

Celebrating 20 years

of the Company of the Good Shepherd (CGS)

The 20th Anniversary was celebrated with a road trip of the North-West Parishes of the CGS by Bishop Mark and his wife Susan.

Commencing on Tuesday, May 3 at Warren with a light lunch of hot soup, sandwiches and cakes/slices in the hall, a service of Holy Communion in St John the Baptist church followed. Proceedings were delayed with a road closure, due to the recent rains, that forced Bishop Mark and Susan to have to back track and take another route to Warren. It is a reminder that ministry in the North-West comes with it challenges. However, the country hospitality and the joy of being together to hear from God's word, share in the Lord's Supper in celebration of the 20th Anniversary was appreciated by all attending.

The next stop for the first day of the road trip was down the road to Nyngan. Again, a wonderful spread of food was shared before a celebration service was held in St Mark's Church. Bishop Mark was glad to be greeted by the proudly flying Anglican Church of Australia flag. No doubt this is a legacy of Reverend Graham McLeod's ministry who had a flair for encouraging the use of



Diocesan Bishop - the Right Reverend Mark Calder (left), the Principal of the CGS – the Venerable Brett Watterson (right) with the congregation at St Barnabas, Coonamble.

the Anglican Church of Australia logo on clothing etc, as a way of "flying the Anglican flag".

The new Principal, Archdeacon Brett Watterson, and Henry Fox, from Dubbo were pleased to join the celebrations at Warren and Nyngan (Brett also attended Coonamble).

Henry, who is from the Solomon Islands, was taken with the vast scenery and space of the North-West and the emus in the paddocks. This pattern of fellowship and celebration

continued over the coming days as Bishop Mark and Susan were in Cobar on Wednesday, Bourke on Thursday and Coonamble on Friday.

Bishop Mark reminded all gathered, through his sermon, that we the church are people of: Resurrection reality; Holy Spirit power; Future Hope; and Constant Prayer. He contrasted the despair of Jesus disciples at the time of Jesus' death to the emboldened and impassioned disciples of Pentecost.

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“Who is the man in the photo?”

George Spencer Oakes (1855 ~ 1932)

Having walked the halls of Brotherhood House (now the Dubbo Anglican Parish Office) for over the last six years, I have often thought, “Who is the man in this photo”.

The photo is inside the entry door that I use many times each day going in and out of the office. My curiosity was further fuelled when Austin Jupp began the BGS & CGS Heritage Centre, as the photo was left on the wall.

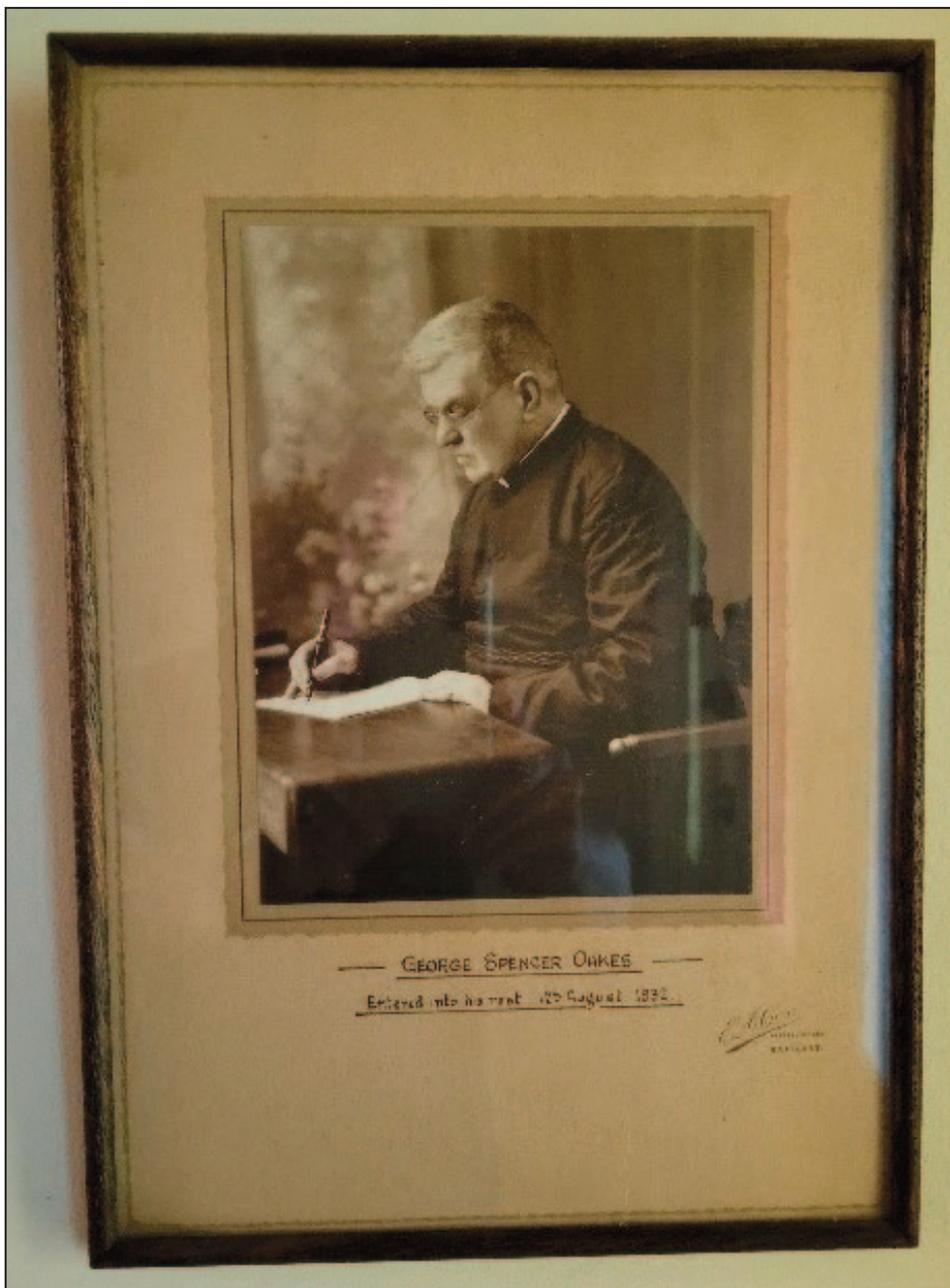
That may now change, as the story behind the photo is strongly connected with the BGS. With the recent death of one God’s saints, Betty Shuttle, whose family had been active members of Holy Trinity Kelso and Holy Trinity Dubbo, the story of George Spencer Oakes was uncovered by the family as they sorted through Betty’s belongings.

Following is an email from Jim Shuttle, who is the Great Grand Son of Archdeacon George Spence Oakes.

Following are extracts from articles published in The Sydney Mail and book by a Bush Brother.

While it shows that he was not a member of the Brotherhood of the Good Shepherd he was doing the work prior to the order being established.

This is an extract from an article published in the Sydney Mail, Wednesday, March 19, 1930. It was taken from his own writings.



I attained the requisite age of 23 years on December 10, 1878 and was admitted to the Diaconate on St. Thomas Day 11 days later by Bishop Marsden (Samuel).

Early in January 1878 I was appointed to Coonamble and undertook the journey of 250 miles on horseback.

I conducted my first service at Coonamble on Anniversary

Day, 1879. A church had been built and was later dedicated at my suggestion to the good St Barnabas, whom I had come to regard as my patron saint.

After a year in Coonamble I rode back to Bathurst for my ordination as a priest, which I did not visit the See city for eight years.

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Introducing the new Principal ~ Brett Watterson

The new Principal of the CGS is a boy from the bush, having grown up at Temora in the South-West Slopes of New South Wales. Brett undertook all his schooling locally before working in a Holden dealership and then an Auto-Pro store. Brett was very involved in the sporting community and spent four years in the Army Reserve. In 1991 he travelled as part of a contingent that represented Australia for the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Greece-Crete.

Although a cradle Anglican (Church of England), it was not until the early 1990's that Brett returned to church at St Paul's Temora. "I remember on the day that I returned to church, as I walked up the aisle for Communion, it was like my heart was burning within me. I did not know what it was at the time, other than thinking that this is 'a God thing'.

Later I came to understand it as a work of the Holy Spirit, similar to what Jesus described as 'were not our hearts burning within us?' as they walked with the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus." (Luke 24.32) After a journey of growing through study of the Scrip-

tures, prayer and fellowship it was whilst attending a Cursillo weekend in 1995 that Brett experienced a call to ministry.

In 1996 he began studies at St Mark's National Theological College in Canberra, he was part of the first cohort of the new partnership with Charles Sturt University. In that same year he was part of Bishop George Browning's youth pilgrimage to the Philippines, England and France.

During the pilgrimage there were many significant spiritual moments, but he also had the pleasure of meeting a young lady from a Bega dairy farm, Michelle Whitby, who he would marry in January 1998. After completing his studies (Michelle studied at CiT in Canberra) Brett and Michelle went to Tumut where Brett served as Curate and Youth and Young families minister.

The time of ministry was very fruitful, with many young people coming to and growing in their faith in Jesus. Key to this is seeking to grow a ministry modelled on the life and ministry of Jesus.

Brett and Michelle also celebrated the birth of their first

two children Amy and Elizabeth. The next stop was nearly three years as an Associate Minister/Youth Minister at Batemans Bay, with many celebrations of what God was doing through His church in that parish.

With the call to be the Rector of St Luke's Junee, the young family moved to spend five years of engaged ministry in the Junee community and an addition of two children Lillian and Samuel to the family unit. Brett also served as the Rural Dean of the Young deanery, later named North-West Deanery for the later part of this time.

A "surprise call" to Bathurst Diocese saw the Watterson family move to the Anglican Parish of Parkes in 2009. Brett and Michelle poured themselves into the ministry of the parish and had the joy to see the ministry grow and others become more greatly involved in the life and ministry of the parish. The parish had strong connections to the community and ministries that engaged all generations saw much spiritual and numerical growth.

Continued on page 9...

Our next Edition: Gloria Shipp

Gloria's story of the life and faith is quite amazing. We can celebrate God's grace through her ministry over many years and with humility we can learn to better respect, understand and journey with our First Nation brother's and sisters in Christ. This will feature in our next edition of The Bushranger.

Celebrating the Brotherhood of the good Shepherd

From page 1...

We too have times of despair, but we too are people of resurrection reality! He concluded by encouraging all present to, “Cling to the reality of the risen Jesus. Draw on the Holy Spirit’s Power. Live like Jesus will return tomorrow, and never give up praying that the Lord will do his great work amongst us!”

The culmination of the week was a special service in Dubbo on Saturday, May 7.

The proceedings began with Bishop Mark meeting with members of the Brotherhood of the Good Shepherd (BGS) and Companions of the CGS. Archdeacon Brett invited the group to reflect upon the past ministry of the Brothers of the Brotherhood and Companions of the Company of the Good Shepherd, in thanksgiving of their life and ministry. This was a special time of reflection on the past, celebrating the present and looking to the future ministry of Jesus in the North-West.

There was a good attendance of people from the region for the service to celebrate the 20th Anniversary, to liturgically commission Brett as Principal and to commission Reverend Gloria Shipp as a Companion of the CGS. Bishop Mark presided and preached, former Bishop of the Diocese of Bathurst, present member of the Brotherhood Council and director on the Rolfe Sylvester Trust, the Right Reverend Richard Hurford, was present and took part in the service.

Appropriately, the theme of

the service was “The Good Shepherd”, with the hymns, readings and sermon all celebrating Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd of the sheep. In the sermon Bishop Mark spoke on the “I Am” statements of Jesus, leading into “I am the Good Shepherd”, who “lays down his life for the sheep”.

(A full copy of his sermon is included in this edition of *The Bushranger*.) This sacrificial giving of Jesus has been and is reflected in the life and ministry of those who serve in the Company of the Good Shepherd.

As Brett and Gloria were commissioned into the CGS they were each presented with a CGS stole (white and red) and pectoral cross. The pectoral crosses were made by deacon Ray Tickle from Dubbo, who serves as Chaplain to the BGS. After the service a wonderful luncheon was served on the veranda of Brotherhood House. Many people who were present took the opportunity to inspect the heritage room of the BGS and CGS, which was open for the occasion.

Bishop Mark’s sermon from the 20th Anniversary Service in Dubbo

1. I AM

If you were to ask me – ‘who are you?’ and I responded “I AM” ... you’d be forgiven for thinking – well – that’s a little strange. But on the lips of Jesus, it was enough to get him killed! I tell you the truth, Jesus answered, before Abraham was born, I am! At this, they picked up stones to stone him...What was so wrong with saying “I am”? Once before – only once – had anyone introduced themselves that way.

When Moses was being commissioned for the task of leading Israel out of Egypt, he asked God at the burning bush that didn’t burn ‘who shall I say sent me?’ God said to Moses: “I AM WHO I AM”. This is God’s unique name. He just “is”. Always was. Always will be. He alone, IS!!

For Jesus now to say “I AM” – well for the Jews – utter blasphemy! For us? – these words are life giving - Live changing! Jesus is God, God with us, God visiting! God revealing God.



Bishop Mark preaching at Coonamble.

And we understand even more about Jesus' role and identity as we see what he attaches to "I AM"

I am

1. I am the bread of life 2. I am the light of the world 3. I am the gate of the sheep 4. I am the good shepherd 5. I am the resurrection and the life 6. I am the way, the truth and the life 7. I am the true vine

In these we see who Jesus is.. and what he comes to do and bring... Jesus is God bringing life and light, God shepherding us, God bringing life and truth and resurrection... God showing the way! God at work in and through us as we stay connected to him. In him have we put our trust, to him do we look for hope and life!

2. I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD

But let me take just one of these references today – to Jesus the good shepherd. John 10. To understand what's being said here, you need to forget everything you know about sheep farming. NZ – farmer – quad bikes – dogs gathering, herding. A thousand head or more he didn't know their names. They didn't have names. Ancient world? – 1st century and back for years - one shepherd to every 30-40 sheep. Shepherd actually cared. Sheep had names. In the morning after they had been cared for overnight by a hired hand – with sheep belonging to other shepherds also – the shepherd would come and call just his sheep. And his sheep and only his sheep - who knew his particular voice would respond and follow him out to pasture for the day.

As long as the sheep followed the shepherd – went where he went – did what he said – followed his voice – responded to his commands – then the sheep had it good. Very good. Pasture. Water. Resting place. Protection from thieves and wild animals. Defence from enemies. Care if injured or wounded. Search party when lost. It was good! Nothing they needed when they followed the shepherd.

Israel's leaders were meant to do that for God's people. That exact same role – but for their people. They didn't!! They didn't care for the sheep. They saw the sheep as there to serve their purposes. They ripped them off. Let them go. Didn't go after the lost.

So we read in Ezekiel that they will be shepherds no more but that God himself will care for his people. God himself will feed and water and clothe and protect and lead and guide, and then Jesus announces in fulfilment of that prophecy – I am the Good Shepherd!v14 – I know my sheep and my sheep know me...

I want to ask a simple question. DO you? Do you know the shepherd?

Does he know you? Well yes – I've been in church all my life and help when I can...No... that's not what I asked...I asked whether you know the shepherd and whether he knows you...I know my sheep and my sheep know me.

Jesus said another time – many will call me "Lord" – but I never knew them... they didn't do what I say... they loved to use the name – but

they never knew ME... and I never knew THEM. Do YOU know the shepherd? How do you know if you know? Here's how you know...You love him. You listen for him. You speak with him. You praise and thank him. You follow him. You trust him. You delight in him.

You know his peace. You have joy in and through him – from him! You're able to confidently affirm – because the Lord is my shepherd, there's nothing I need.

You know contentment more than complaint. You have enough rather than wanting more. When you're anxious you turn to the shepherd instead of trying to solve the issues for yourself. You know you know because he's on your mind and in your heart, because you take your decisions to him, what delights him delights you, what breaks his heart breaks yours.

You know you love him because you long to obey him and feel it when you don't AND - you long for others to know him too - to know his care and love and guidance and protection.

He's the shepherd. The Good shepherd. He knows you and you know him... and then we read 'and I lay down my life for the sheep'...

3. I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD WHO LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP

Notice this is voluntary? Twice – v11 and v15 – I lay down my life for the sheep.

v18 – no one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.

Continued on page 10...

CGS Bridging Plan, from the Principal

In April I was able to send out to the North-West parishes a letter to provide an update on how we are seeking to assist ministry across the region.

After conversations with the Bishop, the new Registrar, the members of the Brotherhood of the Good Shepherd, clergy and parish representatives what transpired was a "Bridging Plan" to express the ministry assistance that can be provided at this present time with available clergy and funds through the CGS.

As a result, my role as the Principal is supported for one day a week (alleviating the financial strain on the parish).

Reverend John Gaff receives a small honorarium for assisting the parish of Bourke and others as required. Reverends Kaye Colwell and Jeff Tym receive an honorarium for ministry in the parish of Coonamble.

The Reverend Gloria Shipp receives an honorarium for her

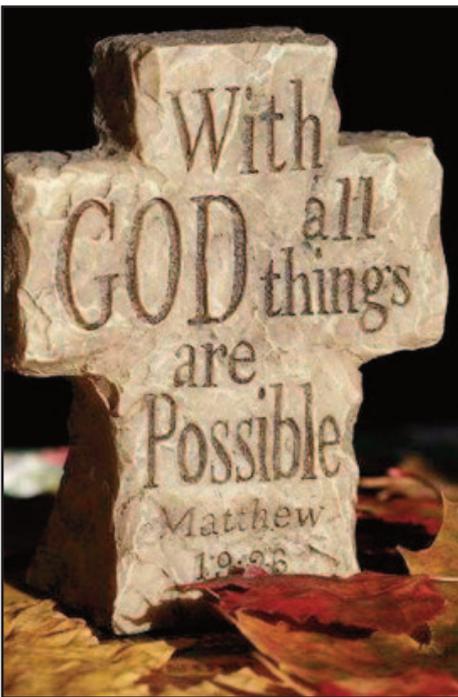
ministry based in Nyngan (where she lives) and for ministry extended to Warren and Cobar. In the longer term, as it has been announced, Bush Church Aid Society has committed to funding a ministry position in Cobar and Bourke. The board of the Brotherhood of the Good Shepherd has committed to assisting in funding a position at Nyngan/Warren. There are some details still to be finalised in relation to the support of the local parishes, but the hope is to offer a full-time position for this area. It is hoped to provide a full-time minister for Coonamble with a minister seeking outside funding, as has been achieved for other positions, to offset the cost to the parish. It is my hope that with a new vision for the future ministry of the CGS and improved reporting to supporters, there will be an increase to the financial and prayerful support of the CGS.



To further increase support for the CGS, I am in the process of establishing a social media platform through Facebook so that information is more accessible to the community.

Your brother in Jesus,

The Ven. Brett Watterson CGS
*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep".
 Jesus, John 10. 11*



Celebrating the Brotherhood



Bishop Mark, The Reverend Gloria, Archdeacon Brett, and Bishop Richard at Holy Trinity, Dubbo.

Contributing to the work of the CGS

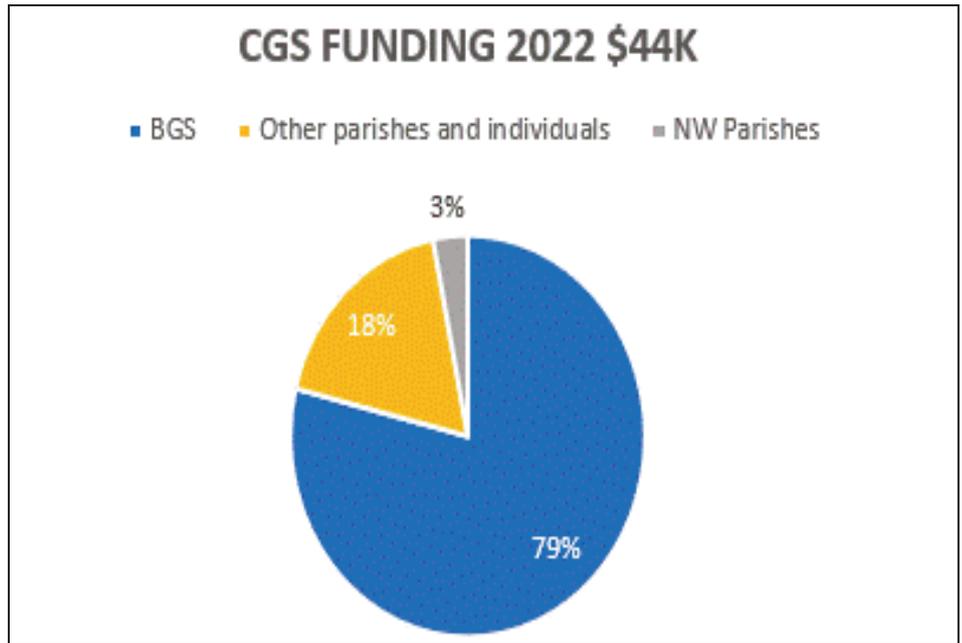
Over many years the ministry to the North-West Parishes, first through the BGS and now the CGS, has been greatly supported by other parishes and individuals of the Bathurst Diocesan family and the Anglican Church of Australia.

This support has been first and foremost in prayer and encouragement, but there is no denying that the financial support is critical to the on-going mission and ministry of the CGS.

Having spoken to our new Diocesan Registrar and Bishop Mark, monies that are given to support the ministry and mission of the CGS will be allocated and only used for that purpose.

In addition, donor parishes and individuals will receive an annual update on the income and expenditure of the CGS.

To give an indication of the year in progress, this pie chart gives a breakdown of the funding sources to meet the needs of the present "Bridging Plan".



The largest proportion of funding is from the BGS, followed by parishes/individuals, and the North-West parishes.

To see the ministry, grow for the future an increase in support will be required.

With funding support from Bush Church Aid, which will be available when the Cobar ministry position is filled, the modelling will be as follows:

The need is to increase the support sufficiently to provide

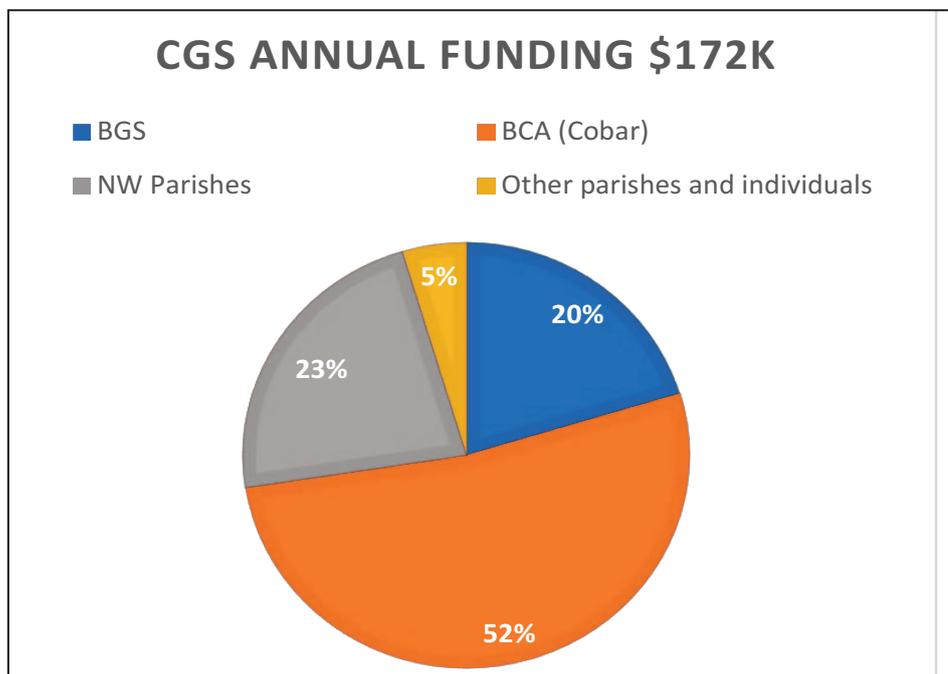
a full-time position for ministry at Coonamble. This may be achieved by an incoming minister seeking support from their "home parish" or, God-willing, it may be through a renewed support of the CGS and CGS. Donations can be to:

The Synod Management Fund Operating Account BSB 082-441,

Account Number 392 655 240

NOTE: Ensure that donations are clearly marked as CGS donations in the notes, so they can be set aside. Acknowledgements of receipts will be sent quarterly to parishes.

Thank you for your prayerful and financial support, past, present, and future!



Find us on



The Company of the Good Shepherd

Reconciliation Week at Nyngan

“Be Brave, Make a Change!”, was the theme for this year’s National Week of Reconciliation. The Reverend Gloria Shipp, with the assistance, others helped to organise an event in Nyngan. It was the first time that this event was held in Nyngan, Gloria used to host a luncheon in Dubbo. A highlight of this year’s event was a large group of First Nations children from the local school who provided a dance for those who gathered.

The group was prepared by Wongarbron man Jamie McLellan, who accompanied them with didgeridoo and song. The keynote speaker was Kevin Shipp, who told his own story and then read a report on the removal of First Nations people from their homeland. The young people went on to serve a wonderful lunch. The Dubbo elders group made the journey to be part of the day.



Will Marr, Citizen of the Year at Nyngan



Will Marr, a long-time member of the Anglican Parish of Nyngan, a board member of the Brotherhood of the Good Shepherd and a Diocesan Synod representative, was this year named citizen of the Year at the Bogan Shire Australia Day Awards.

The Nyngan Weekly newspaper reported that...
“Mr Marr is well respected within the community and known for his work as a volunteer across many community organisations.
In his nomination Mr Marr was called a “quiet achiever” who frequently puts the needs of others before himself”.
 Will is very involved in the community life of Nyngan through his involvement with the church community, the show committee and as volunteer driver. It is interesting that it was through his volunteer work that he came to work in home care and as a disability support worker. In the life of

the diocese, the BGS and the parish, Will is equally valued for the way that he cares for others and represents our Lord Jesus. It is no surprise, but a wonderful witness that members of the public have identified these qualities in Will’s life. Congratulations Will!



The CGS - 20 years of memories

As we celebrate and give thanks to God for the last twenty years of the ministry and mission of Jesus through the Company of the Good Shepherd, not only do we seek God's wisdom and guidance for the future, we want to also learn from and celebrate the past.

To that end, it would be very helpful if former Companions, board members of the BGS and parishioners of the North-West parishes, were able to take the time to recollect events and

stories, with photos and send them into the editor. This information will be helpful for the present generation of people of God and for future generations who seek to hear, read and take in God's wonderful works in the North-West. Please be sure to include as much detail as possible when providing photos.

Information can be sent to the editor: email - rectorhtdubbo@bigpond.com or mail - PO Box 158 Dubbo, NSW 2830.



Introducing Principal Brett Watterson

From page 3...

Brett was a District Ministry Co-Chair, and would later become a member of Bishop in Council and Regional Ministry Co-ordinator-Canon of the Cathedral. Brett and his wife Michelle had the joy of working with a committed ministry team, and were able to celebrate the ordination of colleague and friend Brian Schmalkuche whilst at Parkes. After nearly seven years at Parkes and "At the right time" Brett was invited to the Anglican Parish of Dubbo. The family first resided at Darcy Collins Lodge in Delroy Park, Bishop Ian and Liz Palmer were still residing in the Rectory at Holy Trinity. The first few years in Dubbo were

hard due to the impact across the whole of the Bathurst Diocese caused by the court case in the Supreme Court of Australia. After about twelve months in Dubbo Brett was invited by Bishop Ian to be the Diocesan Archdeacon. With the support of his family and the Dubbo ministry team Brett took on this role to support Bishop Ian and the diocese. When Bishop Ian retired Brett was the Administrator of the Diocese, and with the other members of the Bishop's Election Board oversaw the process of the Diocesan Consultation and election of our new bishop, Mark Calder. In more recent times Brett has taken more time to focus on ministry

within Dubbo. He stood down as the Diocesan Archdeacon in April 2021 and after a break from Diocesan leadership positions, was invited by Bishop Mark to be the new Principal of the Company of the Good Shepherd and the Archdeacon of the North-West. Brett, Michelle and his family have experienced many challenges and joys in life and ministry and very much look forward to seeing God continue to grow His church across the North-West parishes of the Diocese. Again, Brett is grateful to God for the team of faithful servants in place, and to come, who will partner with Him in building His Kingdom, to the greater glory of God!

Celebrating the Brotherhood of the good Shepherd

From page 5...

I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. What do you make of this?

No doubt each one of us here has heard this so many times. You've heard the story of Jesus' death for you so many times. I want to ask – does it still blow your mind? – that Jesus would do this for you? Does it still blow your mind and do you get what it meant for him and what it now means for you?

Remember the garden scene? Jesus is thinking through all that it will mean for him to drink the cup of God's wrath. He collapses on the ground. Matthew 26:28 "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death."

He is grieved to the point of death. He's dying inside. That's how he's feeling as he contemplates dying for you. Do you realise someone loves you that much?

He calls out to the Father – all things are possible – I'm dying here – remove this cup. You

can get me out of here... yet not my will but yours be done. So I'm going to lay it down. When did you last worship God for just that? You were nailed for me. You sweated like great drops of blood for me. You took my death. You dealt with my sin forever. I'm forgiven. I'm free. I'm reconciled. I don't fear death anymore because you are the good shepherd!! Sometimes we need to learn how to be sheep all over again. To see the shepherd's love... his utter devotion to us even to the point of death. To rest in him. Trust him. Receive the good things he has for us. To know that even in the hard times, he's always on watch. He never gives up. Never puts us in the hands of hired men. He came that we might have life the full, that's not life full of STUFF! That's life full of HIM!! I AM!!

I AM the Good shepherd. Friends – whatever else the company of the Good Shepherd is about – it is about wanting others to understand there is a shepherd – Jesus the

Great Shepherd – waiting to enfold them into his flock – and to nurture them, care for them, feed them, provide rest for them, and give them eternal life.

In Warren and Nyngan and Cobar and Bourke and Brewarrina and Coonamble – and all the smaller spaces through the centre – people are in need of hearing about Jesus the Good Shepherd. And Brett as new Principal – and myself – are 100% committed to seeing ministry in this area revitalised.

We've made short term provisions for the present – but we long to see clergy back in these areas – as tough as it might be – despite what it will cost us all in generosity and the sacrifices by those clergy that will need to be made...

In Bourke yesterday morning, Susan and I sat at a little coffee shop near the wharf in the sun – and there was a little informal play group of 7-8 mums with babies and toddlers... and we thought – it just needs one young mum to be there with



The laying on of hands for the new Principal at Holy Trinity, Dubbo.



The Reverend Gloria Shipp is presented to Bishop Mark by Archdeacon Brett to be made a Companion of the CGS.



St Paul's, Cobar.



St Mark's, Nyngan.



St John the Baptist Church, Warren.



Holy Innocents Church, Bourke.

those women – and start living a faithful Jesus-following life – and eventually – by investing in those relationships – take the opportunity to share of the Lord Jesus.

Despite the average age of those in our churches – there are young kids and families in all these places... who need Jesus...

Today as we give thanks to God for 20 years of the company of the Good Shepherd and remember with thanks the ministry of the brotherhood for years prior – I'm asking you to commit to ongoing support of the work – through prayer, through sacrificial giving, through visiting these areas yourselves for the encouragement of those there... And let's together see the next 20 years as the best yet...!

I AM the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep...

Do you get what that meant for him?? Do you get what that now means for you?? Do you get what that means for those who don't yet know him?? Do you have a heart for those who do not yet know his voice – but desperately need to??



Bishop Mark with William Marr, admiring the flying of the Anglican Church of Australia flag at Nyngan.

George Spencer Oakes (1855 ~ 1932)

From page 2...

I spent four happy years in Coonamble and then moved on to Brewarrina. In 1884 I was appointed to the parish of Wilcannia, 330 miles lower down the Darling. It was an enormous area and now comprises a large part of the Diocese of Riverina. The present rector travels around by aeroplane, but I did my work with the assistance of a black boy and a pack-horse. We travelled thousands of miles, carrying a quart pot and blankets. Camping out and visiting the distant stations as frequently as possible. The parish took in Tilpa to the north, Menindee to the south, Broken Hill, Silverton, Milparinka, Tibooburra, Hungerford and Wanaaring to the west and north west.

It was a great life and I have never regretted the experience. One had to face floods, droughts and dust storms, but it was worthwhile, if only for

the opportunity of knowing and being associated with the courageous, warm hearted and hospitable people who regarded isolation, dangers and difficulties as inevitable conditions in their daily life. I left Wilcannia in 1887 and stayed for a time in Bourke, where I visited all the sheds during the shearing season and organised a fund for an assistant clergyman. I took temporary work as organising secretary for the Church Society at Bathurst and when Bishop Camidge arrived in 1888 was appointed to the Parish of Warren where I remained for six years. At Warren I met Mr F. H. Champion, a young Englishman and suggested to him the idea of forming a Bush Brotherhood for the work in the west. This he eventually did and after his ordination in England came out with others and established the Brotherhood of the Good Shepherd at Dubbo, which for many years has rendered useful service to the diocese. After six years at Warren I was appointed rector of the historic church at Kelso, where I remained for exactly 30 years, when I retired.

This is an extract from the book "A Parson in the Australian Bush" by C.H.S. Matthews, M. (Late vice-principal

of the Brotherhood of the Good Shepherd. NSW).

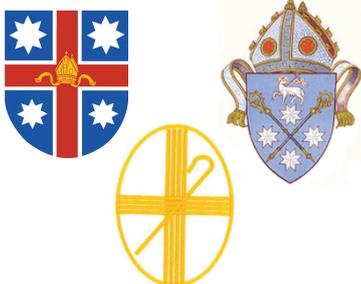
Published in 1908.

Not infrequently the brothers, as they journey in the Bush, find whole families of children who have grown up without the chance of being baptized at all. Sometimes children themselves have very curious ideas about the ceremony and are filled with terror at the thought of it. There is a well know poem by A. B. Paterson, one of our best known Australian verse writers, based I believe on a true incident in the life of that veteran Bush parson, Archdeacon Oakes of Bathurst, wherein the hero is a youngster who, associating baptism with the operation of branding colts, with which he is quite familiar, flees in terror from the priest who has come to perform the ceremony.

I have known a very similar occurrence in my own experience.

I hope that you have found the story behind the photo of Archdeacon George Spencer Oakes – precursor to the Bush Brother and "veteran Bush Parson", as interesting as I have. With this re-discovered story I don't think that it will be too long before his photo and story finds its way into the BGS & CGS Heritage Centre.

To find out more about the Company of the Good Shepherd please contact:



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**Company of the Good Shepherd
Committed to Christ, serving God's people**

Principal ~ Brett Watterson

Companions ~ John and Denise Gaff, Gloria Shipp

Former Companions in service ~ Jeff Tym, Kaye Colwell