



"From Warren"

Please don't let the news of the public unveiling of a new denomination called 'The Diocese of the Southern Cross' alarm you. Although this new non-geographical diocese seems to have as its goal the dismemberment of Anglican dioceses around the country, the likelihood is that it will have little effect.

Those who oppose same sex unions in a diocese where there are mixed views on the matter will now be able to leave the Anglican Church of Australia, if they wish to do so, and join this newly minted faux Anglican grouping. They will become part of that non-geographical diocese and, as is appropriate, be a member of that denomination and not our church. Contrary to this worldly spirit of sectarianism, it is, I believe, important for Anglicans to continue our tradition of living together in one communion even though there are differences (and quite wide differences) on a range of different issues. (If you would like to read some of what I have written on this, please check out my blog at <https://classic-theology-new.blogspot.com>.) Of course, if people feel they can no longer be part of our church and wish to start a new denomination (I would have thought we have enough already, but there you go) then, I suppose, the self-styled Diocese of the Southern Cross does provide a means for them to do so. The moderation of the Anglican tradition, and its great desire to enable people to live together in peace remains a great gift in my life. St Columba's is a church that possesses this kind of moderation in buckets, and it is written into our ecclesial DNA. We welcome the breadth that comes from being part of a world-wide communion that in its variety reflects something of God's desire to save all people. Together, even in our serious moments of disagreement, there remains something for us to learn from each other, and an opportunity to grow in humility and understanding as we, at times robustly, work together to approach the truth.

WARREN

For more of Warren's work see his blog at <http://classic-theology-new.blogspot.com.au>



THE LAMBETH  
CONFERENCE  
AUGUST 2022

This Conference of bishops in the Anglican Communion, named for the Archbishop of Canterbury's residence at Lambeth Palace in London, is normally held every 10 years.

This year more than 650 bishops from 165 countries attended, including our Archbishop Geoffrey Smith and Assistant Bishops Tim Harris, Chris McLeod and Denise Ferguson.

The stated intention of the Conference is for the bishops to meet as equals, with the Archbishop of Canterbury as host, chairman and "first among equals". The theme this year was "God's Church for God's World"; discussion about a range of topics was based on Bible studies from the First Letter of St Peter and draft documents known as "Lambeth Calls", which were discussed and developed during the week. Each bishop was assigned to a group of 6 to 8, all from different provinces, and they stayed in those groups for the whole time.

Discussion was about world issues, including mission, evangelism, 'safe church' policies, reconciliation, human dignity and sexuality. Special attention was paid to the

environment and sustainable development: a tree was planted in the garden at Lambeth Palace to point towards developing a global forest initiative focussed on forest protection, tree growing and eco-system restoration.

The Prayer for Unity is prayed at Lambeth every day and is a valuable focus for all of us in challenging times:

Lord Jesus, who prayed that we might all be one, we pray to you for the unity of Christians, according to your will, according to your means. May your Spirit enable us to experience the suffering caused by division, to see our sin and to hope beyond all hope. Amen.

ON REFLECTION

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GETTING TO KNOW...

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# Parish Report

## for Synod

This year we developed Beyond Sunday, a series of education and formation experiences. The focuses on Discipleship, Pastoral Care, Developing small groups for Ministry, Prayer and Leadership of the Parish grew out of our Mission Action Plan.

The Lenten Study sessions on Acts chapters 1 and 2 were well attended. Recently our Intercessors have worked together to deepen the understanding of their role and they have created an Intercessors' Resource.

The NCLS feedback was encouraging. Results showed that 14% of respondents were new in last 5 years and that 97% come monthly or more. Asked about the impact of Covid, 3% said they were less involved, 81 % about the same and 17% more involved. Throughout the pandemic we have maintained an online presence with the recording of the 9.30 Sunday service, Warren's Message of the Day (Tuesdays), Evening Prayer (Wednesdays) and either Compline or a reflection on Thursdays.

Our rich music life has continued under the leadership of Richard Black. Despite the challenges of Covid, Columba

Playtime has entered its third year, led by Julie Ascher-Ellis, assisted by volunteers. We enjoy a network of small, volunteer led groups in the parish including Friday prayer group, Coffee, Craft and Chat, MU, Men's Group and several community choirs. These groups cater to members of the parish as well as those who do not attend church. For the Patronal Festival this year we focused on engagement across the generations.

The focus on parish leadership involved training in WHS and in risk assessments for outreach. We are tracking the pathways into our parish, both in terms of people joining our congregation, participation in activities on our property and the use of the Close by people in the local area. In addition to the annual fete, we have introduced smaller scale garage sales to engage with the community.

Whilst Rev. Dr Warren Huffa was on Long Service Leave this year, we were grateful for the presence and leadership of Rev. Dr Mark Thomas. Ann Nadge's Commissioning as Pastoral Ministry Worker in Nov. 2021 meant that provision of pastoral care remained steady.

## Primate's Statement on The Diocese of the Southern Cross.

On August 18th 2022 Archbishop Geoff Smith, Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, (ACA) published a statement in response to the establishment of the Diocese of the Southern Cross. This is a company formed to support a breakaway denomination, unhappy with ACA's perceived failure to settle on a conservative view of same-sex marriage and blessings.

"It is always easier to gather with those we agree with. But in a tragically divided world God's call and therefore the church's role includes showing how to live together with difference. Not merely showing tolerance but receiving the other as a gift from God.

My conviction is that the Anglican Church of Australia can find a way to stay together, graciously reflecting God's great love, with our differences held sincerely. This week's announcement makes achieving that end more difficult but not impossible.

I will continue to pray and work that God's call on the church will be realised and encourage others to do the same."

The full statement can be read at the Adelaide Guardian website: <https://adelaideguardian.com/>

*Eva's Baptism*



*Magdalene Centre workers*



# Getting to know...

## Catherine Hodge.

Catherine (Lamphee) grew up in Walkerville, where her family were parishioners at St Andrew's.

She became one of the band of bellringers in the parish, as the art of changeringing was being developed there. She graduated from Adelaide University with a Bachelor of Science degree, married pathologist Philip Hodge and began a teaching career at Presbyterian Girls' College (PGC – now Seymour) teaching General Science and Chemistry. She retired from teaching when the first of her three children (Andrew, Elspeth and Christopher) was on the way. The family moved into the Hawthorn parish in 1955, when C.W.E. Swan was the Rector, and she remembers that there were still pew rents, which seemed very awkward. They moved to England as Philip worked for a year at Guy's Hospital

and they became regular worshippers at St Columba's after their return.

When the Flinders Medical Centre was starting and her children were in their teens Catherine became involved in establishing the Volunteer Service at FMC. She claims that she became Secretary because she was the only one who could type, but she soon became Chair of the service. They established the shop which was an important source of income for the hospital, including providing the funds for setting up the ophthalmology department.

Catherine began providing breakfasts at St Columba's in Roger Correll's time, when he needed some food between services. She has also done church flowers until recently and is a reader at the 8.00 service. She recently retired after more than twenty years service as a volunteer guide at Carrick Hill.

Philip died in 2002. They have 10 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. There has also been a succession of 5 black Labradors.



“ She claims that she became Secretary because she was the only one who could type.”

*In the Close in winter*



# and what does the world think of the Church?

## The 2021 NCLS Australian Community Survey

discovered that more than half of Australians think that churches should: conduct weddings, funerals and baptisms. Others considered they should encourage good morals and/or give support to the poor. 18% of the people surveyed thought that churches should have no role in society.

# Worship and Events

Sundays:  
8.00 a.m. BCP Eucharist  
9.30am Contemporary Holy Communion

Weekdays:  
Thursdays: 10.30 a.m. BCP Eucharist  
Fridays: 9.30a.m. Morning Prayer



## SERVICES ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE:

Sundays after 2.00 p.m.: First part of 9.30 service.  
Tuesdays at 5.00 p.m.: Message of the Day by Warren.  
Wednesdays at 5.00 p.m.: Evening Prayer  
Thursdays at 5.00 p.m.: Reflection  
PLAYGROUP: 10.00am Columba Playtime in school term time.

## PARISH PRIEST:

The Reverend Dr Warren Huffa  
0438 988 448  
email: rector@columba.org.au

PASTORAL MINISTRY ASSISTANT:  
Ann Nadge 0402 830 521

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND OUTREACH WORKER:  
Julie Ascher-Ellis 0429 672 457

PARISH OFFICE:  
8272 7266  
email: welcome@columba.org.au  
Usual opening times:  
Tuesday 1.00 - 3.00 pm  
Friday 9.00 - 11.00 am

PRIEST'S WARDEN:  
ANN NADGE 0402 830 521

PEOPLE'S WARDEN:  
Neville Haar 8272 3813

**ST COLUMBA'S  
ANGLICAN  
CHURCH  
HAWTHORN**

website: [www.columba.org.au](http://www.columba.org.au)

101 CROSS ROAD HAWTHORN

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# For reflection...

Heaven, the scriptures assure us, will be enjoyed within the communal embrace of billions of persons of every temperament, race, background, and ideology imaginable.

A universal heart will be required to live there. Thus, in this life, it is good to get some practice at this, good to be constantly in situations that painfully stretch the heart. Few things - and we certainly all admit this - stretch the heart as painfully as does church community.

Conversely, when we avoid the pain and mess of ecclesial encounter to walk a less painful private road or to gather with only persons of our own kind, the heart need not and generally does not stretch. Going to church is one of the better cardiovascular spiritual exercises available.

Ronald Rolheiser  
'The Holy Longing'



Cellists  
Chris and Sherr  
Handley at  
Mothers' Union



Putting up  
the Banner

## DIARY DATES 2022

### SEPTEMBER

Sunday 4: Speaker for ABM  
Monday 12: Mothers' Union  
Tuesday 13: Sanctuary Guild  
Tuesday 20: Men's Group  
Wednesday 28: Parish Council  
Friday 30: School Term 3 ends

### OCTOBER

Monday 3: Public Holiday  
Friday 14 -16: Diocesan Synod  
Saturday 15: Fete  
Monday 17: Term 4 begins  
Tuesday 18: Men's Group  
Wednesday 26: Parish Council  
Sunday 30: Blessing of the Pets.

### NOVEMBER

Sunday 6: Archbishop's Visit  
Monday 14: Mothers' Union  
Tuesday 15:  
Sanctuary Guild Men's Group  
Wednesday 23: Parish Council  
Sunday 27: Vestry  
Budget Meeting