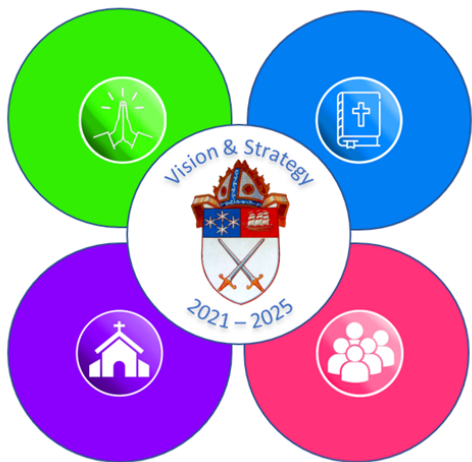


VISION AND STRATEGY



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.

“Love One Another“

BISHOP IAN’S STUDY FOR LENT

A 2024 LENT STUDY
BY BISHOP IAN COURTS

Available Now

Love One Another.

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

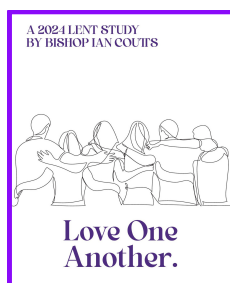
Growing in love for, and encouragement of, one another (within our churches and diocese)

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

A Word from Bishop Ian

It is the start of a New Year and, with what Adrian Price, a dear Warden and LLM at Boyup Brook parish, calls our New Year Revolutions, rather than Resolutions! There is a sense that with the tickover to 2024, and an entirely new year, it is a very appropriate time for taking stock of the priorities and aims in our lives. What Revolutions have you made this year, if any? Might I be so bold as to suggest that prioritising growing in love for God and for our neighbour, whomever that may be, is a surefire winner as a New Year's Revolution? If we sort out these priorities first, I believe every other priority begins to fall into place.

'Growing in love for, and encouragement of, one another,' is the present diocesan strategy. The theme of love is arguably one of the most significant in the entire Bible. I warmly



commend to you our Diocesan Lent course on this very theme. The content looks at the biblical basis for why we are called, and indeed commanded, to love one another, beginning with the nature of the triune God we worship, and what it means to be created as



human beings in this image. The course then looks at the many New Testament passages that refer to love between the members of the church. Each week will link to the next so it is hoped that groups and individuals will be able to follow the whole Lent course, or catch up individually. There will be questions to consider and ponder.

You can find the Lent course in its entirety and also in weekly excerpts on the diocesan website at:

www.bunburyanglican.org/vision-and-strategy

or contact Jodi on

bishopspa@bunbury.org.au or

Tel: 9721 2100 for a printed copy.

What 'Love One Another' Means to Me: Kerry Robbins Narrogin, Wikipin and Pingelly Parish

"I find Jesus' words touch my heart: 'whoever has been forgiven much loves much' (Luke 7: 47). When we realise how much we have been forgiven by God, when we appreciate how far removed we are from God in our natural beings, it deepens our love and gratitude for his redemption - especially during Lent. Knowing that God could love us, unworthy as we are, helps us love our neighbour - equally undeserving. It evens the playing field - we are all in it together. Sometimes I find bible studies on love a bit nauseating that don't consider the

starkness of love - giving a kidney; nursing a sick infant through the night - or the painful foundation of love, where the release and freedom from being forgiven provides the impetus for love. The mutual pain and forgiving and loving give-and-take in marriage that enables continuity and not divorce. The crucifixion being held up as the highest form of love. The single person who died giving up their seat in a bus leaving Auschwitz for a prison camp to a family person who survived to tell the story".

Advent Reflections Bear Fruit

Were you among those of us who engaged with our in-house Advent Reflections in December? Feedback shows that at least six parishes or organisations in the Bunbury Diocese used them during Advent. In addition, individuals also used the resources at home by themselves.



Rev Vicki Webb ran a Zoom Group for people interested in doing the reflections with others from outside their own parishes. Rev Vicki reports, "Our small group of parishioners from Mandurah and inland to Mt Barker decided to meet via zoom for two sessions. We prepared individually by reading Bishop Ian's contribution and

listening to the Alleluia Chorus. We met online twice covering two of the Advent Sundays each time. We appreciated the variety of images. It was a bit rushed doing two in such a short time. However this is a lovely way of sharing in a group. An additional blessing was that reflecting on the images continued to deepen between gatherings and was shared with the group via email.

Next time I will also use the material in a day retreat during Advent where there is more time and space to contemplate each image and reflection."

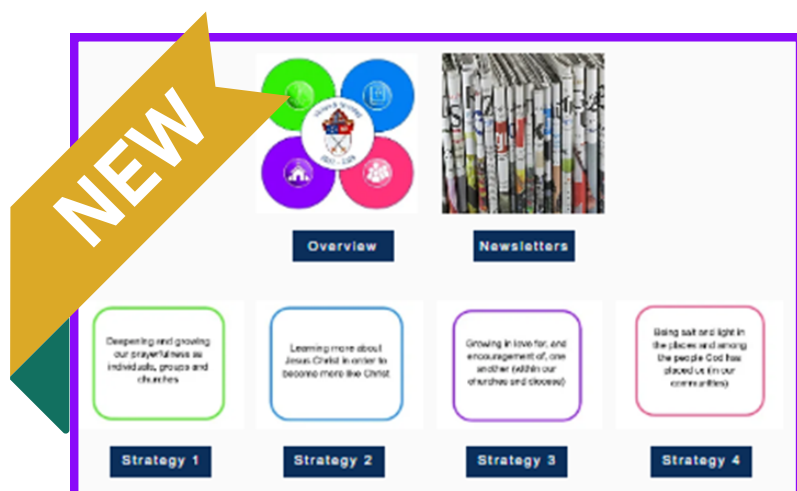
Comments from participants included:

"I really loved the flexibility of the material and the sharing from our hearts."

"We appreciate everyone's generosity and encouragement."

"Thank you for a very enlightening zoom session."

"The Advent Reflections were conducted with sensitivity and humility. I felt tired but elated when we finished."



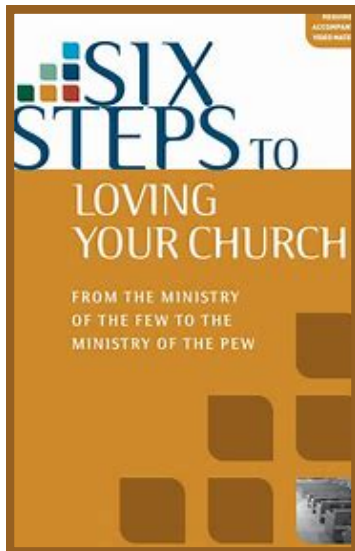
New Vision and Strategy Webpage!

Everything you need is here - including previous copies of the newsletters and resources for each strategy in a user-friendly format. Enjoy exploring the site!
<https://www.bunburyanglican.org/vision-and-strategy>

Six Steps to Loving Your Church

Narrogin, Wikipin and Pingelly Parish

Narrogin, Wickepin and Pingelly Parish were quick off the starting blocks with the “Love One Another” strategy. In November, a study group formed to do the diocesan-recommended ‘6 Steps to Loving Your Church’ course, produced by Matthias Media.



Group member Kerry Robbins, reports, “Our little group is enjoying the 6 steps. We are very Anglican and like a strict timetable of one hour (between 7 -8pm) for the bible study and prayer time. Some of us would like it to be all prayer time and some, all bible study.

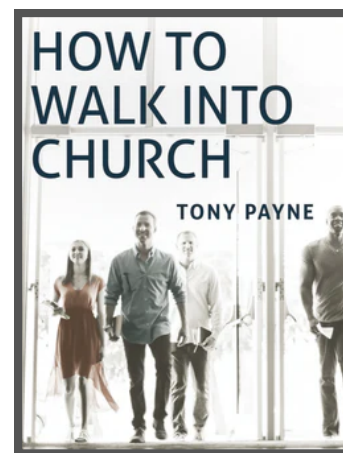
The little videos keep that balance for us. We use the workbook that goes with it. Having done the previous two Strategies, we are confident to engage with the discussion questions. The homework is fun. Following the first week, our study group came to church talking about where they were going to sit, to the bemusement of the rest of the people who knew where they sat! The concept that ‘the ministry of the pew’ is valuable to the church is slowly becoming more real, and participants are starting to offer ways in which they can help. Everyone can do something, eg listen actively to encourage one’s neighbour; listen better during the service; not be afraid to sing off-key so long as it is enthusiastically.

The course is challenging because, although at times it seems so simple and almost too basic, it is really where the rubber meets the road and invites everyone to contribute something. Harmony is the key word of the group. Everyone is happy that we are all growing together, but differently, in our walk with the Lord, so we are patient with one another.

The course is well structured, so anyone in the group can lead it. I recommend it to anyone prepared to offer it.”

Interested in trying the course? You can find out more at:

<https://matthiasmedia.com.au/products/six-steps-to-loving-your-church-dvd>



“How to Walk into Church by Tony Payne is a short book which can be used to accompany ‘Six Steps to Loving Your Church’ or can be used as a stand alone resource.

How you walk into church reveals a great deal about what you think church is, what it's for, and what you think you're doing there. In this book Tony Payne suggests a way to walk into church that beautifully expresses what church is and why you're there - in a way that every Christian can master.

Loving One Another at Frederick Irwin School

Frederick Irwin Anglican School in Mandurah jumped straight in with our 'Love One Another' strategy last term. Chaplain Rev James Tabor reports:

"We are becoming very focused on loving one another, and building a strong and resilient team as a result. Our Wellbeing committee has been arranging morning teas and other small events to celebrate our support staff, our Education Assistants and of course, teachers. RUOK Day is a big event in our annual calendar and we often have Pocket (our care dog) in and around School for staff and students (but interestingly, I think mainly for staff!!)

Our staff holiday was held just after Synod (20-22 October). We had 8 staff join us at the Anglican Campsite for the weekend. We enjoyed a bring and share meal on the Saturday, and a Eucharist on the beach on the Sunday morning.



Staff Holiday Busselton

Tracey Gray
Principal
Robyn Dixon
School Counsellor



Rev Tabor sharing
Eucharist at Staff Camp



Canteen Staff on 'RU OK Day'

Jesus said, "Love one another" and it is important to get to know other people before we can love them. By breaking down barriers at our school, we enable staff to mix freely and to have experiences, fun and conversation. We are also discovering the areas of common interest and purpose that we share, and this means our staff become happier, more resilient and more loving.

We now have 3 social clubs, two of which started just this year. Staff trips to the Comedy Club in Perth, the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre and a River Cruise have been well attended and more staff are encouraged to come to improve our "friendliness". We now have a buddy system in place to ensure that everyone has a (self-selected) buddy to talk and share with."

