

Parish Magazine

Anglican Parish of St Stephen & St Mary Mt Waverley



From Your Vicar

I would like to thank Helene Durkin for her decades of work with the weekly pew leaflet – Helene has seen this work as a real ministry, which of course it is, and undertaken it with thoroughness and attention to detail. Helene has now decided that she needs to hand the baton on to the new office manager, Katherine Rushby. Helene is continuing with her work and ministry through the publication of the Parish Magazine, and we thank Helene for her wonderful ministry. We welcome Katherine to the office. Katherine commenced with the parish on the 1st August and many of you have already met Katherine, but feel free to call in and meet her if you haven't. Katherine works on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10.00 – 2.00 p.m. We also thank David Cundy for his 18 months working in the office and we are pleased that he is able to continue as our Organist and Director of Music. David has taken up work, with longer hours, and that uses his IT gifts to a greater level. We also have a new student placement, Nick Comb. Nick is with us for this semester and is with us for 3 hours a week on a Thursday morning. I hasten to add that Becky, Children's and Families minister, Kathryn and Garry our Assistant Curates are still with us....as so am I!!

I thought I would write briefly about preparing ourselves for Sunday worship as this is a very important part of our praying of the Eucharist. We all know about the care and details taken over

preparing a home when we are invited to a dinner or having people come to our home. We know, too, the time and energy that is given over to preparing for an overseas trip or for a wedding. Well the same is true for our Sunday Eucharistic worship, when the People of God go to the wedding feast of heaven to meet their Saviour.

The task of preparing for worship falls on some people (flowers, grounds, music, scripture readings, intercessions and many more) and all of it needs to be done with care. And so too with our own preparation for the Eucharist. This also needs to be done with attention. We might, for example, spend some time during the week going over the Sunday readings, perhaps with the aid of a commentary. It is also helpful to offer your worship with a special purpose in mind. You see, the Eucharist is our entering, once again, into the one offering of Christ's life to the Father for the life of the world. So we can join with Christ in this by making a special offering of our worship. The intention could be for a sick friend, someone who has lost their work or is overworked...just holding them up in your hearts as you worship.

Certainly one thing is important. That is to arrive at Church with plenty of time to greet your brothers and sisters in Christ. In this way we acknowledge and recall that we belong to Christ as a family of God, called by Christ,

and with whom he shares the gift of the Spirit. Then we need to move into the building to **prepare in silence** for Christ who comes to be at one with us in Sacred Scripture and the Sacrament.

This little detail often gets overlooked, and yet it is important not only for ourselves, but for the whole congregation. It is quite noticeable when a congregation is not prepared. The worship seems ragged and disjointed and it seems to take up to fifteen minutes for it to come together.

So our Sunday Eucharist does not begin when we stand for the first hymn. It begins in our hearts at home as we prepare in expectation to meet Jesus. No one should be surprised that nothing seems to happen in worship if they come in a perfunctory manner or in haste.

No. We come to meet our King and Saviour and that, of course, is as important as inviting someone to our homes for dinner, or preparing for a wedding day.

You and the whole congregation will gain so much more if we all prepare beforehand.

Wishing you every blessing,

Vicar Dianne

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Any suggestions and feedback
to helenedur@netspace.net.au

From the Registers:

Baptisms:

30/04/2017

Layla Harper Wray

21/05/17

Heidi Melissa Barry

21/05/2017

Anna Ricki Barry

25/06/2017

Luna Rey Simmonds

Deaths:

10/04/2017

Peter McRae Meyer

01/05/2017

Winifred Hamilton Ockenden

16/05/2017

Lillian Pushpavathy Thevapalan

20/05/2017

Rosalind Maida Hammond

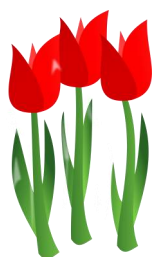
22/06/2017

Joyce Lillian Dyke

30/07/2017

Jeffrey Joseph Harman

"May they rest in peace
And rise in glory"



Ever considered making
bequest to the
Parish in your Will?
Need more details, then please
speak to one of the Wardens.

The Spiritual Work of Gratitude

To be grateful for the good things that happen in our lives is easy, but to be

grateful for all of our lives-the good as well as the bad,

the moments of joy as well as the moments of sorrow, t

he successes as well as the failures,

the rewards as well as the rejections-that requires hard spiritual work.

Still, we are only truly grateful people when we can say

thank you to all that has brought us to the present moment.

As long as we keep dividing our lives

between events and people we would like to remember

and those we would rather forget,

we cannot claim the fullness of our beings

as a gift of God to be grateful for.

Let's not be afraid to look at everything

that has brought us to where we are now

and trust that we will soon see in it t

he guiding hand of a loving God.





Mary.

Mary the mother of our Lord is revered throughout the world. Her piety is highly extolled in Islam which believes in the virgin birth, usually including her perpetual virginity in a life devoted to worship. Muslims make pilgrimage to her statue over Beirut and in Sidon. Local belief places Mary resting in a small cave in southern Lebanon while Jesus preached in the region. There is no scriptural evidence for this but Mark 7:26 states the woman whose daughter Jesus healed by exorcism was from the region of Tyre and Sidon. In Mathew 11:21-24 Jesus praises these towns to expose the lack of faith in him amongst his own people.

In ancient Palestine the birth of a baby was an occasion of great communal joy. A group congregated outside the home of the impending birth while outside local musicians arrived with their instruments, in case the child was a boy. Every woman hoped her first child was a son to bring her great pride, cement the marriage and the family lineage and they dreamed to bear the promised messiah. Finally the midwife appeared with the proscribed announcement, "Great joy! A son has been born to this house today". The village sang blessings on the child and the mother was specially honoured. These practices are evident in many birth narratives in the Bible. Forms of these are still practised in Middle Eastern societies.

Mary was denied this celebration because political machinations forced

her to deliver away from the comforts of home. But God knew and cared about her longings. The Gospel tells us that God sent his own orchestra to celebrate the special birth. The shepherds reported the whole sky filled with angelic beings singing praises announcing the birth of her son in the traditional formula. Little wonder that Mary treasured these things in her heart.

Mary still lives in all who suffer displacement or the lack of comforts at the time of childbirth and raising families in difficult circumstances. Like her daughters today she demonstrated courage being willing to suffer personal sacrifice for others wellbeing. She was a great teacher of her son as he walked these same values into his life. She accepted the burden of being misrepresented. The circumstances of her pregnancy, which rocked Joseph to his core to the point of divorcing her, forced her to marry quickly and quietly giving up the traditional wedding party. The marriage of a Palestinian girl is the highlight not only of her life, but a celebration for the whole village. Her quiet shabby affair likely caused gossip. Mary took off to a far away town to be with Elisabeth while things died down at home. I witnessed similar events in the region and the lack of a proper party to mark moving into marriage from betrothal is still the edge of scandal.

Mary was a village girl caught up in events beyond her understanding. Her life was shaped by powers out

of her control and she raised her son in a country occupied by a harsh foreign power in politically difficult times. The Pax Romana was a yoke of oppression for Palestine a land of poverty, overcrowding, straining its resources of food and water and ravaged with want. King Herod threatened by Jesus' birth attempted to keep his kingdom intact by murdering all infants in Bethlehem. A pious woman she must have mourned for the innocent children. Old Palestinian folklore says God still recompenses the women of the Bethlehem region by giving them beautiful sons.

During the years as a refugee in Egypt did she wonder if she would ever see her family and village again? Mary knew bitter suffering. The Scriptures tell us it was a knife piercing her soul when she saw her son unjustly and brutally tortured to death as a common criminal. She saw her holy hopes of a better future bleed into the dust. Her Magnificat seemed in ashes. But Mary's "Yes" remained unshakeable and she is named among the disciples gathered for worship at Pentecost when the church is born.

Her life is characterized by her words to the angel Gabriel, "I am God's servant. Let all happen to me as he wills". At completion of her mission to mother the child Jesus she becomes the model disciple leaving all the honour to Jesus the Christ, reminiscent of her command at his first miracle in Cana, "Do whatever he tells you".

Christine Mallouhi

ST. STEPHEN'S AND ST MARY'S MT WAVERLEY

ISSUE 8 JULY–AUGUST 2017

59TH Birthday Lunch June 26th

This was a great success due to the efforts of members who worked so hard to sell tickets and to cook the delicious casserole lunch. Phoebe's *Apple Strudel* was a tasty finish to the meal and those who stayed for coffee & tea, also enjoyed Gloria's beautifully decorated birthday cake. 85 people sat down to lunch. We raised (after costs) \$1470 for the MU mission project supporting the empowerment of Indigenous women in Northern Australia. Thank you to all the MU members and others who helped in any way on the day. The big attraction of course, was Lambis Englezos AM who spoke powerfully about his quest to locate, identify and re-bury the remains of ANZACS from the Battlefield of Fromelles in France. I have written a fuller report on his presentation in the forthcoming Parish magazine which I hope you will read and perhaps share with your family and friends.

Next Meeting was: *Wave of Prayer* July 24th @ 1-30pm in the Chapel

MU is of course an organisation built on our prayerful care of our families. During the week beginning Sunday July 23rd, MU will be participating in the *Wave of Prayer*, an international program which invites the 4 million members of Mothers Union world- wide to pray for each other and the Church in each of their countries. Isn't this AWESOME! Norma will be organising this service, so please be available if she asks you to take part. We will follow the service with a brief meeting and simple afternoon tea. I have asked recent travellers to share their travel tales with you. It I haven't asked you because I didn't know about your travels, please feel free to share with the group over afternoon tea.

Dream Stitches: Migrant & Refugee Women's Sewing Program*

We will be visiting this important mission program on Friday 25th. August 10am. Please meet in the car park at the Church so we can car pool. For those not living near the Church, *Dream Stitches* is in the old church hall of St. Aidan's Church @ 8-10 Surrey St. Box Hill South. *Dream Stitches* has been running for over 12 years as an entirely voluntary program which demonstrates Christian love and care in action. It was begun by Jenifer McKenzie (St Paul's Canterbury), supported by MU and many churches including ours and other groups. Our own Ros Sahhar has been a volunteer there for many years, Marg Crawford from the Contemporary Service has recently joined as a teacher. Please consider if you would like to make a donation to their work. There is a brochure on the MU Notice Board at the Church. Could we provide morning tea when we visit? They have a small stall selling items made by the students and volunteers

The Winter edition of MIA MiA and copies of Families Worldwide are available now from Margaret Noblett.

It makes interesting reading with articles on... Wholeness, Equality Campaign at the United Nations, news from various dioceses, support for Indigenous projects, prayer and of course a recipe for "donkey droppings" (alias coconut balls)...who said MU is dull?

Mission Projects: Indigenous women*

Due to our Birthday lunch, we will be able to make a substantial payment to the MU project "The Training Fund for Indigenous Women" to give it the proper title. Attached to this newsletter is a brochure describing the current demand on the Fund. Many applications relate to supporting women to undertake further education by providing bursaries to Wontulp-bi-Bunya College in N.QLD & Nungalinga College in Darwin. These bursaries fund the purchase of Bibles and reference materials for students at these two theological training colleges. Other bursaries fund the travel of MU leaders to attend training programs and attend family camps. Investing in women's leadership in the Church is a very good investment for Mothers' Union.

Mission Project: Solar Lights*

This project is a partnership of Anglican Overseas Aid and Mothers' Union in the Anglican Diocese of Melanesia and we have agreed to contribute some of our special funds raised from the Op Shop and Lenten Green Challenge to support this initiative. This truly is a good news project because it provides access to solar lights for families and rural communities in the Solomon Islands, not connected to the electricity grid. Getting rid of kerosene lamps has improved people's health and reduced fire risks. Selling solar lamps provides an income for women who are given business training and of course, because their families have a solar light, children can complete their homework and study for a better future. Jesus said, *I am the light of the world (Jn 9:5)*. We are helping to bring light to the Solomon Island through this project.

Mission Project: Care packs for Homeless People

Due to our busy year this project which we discussed late last year has slipped off our agenda. When I delivered the sleeping bags, warm socks, scarfs and beanies etc. from our Parish Warm Winter Woolies collection to St Mark's Community Centre last month, I was reminded that we have items which need packing. We have collected small toothpaste, shampoo, soap, deodorants etc to pack into zip-top sponge bags to give to the folk who use the St Marks Centre. These are mainly men who sleep on the streets and need to travel light. When they go to hospital they need a comfort pack like these which might include socks, a T-shirt and underpants as well. Joan West has offered to co-ordinate the packing of these packs. Could we decide on a timetable for completing this project. I am aware of the coming Fete so this might affect any decisions on these packs.

*Brochures on MU Notice Board

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ... 125th. Anniversary Conference of MU AUSTRALIA?

From 3pm Friday Sept. 15th to 4pm Sunday Sept. 17th.

Tram sheds Function Centre, 4 Invermay Road Launceston Cost: \$300 which includes dinner on Friday& Saturday night, morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea on Saturday and Sunday.

Fete: Saturday 28 October 10.00 am - 2.00 pm

New stalls in 2017

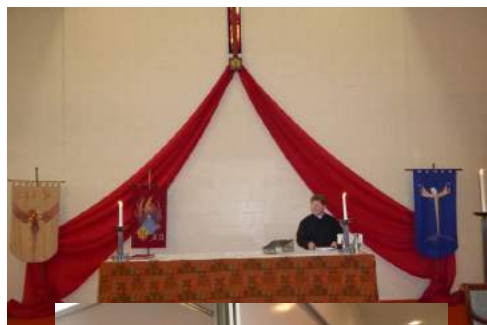
- Fresh Produce: vegetables, fruit and herbs. Home-grown is best so if you can help plant now. Contact ideas for supplies welcome
- Re-cycled Clothing: clean and wearable children's and adults clothing. Interesting accessories but no shoes welcome. Speak to Nora Ashe (9am service) if you have suitable items.
- Mutant Toys: create new out of old (Fiona Nicholson Stocker)

Green stall: worm farms, composting ideas, etc (Irene co-ordinating with Monash Council)

Donations of goods for the fete. Due to storage problems **we cannot collect items until September**. If you need to clear out a house or garage now, speak to Doug Hastings. For books, CD, DVDs etc (Jenny Brown); ornaments & household items (Bev Anderson).

WANTED Volunteers to help with BBQ, Helpers for the KIDS ZONE. The Fete planning group is meeting regularly. If you wish to join this group or receive meeting notes, contact **Irene**





CONTEMPORARY
CONGREGATION



Children's Talk

CE Congregation
Games Night



Photos Courtesy
Rowena Ferguson



Ladies Guild

Please join us on the second Thursday of each month at 2.00pm in the Parish Centre. Our short meeting is followed by afternoon tea and a chat.

The Ladies Guild has enjoyed a pleasing three months.

Our week at the Opportunity Shop in March raised \$780.00. Thanks to all who supported us through giving items to be sold.

In May we held a Cancer Council afternoon tea where the Reverend Kathryn Watt spoke to us on her life and ministry.

Noted local citizen Geoff Coleman was guest speaker at our May Morning Tea. He told us many interesting historical facts about the Waverley area and of his family's long association with St Stephen's Anglican Church. The morning raised \$580.00. Sincere thanks to all who made this function the success it was.

Reverend Dianne gave us a most interesting overview of her recent trip to Japan at our July meeting. It was very much appreciated. Janice



Janice at a Special Afternoon Tea

Youth Group

At the Anglican Parish of St Stephen and St Mary

Our parish has a long history of youth ministry, and many of our parishioners have happy memories of when their grown-up children came along in past years. (Some even met their spouses at Youth Group!) We aim for a program of fun activities in a safe Christian environment, and our 'youth groupies' work with us as we form our programs for each semester.

Youth Group is held on the first and third Sundays each month (other than school holidays) from 6pm till 8pm.

All in years 7 – 12 are welcome to join us for evenings of fun and friendship, with pastoral oversight, and we encourage people to bring their friends along to join in the fun. All kinds of activities are held, mostly in the parish centre, with a fun activity outside the church each semester. Last semester we tested our stamina with a night of rock climbing (we really worked up an appetite) and this semester we're off to Bounce. We'll also have an indigenous speaker from Anglicare coming along to talk about his past experiences, both positive and

negative, including in dealing with drug abuse. Jason is an elder of the Bira Bri Nation, and we look forward to hearing about his experiences, and how he has turned his life around, on 17 September.

We hope that all our youth have a sense of belonging to St Stephen and St Mary, and a sense of acceptance in the group as we strive to bring young people together.

Revd Kathryn Watt



What does the Green Challenge mean?

As the camera zoomed towards the artificial mountain in the shopping street, it revealed that it was in fact a mountain of discarded clothes, donated via bins in shopping-centre car parks to various charities. Unfortunately many items were unfit to be worn again, damaged and dirty. This was one of the most memorable images from the recent ABC TV series - "War on Waste". There were other memorable storylines in this disturbing series... the destruction of bananas because they did not conform to supermarket design standards... too long, too curvy, too fat. We should be thankful that the same standards are not applied to humans! This was a timely series for our Parish as we undertake The Green Challenge. If you have not seen this series, it is available on iView on your computer, TV, iPad or tablet.

What the program sets out to do is to challenge the way we use the resources of our society and much of the factual information is quite scary e.g. recyclable coffee cups that cannot be recycled although coffee drinkers in Melbourne use many thousands a day. Most of the soft plastics such as food wraps and supermarket shopping bags we take for granted are exported overseas to be dumped. Of the items we place in our yellow lidded bins, probably only the paper, glass and metals are recovered and reused. Our e-waste... superseded computers, printers, cartridges, batteries etc... is destined to create another mountain somewhere, unless we make the effort to return them to collection points.

Scientific studies have also identified nano (very very small) particles of plastic in the digestive tracts of fish and birds. Many creatures will die from ingesting our rubbish. It seems that without deliberate action we will soon pollute this earth to such an extent that life for all creatures will be very poor indeed. This our challenge ...what can we do to protect the earth and all that lives upon it, from destruction?

So let's consider what we are able to do as a parish and as individuals. The parish centre and vicarage have where possible

energy efficient LED lights. There are facilities in the Parish Office for shredding or recycling paper. Rainwater is collected in water tanks and reused, gardens are mulched. Like domestic premises in the Monash Council area, we have colour coded bins into to which rubbish should be sorted. The council has also produced a brochure to assist people who need to recycle household rubbish, available in the Narthex and Parish Centre. Our social justice group has designed the Green Challenge with useful ideas that you might like to try.

As an individual I have taken up the challenge of reducing food waste. As the owner of four worm farms, I would like people to consider this as an effective way to turn vegetable scraps, tea bags, garden weeds (unsprayed), eggshells, fruit peelings and shredded newspaper etc. into rich garden fertiliser at no cost to the environment and great benefit to my garden. If I had more space I would use a compost bin. I also refuse unnecessary packing on items purchased e.g. some clothes shops tend to wrap extra paper around a purchase that is unlikely to get damaged on the journey home. Such unnecessary use of paper provides little environmental benefit compared to the tree it once was! Ask the dry cleaner to fold your clothes and not hang them on un-needed coat hangers, wrapped in wasteful soft plastic. Think how much paper is wasted by computer printing and how much plastic is used if we do not take our own shopping bags to the supermarket. At the Church Fete in October we will try to demonstrate our Parish commitment to meeting the Green Challenge. Please watch the Pew sheet for ideas.

Some of the key words of the Green Challenge are... recycle, re-purpose, re-gift, reduce and reject. Being environmentally conscious does save money, for example St. Paul's Cathedral saves \$18,000 per year on its electricity bill by using LED lights. Solar panels on north facing roofs significantly reduce dependence on polluting coal. But more importantly, simple changes made by

individuals will help save our planet. If we revert to old fashioned ways of re-using materials or preserving garden produce, we may gain a benefit from the Green Challenge. It will also allow each one of us to regain some control over how we use the resources available to us but most of all, the Green Challenge should teach us to respect and restore this wonderful planet, the free gift of God. IDC for the Social Justice group.



We need Fete Volunteers to run the Parish Fete

If you can spare an hour to help, add your name to the

GREEN FETE NOTICE
on parish notice boards
Bookstall (Jenny Brown)

Trash & Treasure
(Doug Hastings & Bev Anderson)

BBQ (Paul Rowlands)

KIDS ZONE (Marg Taylor)

Toys (Fiona Nicholson-Stocker)

Craft (Ros Sahhar & Anne Richardson)

Tombola (Fran Ludgate)

Plants (Maggie & Graeme Dellora)

Cakes (Janice Millar)

Produce (Alf North)

Parking & Cleaning (Bruce Chugg)

**Setting up on Friday
October 27th**

Jill's Story

One day, which now seems several lifetimes ago, I was lying on the beach near the Elwood Yacht Club when a very young man approached me and said "Good morning Jill – not a very nice day for the beach is it?"

At first I thought I may have met him through a mutual friend at the Yacht Club. However I also realized he may have read my name on the beach towel I had woven at school a couple of years before.

Anyway, as it was not a good day for sunbathing, he asked me if I would like to go for a drive.

I agreed, although it was not my habit to get picked up on the beach or anywhere else at that time.

As we were walking to the car park I remember thinking that Brian looked too young to be driving a car and I was not about to ride on the back of a motor bike.

We arrived at the car which turned out to be a very smart sports car of some sort. It was actually an M.G.

T.C. in British Racing Green which was Brian's pride and joy at the time. I realized much later that, dressed I was in black pedal pushers and a black and white sailor top, he thought I might be a suitable accessory for the car. And so began several years of friendship and courting after which we were married at St. Agnes Church in Glenhuntly on January 21st. 1961. So now after 56 years of married life I feel I feel truly blessed to have found such a wonderful life partner.

Regarding St. Mary's Church we began worshipping there in the late 1970s when two of our sons joined the choir.

During our time at St. Marys Brian, due to work and other commitments, was not as involved in church matters as I was. When we, the wardens and vestry members in consultation with all parishioners, made the sad decision to close the church in February 2002 Brian and I walked together in the procession to our new spiritual home at St. Stephens.



Love is His Way

1. Love is his word, love is his way,
feasting with all, fasting alone,
living and dying, rising again,
love, only love, is his way:

Chorus:

Richer than gold is the love of my
Lord, better than splendour and
wealth.

2. Love is his way, love is his mark,
sharing his last Passover feast,
Christ at his table, host to the twelve,
love, only love, is his mark:

3. Love is his mark, love is his sign,
bread for our strength, wine for our
joy, "This is my body, this is my
blood" - love, only love, is his sign:

4. Love is his sign, love is his news,
'Do this,' he said, 'lest you forget
all my deep sorrow, all my dear blood'
- love, only love, is his news:

5. Love is his news, love is his name,
we are his own, chosen and called,
family, brethren, cousins and kin,
love, only love, is his name:

6. Love is his name, love is his law,
hear his command, all who are his.
'Love one another, I have loved you'
love, only love, is his law.

7. Love is his law, love is his word:
love of the Lord, Father and Word,
love of the Spirit, God ever one,
love, only love, is his word:

**Author: L. Connaughton (1917-
1979 - a favourite hymn**

What is your Favourite Hymn /

St Stephen's floral festival springs to life this Friday

ST STEPHEN'S spring floral festival will open in a blaze of color on Friday, September 11.

Guest speaker at St Stephen's Church in High Street Rd, Mount Waverley, at 8 pm will be Mr Paul Kelly of Greenmount Nurseries in Mount Waverley.

The official opening of the floral art display will be performed by the Mayor of Waverley, Cr Graeme Frecker, at 11 am on Saturday, September 12.

The display will be open from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm on the Saturday, and a donation of \$2.50 will be asked.

Sunday, September 13, from 11 am to 2 pm will be viewing of exhibits only.

The exhibits will be from St Stephen's Parish members, local parishes, Dellwood Floral Art Group, Waverley Floral Art Group and a local florist.

Paintings, hand-crafts, bark painting, China painting, cakes and plants will be for sale along with unusual gifts from Anglican Multi Links.

Lunch and refreshments will be served.



SETTING up the display (from left) Dorothy Poke arranges flowers, with Roslyn Sahhar and artist Betty Durkin.

Not this

Friday.

Do you

know when?

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History

From the Past:

Thanks

to

Dorothy Poke

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST STEPHEN & ST MARY

Vicar:	The Revd Dianne Sharrock
Assistant Curate:	The Revd Kathryn Watt
Office Administrator:	Katherine Rushby
Office Hours:	Wednesday & Friday 10 am-2 pm, Thursday: 1-5 pm
Becky Sims:	Families and Children's Minister
Parish Office:	Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 10am-2pm.
Email:	parishoffice@stephenandmary.org.au
Home Communion and General Visiting;	Ian Smith
Aged Care Chaplaincies	Bruce Chugg
Hospital Visiting:	Clergy
Contemporary Eucharist Contact	Rowena Ferguson
Funeral Ministry:	The Vicar
Pastoral Associate (Emeritus):	Trevor Bickerstaff

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