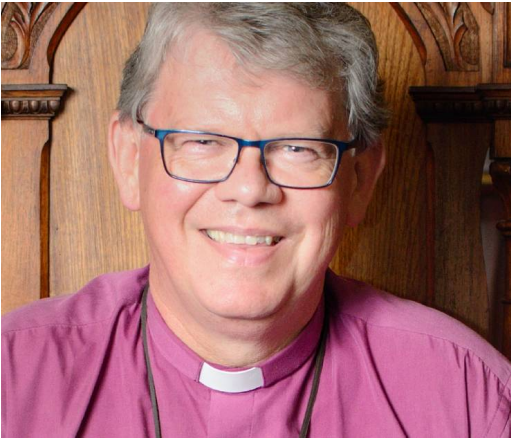
To have half to one third of the diocese engaged with one or more of the strategies is really encouraging.

Is there anything else you would like to see happening?

It would be wonderful if we could have feedback from all 40 of our parishes, communities and organisations! I am sure more is happening than we know about, but we only know if someone tells us what's going on in their 'neck of the woods'. Any news related to the V&S, no matter how small, or seemingly insignificant, is always encouraging to receive.



Interview with Bishop Ian continued



Someone has commented that whilst the strategies may be worthwhile, getting people to engage enthusiastically may prove difficult when we often have so many other things going on in our lives. This is a really significant challenge - one that Jesus himself encountered in his earthly ministry.

Time and time again Jesus encouraged his disciples and followers to prioritise the kingdom of God over their day to day responsibilities, interests and cares. Our Vision to be God's church in God's world may require us to change what we do and how we are. Michael Frost, in his book *Surprise the World*, suggests it involves altering habits. This is not something we find easy to do and it requires practice.



Of course, using resources on *Deepening our Prayerfulness*, or *Learning more about Jesus Christ*, can be a source of inspiration and encouragement but may not be the same as actually deepening our prayer or becoming more Christlike, which is the real aim.

What's happening next with the Vision and Strategies?

We had a discussion about this at our Clergy Conference in May. Our clergy have suggested that whilst some may be ready to move to the next strategy, *Love One Another*, we should also continue to re-visit *Deepening our Prayerfulness* and *Learning More about Jesus Christ*, because of the importance of these strategies in being God's church in God's world.

Some may wish to try resources they may not have had the opportunity to use as yet or might wish to have a go at one of these resources if they have not done so at all.

All of these resources are available or listed on our website under Vision and Strategy. For anyone not yet involved its not too late to get started. Why not look at the website and find a resource to suit you ?

Learning Christ in Lent



A number of different initiatives took place around our diocese this year on the *Learn Christ* theme, including:

Albany Parish - An in-house study series on the Kingdom in the Gospel of Matthew. by Revd Helen Barnard

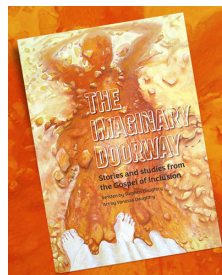
Australind Parish
'A Life of Blessing' study based on the Local Houses of Prayer Teaching



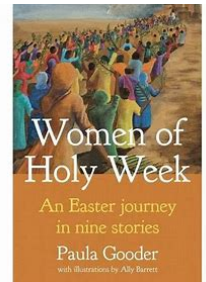
Capel Parish The Prayer Course by Pete Greig



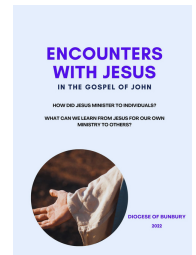
Denmark-Walpole, Dunsborough and Mandurah Parishes
ABM Imaginary Doorway Study



Gelorup Parish
'Women of Holy Week' study by Paula Gooder.



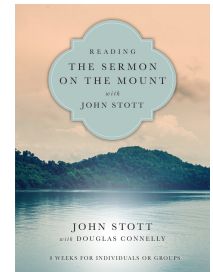
Narrogin, Wickipin and Pingelly Parish
Our Diocesan 'Encounters with Jesus in the Gospel of John' Study



Oyster Harbour Parish
focus on Spiritual Disciplines



Williams - Gateway Parish
Study of the Sermon on the Mount by John Stott



What's missing here?

Is it you?!

If you, your organisation or parish isn't mentioned here, please let us know what you are or have been doing towards the **Learn Christ** or **Deeper Prayer** strategy. We want to hear from you!



Members of a Denmark-Walpole Parish Study Group

Seek First the Kingdom



Report by Rev Karen Cave, St John's Albany

During Lent at St John's we had a series of studies on 'Seek First the Kingdom' in the Gospel of Matthew. We looked at Matthew as a guide for Christians in living fearlessly into the ways of Jesus Christ. The Kingdom of Heaven is the vision that anchors this teaching. We considered through the words of The Lord's Prayer that the ethics of the Kingdom require wholehearted dedication and courage to not just go along with generally-held values. There is a need to make God's Kingdom the absolute foundation for following Jesus.

We learnt that Jesus was God's ultimate teacher and model to follow in living daily life and explored the importance of seeking heavenly reward rather than earthly gain. This led us to become a group of discerning navigators, discussing with one another, and deciding as a community, which of the twists and turns to take in the road that leads to life. Part of the journey was to reflect on the parables only found in Matthew then how, as a nation, we live in a society based on individuality.

Finally we all have been entrusted to proclaim the nearness of God's Kingdom and to help bring God's peace to a broken and divided world.

Both group studies enjoyed the reflection and discussions that these studies encouraged, and they deepened our understanding of the Kingdom of God.

Imaginary Doorway

This study by ABM was undertaken by at least three parishes in the diocese. Here are a selection of comments from some who took part.

"As stated in the introduction these stories take us on an Imaginative journey into the lives of some of the people Jesus encountered. The stories may sometimes be confusing alongside traditional scripture readings but have provided some lively discussions at our meetings and encouraged us to be grateful for Jesus' life of love, forgiveness and inclusion."

Lorraine Palmer, Christ's Church Mandurah

"Study 1 was called 'Legion'. It was about the Gerasene Demoniac. Because of their fear of Legion his community made him an outcast and he was chained, persecuted and they forced him to live in isolation. Yet I believe Jesus came specifically to save him and set him free so that, through him, people might find forgiveness and compassion in their hearts. Because of his own suffering, Legion would have made a great missionary and I have no doubt he brought many people into the faith. This study has made me more think deeply about how I respond to people who are 'difficult', to try to be more compassionate and less judgemental when their actions offend me."

Lorraine Joyce, Christ's Church Mandurah

"The imaginary retelling of the gospel story met with a mixed reception, but the discussions were all very good, although often touched on difficult subjects. It certainly opened our eyes to how Jesus interacted with people, particularly people most of the society of the day ... and our day! ... would 'write off'."

Rev Sally Buckley, Denmark-Walpole Parish

"I liked that it was a relatively short reading and longer thought time on questions. I really enjoyed reading accounts from the bible that I have not necessarily read very often, some with a few more pointers on different people of the time. Questions and poems/prayers at the end of every study were often very insightful and "touched the spot". Some not so much!" **Chris Waktins, Denmark**

"Our parish has simply LOVED this study, so much so that one lady said today that she could do it again, it was that good." **Rev Justine Richmond, Dunsborough**

Alpha All over Albany . . .

The city of Albany have joined forces to present the Alpha Course in every church in the area in 2023! The idea for multiple Alpha courses running concurrently as a good way of improving evangelism and a show of unity was raised at the Albany Church Leaders' Fellowship. This fellowship is made up of church leaders who meet weekly for prayer and monthly as a committee.

All member churches have signed up to run Alpha after Easter. If one looks on line at the Alpha website, the map of Albany looks amazing! We have contributed towards a huge advert on the side of a popular cafe. We have held weekly combined church prayer meetings at 6am on Tuesdays to pray for the City and Alpha - around 60 people have come each week. The Alpha initiative is going well so far with ACLF member churches reporting enthusiastically. Living Waters Anglican Church in Oyster Harbour has Alpha running now and our St John's Alpha will begin in August. **Rev Karen Cave, St John's Albany**



. . . And All over the Diocese! Starts July 18th!

Thanks to Rev Jamie Murray of Australind Parish, the Alpha course will be available to everyone in the diocese of Bunbury and beyond who would like to take part via the internet using the Zoom platform. All you need to participate is an email address and an internet connection.

The course comprises watching a 30 minute video followed by an open discussion and Q&A time. Each week covers a different aspect of the Christian faith, including:

- Why did Jesus Die?
- How can we have faith?
- Why and how do I pray?
- Why and how should I read the Bible?
- Who is the Holy Spirit?

Whether you'd like to do Alpha for for the first time or the umpteenth time, there is always something new and fresh to be gained from Alpha - not least meeting some new people and

making some new friends. ***Now is the time to get involved! The course starts on Tuesday 20th July 2023 at 7pm.*** There is no pressure to attend every session - but its worth trying one session to get a taste for it and see if its for you.

Email: stnicholasminster@gmail.com for more information or to sign up



Love One Another

Our third strategy is: Growing in love for, and encouragement of, one another (within our churches and diocese) - or 'Love One Another' for short.

Some of us may have already begun working on this strategy - for others it is something yet to come. This year the Mother's Union have taken 'Love on Another' as their theme. Essie's story below, shows what an impact love between MU members can have on individuals. Maybe you too have received love and care from your parish or organisation which has made a big difference in your life? If so ***we would love to hear your story!*** ***Please send your stories to: bishop@bunbury.org.au***

There will be ideas to inspire you on the ***Love one Another*** strategy in our September newsletter. In the meantime, why not start praying and discussing with others what steps you might take to love on another more?

Essie's Story



This story was written especially for the Vision and Strategy newsletter by Essie Kenworthy, from Busselton, a long standing member of the Mother's Union. Essie recounts how she received deep and lasting love and friendship from her MU friends over many years. Sadly, Essie passed away in May at the age of 97. Essie's Mother's Union scarf, badge and prayer book were presented at her funeral, along with the Christian symbols of a candle, water, the Scriptures and a cross.

Essie was an honorary Life Member of MU Busselton and was awarded her badge for 60 years of service. Her funeral ended with a guard of honour by Essie's Mother's Union friends.

"My introduction to Mother's Union started in 1954 when Rev Tassell, who was a long time family friend and attached to the Bunbury Office, invited me to help him start a YMD group in Busselton.

The initials stand for Young Members Department and was later renamed 'Caritas'.

At the time I was a widow with two small sons and a farm to run and I was a very sad person. We had a great group of young women who built up my enthusiasm for living again. They were so loving and caring to me and my sons.

After six years I remarried and moved to the city where I joined a YMD group and was made most welcome. I eventually was admitted to Mother's Union in 1961 and have found that over the years my closest friends have been MU members. I have been privileged to have as house guests MU members from England, Africa and the Eastern States and visited members in England and New Zealand. I have learned so much about other countries and people. I belong to several organisations but there is not that lovely bond of friendship in those groups.

Now once again being a widower for 15 years I thank God for being blessed with two beautiful husbands. My friends are nearly all MU members but at 97 I find that they are now getting old too. I am truly blessed to have been involved with Mother's Union for so long."

Essie Kenworthy, supplied



Bunbury Anglican Diocesan Lay Retreat 2023

In line with the Bunbury Diocesan Vision, this year's lay retreat is about **'Learning Christ'** through

Discovering Christ as "I Am"

Friday 25th to Sunday 27th August 2023

St John's Retreat Centre, 47 Gloucester Crescent, Shoalwater WA

Retreat is a time to refresh your relationship with God. You can expect wonderful food, privacy, choice as to how you spend your time, rest, relax, pray, create, quiet spaces for reflection, creative prayer, opportunity for guided reflection, music to help and heal, walks along the beach, spiritual companionship

For those looking for a guided retreat, we will spend the weekend discovering Christ through seven "I am" statements. For those who value silence or complete rest and refreshment you are welcome to spend the weekend joining in as much, or as little, as you choose.

Kat Pearce: 08 9721 2100 or email: office@bunbury.org.au

Please send (via email or post) completed form with full payment by C.O.B. Monday 24th July 2023 to the Anglican Diocesan Office, PO Box 15, Bunbury WA 6231. Email: office@bunbury.org.au
Phone: (08) 9721 2100. Those who register will be emailed a welcome letter closer to the day.

Cost: \$295 No monies will be taken at the Retreat. Full Payment is required on or by C.O.B. Monday 24th July 2023. Cheques to: Bunbury Diocesan Trustees
EFT: Bank Account – BDT OPERATING ACCOUNT Account No. – 706 001 30004122
REF – LAY RETREAT 'SURNAME' Registration

Numbers are limited. Accommodation is in comfortable ensuite single bedrooms, or double rooms (limited number available) for couples if requested. All meals are provided.

Name..... Phone:

Address.....P/C.....

Email.....Parish.....

Name/Phone of Emergency Contact:.....

Special dietary needs please note as follows: 1. Vegetarian (note if fish & eggs are ok) 2.Lactose/Dairy intolerant 3. Gluten Free 4. Allergic to seafood 5.Any food that causes anaphylaxis

Room preferences -Ground Floor, Disabled and/or Double Room

Signature.....