



## FROM BISHOP MARK



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## NEW SYNERGY DIRECTOR



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## BCA CELEBRATES 100YRS



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## NEW ANGLICARE MANAGER



A new Executive Manager for Child, Youth & Family Services

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# Sod Turning at Wollondilly



The newest stage of Anglicare's Wollondilly Gardens Retirement Village in Goulburn was officially launched on Wednesday 3 April at 10am, with a 'turning of the sod' attended by management, staff, residents and representatives from partner organisations.

Stage 3 consists of six detached villas – five of which sold prior to the launch – and adjoins the current village of 69 villas which is set on a peaceful 18 acres semi-rural setting with lock up garages and private, pet-friendly courtyards.

Anglicare's General Manager of Retirement Living, John Vilskersts, says the development, which is being completed by Pattersons Building Group, is in high demand and will be welcomed by older residents within the Goulburn community.

'This new development is very exciting as it's generated a huge

amount of interest that is helping to inform us about the future needs of older people in this community and broader region. We are also really pleased to see work underway to implement a Supported Living Program to assist current and future residents to remain longer in their own home,' says John.

Newest residents, Stephen Rigby and his wife Pam, moved in to Wollondilly Gardens in February and are delighted with the village and the planned developments.

'I was taken in by the rural aspect of the village and the delightful views to the south and west taking in the Wollondilly River and surrounding ridges. My wife and I enjoy connecting with people through common interests and activities,' says Stephen. 'We are also fortunate to have staff members who greatly care for the residents here. This was reflected in their

consultation with us leading up to the new development.'

Plans are also underway for a large stage 4 development which will include 20-30 serviced apartments and new community facilities including a café to enable residents

to stay in the village as their health needs change.

For more information about Wollondilly Gardens Retirement Village, phone Tracey Walsh on 0439 938 481.



# Bishop Mark Writes

Life is always lived forwards, but often learned backwards.

That was certainly the experience of the first followers of the risen Lord Jesus. From the other side of the cross and empty tomb they were able to look back on their experiences of the past three years with fresh understanding. At the time Jesus' teaching had seemed obscure or even offensive. Now it fitted into place as part of God's plan. At the time Jesus' actions were impressive, but now they saw those deeds as signs pointing towards His great acts of rescue on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Perhaps you have your own moments of looking back, noticing how in the apparent random-ness of everyday life God has been at work to make you more like Jesus. As Monica and I look back to our past in this Diocese we are thankful to God for the people who nurtured us as a newly-married couple, as first-time parents and as we discerned how God might be calling us into ministry.

So it is indeed a blessing to be with you again as your fellow-servant in Christ and Diocesan Bishop. Monica and I are very thankful for your prayers and messages of encouragement in the lead up to the service of consecration and installation on April 6 and for the chance to connect with many of you, albeit fleetingly, on the day itself. We look forward to further conversations as we hear your stories and rejoice in God's gracious work in your lives and the lives

of the communities you serve.

I am particularly appreciative of the wise and sacrificial ministry of Bishop Trevor Edwards as Diocesan Administrator since Bishop Stuart laid up his staff just over a year ago and am delighted to be working with him and other members of the senior leadership team as colleagues in the gospel. Bev Forbes, Trevor Ament and the rest of the crew at Diocesan HQ have made me feel very welcome and are patiently responding to the questions I do ask as well as graciously hinting at the questions I haven't thought to ask!

From time to time people have asked me for prayer points. There are three that are on my heart, for us individually and as a Diocese. First, please pray that we would see what matters to God. Ask God to make us aware of the needs around us so that we might be good and compassionate neighbours. Second, please pray that we would hear what matters to God. May our ears be open to the questions people are asking about faith, so that we might gently and graciously point them to the Lord Jesus. Third, please pray that we might feel what matters to God. My desire is that like the disciples on the Emmaus Road in Luke 24, we might have our hearts burn within us as we encounter Jesus through His word and spirit.

I look forward to sharing more about these prayers in the months ahead, and to looking back to the surprising ways in which God chooses to answer them!



## Clergy Moves

*The Reverend Dr Chris Simon* has been licensed as Locum Rector in the Parish of Ginninderra until the appointment of a new Rector (18.04.2019).

*The Reverend Catherine Blythe* has had her ATO renewed (02.05.2019).

*Mr Ben Paton* has been appointed Co-Director Synergy Youth and Children.



Our Diocese is committed to holistic Safe Church Ministry. This means: we commit to our pastoral, duty of care, legal and insurance obligations; with the goal that all ministries are spiritually, emotionally and physically safe; based on the premise that Diocesan parishes and ministries should be person-valuing and respectful places free from abuse and harm, for ministry to God's glory.

The Creating Safe Ministries program assists us to fulfil this commitment. Those who need to complete a Creating Safe Ministries workshop can now access the National Anglican Safe Ministry Induction (Awareness) course online.

**The Refresher course is now available on line at the link below.**

Details of these can be found here:  
[anglicancg.org.au/safe-ministries/safe-ministry-unit/safe-ministries-training-and-workshops/](http://anglicancg.org.au/safe-ministries/safe-ministry-unit/safe-ministries-training-and-workshops/)

**Safe Ministry Helpline: 1800 070 511**



## ZERO TO GOSPEL

HOW TO MOVE FROM  
CONTROVERSY TO THE GOSPEL

TUESDAY 28 MAY 6-8PM  
 ST MARK'S NATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CENTRE  
<https://citybibleforum.org/city/canberra/event/zero-gospel>

### AnglicanNews

Editor: Alison Payne      Address: GPO Box 1981, Canberra, ACT 2601  
 Phone: 02 6245 7154      Advertising: enquiries to the editor.  
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# The Next New Thing!

BY RUTH EDWARDS, SYNERGY CHAIRPERSON



*Ben Paton with his wife Caitlin.*

Ben Paton is the next new thing – really a person! – for Synergy Youth and Children’s Ministry. With Andrew Edwards stepping into a part-time role with Synergy in order to pursue an additional ministry, the Board of Synergy has employed Ben as part-time Co-Director.

Ben has had extensive experience

with camping and youth leadership through the Scouts movement; he has run his own business and he has played a very active role in the Anglican Basement Ministry led by Archdeacon Wayne Brighton, since Ben moved from Newcastle to Canberra in 2011. In that ministry unit he has been a service leader,

preacher, churchwarden, synod representative and leader of all age worship. While in Newcastle he belonged to a traditional parish where he was a lay minister, warden and parish council member. He is currently undertaking a theological degree, in the part of his time not dedicated to Synergy. Ben’s participation in Fresh Expressions, growing up in a Uniting Church family and studying at non-Anglican university has brought him into contact with many parts of the church. This gives him a strong appreciation for diverse faith expression and worship traditions in the Christian church.

Ben is a lover of the great outdoors. He started with bushwalking and is now into cross country skiing. He loves water sports and sailing and from time to time his Laser can be seen skimming Lake Burley Griffin. For informal down time at home he enjoys relaxing with his kids playing backyard cricket or football. Ben has had extensive community involvement and is currently President of Make Hack Void – Canberra’s community maker

space, a community workshop that brings people together in all sorts of collaborative creations, including carpentry, metal work, electronics, Arduino and Raspberry Pi. Ben also enjoys vege-ing out with dumb movies and still finds a fraction of time to give to creative historical re-enactments. Beware of Ben in Viking mode!

Ben is married to Caitlin, who brought him first to faith and second to Canberra, when the family moved for her position with the Public Service Commission. They have two boys and three girls, aged 16 to 4 years old.

We look forward to the commitment, ministry skills and new insights that Ben will bring to Synergy as he works alongside Andrew Edwards to create spaces where young people can meet Jesus. To contact Ben email [ben.paton@synergy.org.au](mailto:ben.paton@synergy.org.au). And keep your eye on the Synergy website!

**Footnote:** If you are interested in joining the Board of Synergy please contact the chairperson, Ruth Edwards, on [redw7191@uni.sydney.edu.au](mailto:redw7191@uni.sydney.edu.au)

## Thousands Attend Palm Sunday Rally for Refugees

BY CHARLES BODY



*A Chorus singing at the rally with Behrouz Boochani on the screen in the background.*

‘Enough is enough. All off Manus and Nauru in 2019’ was the theme of the Palm Sunday refugee rally held in Canberra on 14th April.

About 4,000 people attended the rally, joining tens of thousands at similar gatherings around Australia to seek just and humane treatment of refugees and asylum seekers detained indefinitely on Manus

Island and Nauru.

Behrouz Boochani, a Kurdish man from Iran who has been held on Manus Island for nearly six years, was one of the speakers at the Canberra rally. His recent book *No Friend but the Mountains*, written by text messages smuggled out of Manus Island and transcribed in Australia, tells of the horrors of life

in Australia’s detention centres. Unfortunately the Australian government will not allow Behrouz to set foot in Australia so he had to speak via video.

Behrouz’s pain and sadness were apparent in his eyes even before he spoke of the misery of life in Australia’s Manus Island detention centre where he could remain for the rest of his life – possibly 50 or 60 years.

Churches from all denominations were well represented at the rally with a number of clergy playing prominent roles.

The Reverend Katherine Rainger from Holy Covenant Anglican Parish in Jamison, spoke of the mental, physical and spiritual cost to Behrouz of speaking out against a system she encouraged all Australians to take up the mantle that Behrouz has laid down and to speak out against a horrendous system which has deprived thousands of people of their lives and liberty.

Diana Abdel Rahman from the Canberra Muslim community

struggled to hold back tears as she reflected on the hatred and demonisation of minority groups which leads to violence such as recently seen in Christchurch, New Zealand.

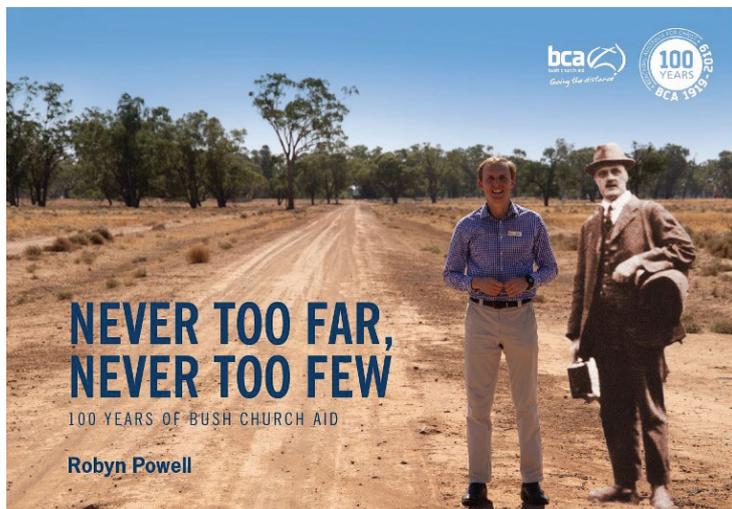
Dr John Minns, Associate Professor in Politics and International Relations at the Australian National University, questioned who we are as a nation when racism, fear and cruelty are at the centre of the policies of our main political parties. He concluded on a note of confidence that we can overcome the cruelty and replace it with a spirit of generosity and humanity, that we can bring down the walls of false fear and prejudice, and then we can say with pride ‘this is who we are’.

A Chorus of Women led the crowd in singing a moving song to the well-known tune *Ode to Joy* from Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony. The song concluded with the words:

‘Hear the hum of human kindness  
Let it flow, sound the call  
From the ripple sing a river,  
Like the ocean let it roar.’

# The Bush Church Aid Society and our Diocese as BCA celebrates 100 years

BY REVEREND CANON KEVIN STONE  
MEMBER NSW/ACT BCA COMMITTEE



*This coffee table book celebrating the centenary of BCA can be ordered through their website: [bushchurcaid.com.au](http://bushchurcaid.com.au)*

Our Diocese has had much involvement down through the years with the Bush Church Aid Society. Our present Bishop, **Mark Short** was previously the National Director of BCA (2011-2019). He succeeded **Brian Roberts** (1992-2011) who is now Area Dean of the Monaro and Acting Archdeacon of Queanbeyan and the Monaro. Brian and his wife Denyse in earlier years also served at Zeehan.

Many other clergy down through the years have served with BCA. **Glen McDonald** with his wife Beth and family moved from Junee this year to minister at Roxby Downs. In 2016 **Graeme Liersch** and Susan moved to begin work at Longreach and Barcardine. Earlier on **Stuart**

**Haynes** and Katherine moved from Moranbah to Bega. **John Jenner** who recently retired from Temora had previously served at Paraburdoo/Tom Price.

Other recent changes has seen **Peter Blundell** move to Swan Hill from Tumut, after ministering also at Boorowa and Crookwell. In earlier years Peter and Jeannette had served with BCA at Winton and Blackwater.

Still earlier **Peter Nunn** had gone from St John's Canberra to King Island where he has retired. Another Assistant at St John's was **Gordon Thomas** who later served at Southern Cross WA. Later still a former Rector of St John's **Greg Thompson** (now Bishop) had earlier served at

Sanderson NT.

**Bill Ross**, after curacies at Deakin and Albury, went to Kununurra and stayed for the duration of his ministry in the North West. **Anne Ranse** (nee Dau) in earlier years served as a nurse at Coober Pedy. The late **Ron Hastie**, together with Pam, who retired from Binda had earlier superintended the Broken Hill Hostel. **Brian Carter** who retired some years ago from Ginninderra had served at Tarcoola and Leigh Creek. **Barry Green** who at one time was Rector of Gunning served at Kununurra and as Victorian Secretary of BCA.

**Royce Thompson** now Locum at Sutton Road Mission District served in earlier years at Kununurra/Wyndham and paved the way for **Keith and Cynthia Groundwater** to serve at Adelong/Tarcutta with BCA. In still earlier years **Dalba Primmer**, former Rector of Bega served at Newman. And still earlier **Tom Pickburn** served at The Otway in the 1940's before becoming Rector of Binda. There were numerous locums where clergy like **Joe Mullins** and **Nick Hearnshaw** from our diocese have filled positions for varying lengths of time.

Of course there are also many lay people as field staff like **Helena Painting** from Bookham who has assisted with Scripture across the Yass district on behalf of BCA.

So how did the work begin in the first place?

It was on a wet night on 26 May 1919 in the lower hall of St Andrew's

Cathedral, Sydney, that the Bush Church Aid Society was founded.

This grew out of the work of the Colonial and Continental Church Society of London of which our first Bishop, **Mesac Thomas** had been Organising Secretary (1851-1863). Then in 1920 the **Reverend S J Kirkby** was appointed as the Organising Missioner. Those present for the inaugural meeting decided that the work of the Society should be continent-wide, and that its work should not be confined to any one State or any one diocese. At the 75th celebration of the BCA, Archbishop Keith Rayner stated, 'let us continue to support its work through prayer and finance. Conditions may change, but the need for service and for the teachings of Christ remain.'

**So why not make Sunday, 26 May 2019 an occasion in your parish to celebrate the centenary of BCA.** If the date proves difficult find another time to celebrate this great missionary movement in bringing the gospel to the isolated places and people of Australia.

One activity that has already been arranged is '**One Hundred Voices**', an afternoon with choirs making up 100 voices to celebrate and to provide a financial contribution in thanksgiving for the work of BCA. The afternoon commences at 2pm on Saturday 18 May in St John's Hall, Constitution Ave Reid. Tickets \$5 person and \$10 family. Enquiries can be made by Tel 6259 2931 or Email [stpaulsspence@iinet.net.au](mailto:stpaulsspence@iinet.net.au)

## Anglicare's New Executive Manager for Child, Youth and Family Services



Anglicare is delighted to welcome Joe Cashman to the position of Executive Manager – Child, Youth and Family Services, a role filled previously by Jenny Kitchin. Joe has 17 years of experience working in the human services sector in a variety of government, non-government and private sector contexts, undertaking frontline, management and

executive roles.

Over the past year Joe has been supporting a range of organisations to improve their Child Safe practices and compliance standards. Prior to that, Joe was Executive Director of Catholic Care (Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains) overseeing a diverse range of services including early intervention family programs, intensive family preservation, a small Out of Home Care program, disability services, a range of financial and relationship counselling services and community centres in Blacktown and Springwood.

Joe has also had prior extensive experience working with vulnerable populations in rural and remote Australia. While working with the Royal Flying Doctor Service in

Far Northern Queensland he led multidisciplinary teams comprised of Social Workers, Psychologists and Occupational Therapists based in remote locations throughout Cape York.

Joe, who has a Masters Degree in Social Work and tertiary qualifications in theology, began his community sector career as a drought counsellor based in Albury. He has long had a passion for working with people in the community services sector which has been strengthened by his work in remote Aboriginal communities and regional Australia. This passion was established during

his childhood where he was raised in farming communities in rural Victoria.

Joe currently lives on a property west of Queanbeyan with his wife Mel, a teacher, and their three small children.



# One Young Leader's Experience with Embracing Ministries

BY LUCIA-SARAH HORCIU, YR 12 YOUNG LEADER



People are made in God's image and are loved wholly by him. Churches should be places where judgement and self-image are eliminated, along with feelings of exclusion, isolation and patronisation. However, this is not the norm within our churches.

For years churches have unknowingly excluded those with

disabilities through their attitudes, lack of accessibility and ultimately lack of education. Many believe that segregating these individuals into 'special' groups satisfies the Lord Jesus Christ's message of love. However, this segregation just distances us and them from knowing this love.

Embracing Ministries meets this message of love with strength and it

has been an honour and a blessing to see the ministry grow to support and spread the word of God to so many families who churches have failed to include.

The programs offered by Embracing Ministries have helped establish this foundation of inclusion through their mentor program. I have personally been a part of the program for the last three years and have participated in all the programs offered; these being the Little Treasures and Spring Holiday programs and Minnows music.

I have been raised to know and love God and my vision of how the church should be has been mirrored in these programs, specifically that of the Little Treasures holiday program. Within this program 25 mainstream children mixed with 15 special needs children to create an all-inclusive program reflecting the all-inclusive God we all love. Every child on the program was able to hear the Easter story in a way understandable to them through a range of craft, visual and sensory items and acting out of stories.

Those with special needs may possess some difficulty in mainstream

communication, though communicate through other modes such as Expressive communication, eg pointing, crying, signing, facial expressions and gesturing; and Augmentative communication, eg PODD, Sign language and symbol systems. A majority of children who attend the programs use the PODD system which uses pictures for communication needs.

Through the mentor program and work shops provided I have learnt how to use these different communication methods to connect with many of the individuals involved and have discovered how wonderful and precious each and every one of the children are, each possessing their own unique gifts and abilities. I can 100% say that every child and youth that has been a part of these programs has filled me with happiness and has truly helped me grow in both my faith and as a person.

The programs offered by Embracing Ministries surround every person involved in a loving, nurturing environment showing everyone the wonder and grace of our all-inclusive loving saviour Jesus Christ.

## A Peas/ceful Day

BY REVEREND HAZEL DAVIES

On ANZAC eve, Wednesday 24th April, some 30 people of aboriginal and non-indigenous descent gathered at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture for reflection and a creative wreath making workshop, plus yarning about how best to commemorate Aboriginal lives lost during colonization including battles, acts of resistance as well as open and covert massacres. 'This was a wonderful group connecting with communities in a safe place to share knowledge' commented one participant.

*Hazel and Sue with her first completed wreath remembering Aboriginal people who died defending their own country*



Ngambri elder Shane Mortimer welcomed the group with an ochre sprinkling. Frontier Wars specialist Arrernte elder Chris Tomlin shared how Central Desert peoples were less affected by the genocidal effects of cultural fracturing and are taking a leading role in the healing process. Chris explained, 'To understand that we have a past that's built on genocide and slaughter is something we must come to terms with and learn about. That way we can grieve and heal and move forward together. At the moment it's all hidden secrets. We need to heal this country and to heal the country we need to heal the people and to heal the people we need to look right back into our past and go from there.'

The group looked at how the rightful memorial and the pain of Australia's military losses were validated and commemorated on days such as ANZAC Day under the *Lest We Forget* ode, yet our nation struggled to find an equivalent place of dignity for its war dead first peoples, on their country.

After lunch wreaths were made from fresh Australian native flowers incorporating the hand made Desert Pea Frontier Wars memorial flower



*Nic a Muriwarii woman doing Frontier Wars remembering at the AWM in Canberra 25 April 2019 with wreaths made at the workshop*

and handmade Flanders poppies.

Refreshing aromas of eucalyptus filled the room as people worked and chatted. Ribbon tributes were signed over good conversations.

Next day, several of the wreaths were laid in non-military time at the Australian War Memorial stone of remembrance. Laying the tributes in public time respects the ANZAC space and is a further reminder that these losses remain outside of Australian military history, and an increasing contingent of mourners still wander the land looking for a place to commemorate. Amongst

the workshop group were a number of indigenous peoples who had 'never been given the opportunity to publicly grieve'. One woman reflected, 'It feels so good to be able to do this finally after so many years stranding in the *Lest We Forget* space as one of the forgotten' ... and she fastened some hand made poppies next to the blood red desert peas in a ring of pungent eucalyptus. More on this journey of remembering and healing on Facebook @ desetpeabloodflower.

# What's On



**SINGLE MINDED**  
A CONFERENCE THAT'S ABOUT SINGleness... BUT FOR EVERYONE

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June, 10:30am - 4:00pm**  
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 1 State Cct, Forrest  
[www.canberrachristianconventions.org.au](http://www.canberrachristianconventions.org.au)

Encouraging single Christians in their gospel maturity, contentment and service.

Equipping married Christians to better love and pastor the single members of their Christian family.

Doing it all by teaching what the Bible really has to say about singleness.

For more information and to register visit:  
<https://canberrachristianconventions.org.au/single-minded-conference/>

## Anglican Historical Society comes to Canberra



Yes, that's right! For our May tour there will be visits to St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, the Wesley Centre and St John's Canberra. We begin the day on Saturday 25th May at 10.00am at St Andrew's on State Circle and will be welcomed by the Senior Minister and have a guided tour of the church and adjoining manse. At 11.30am we visit the Wesley Uniting Church and Music Centre at Forrest and hear the story of their church.

For lunch we will be meeting in the Robertson Room at St John's. Bookings for the day and for lunch

(\$15) are necessary. This will be followed at 2.00pm by the AGM of the Society and will feature a launch of the Oral History Project with video and audio.

After the AGM there will be time to visit St John's church and graveyard as well as the School house Museum. Even if you are not a member of the AHS you are welcome to attend. Bookings and information may be obtained by email: [stonesaway@gmail.com](mailto:stonesaway@gmail.com) or by telephoning 0450676864.

*Kevin Stone, President  
Anglican Historical Society*

## Braidwood Concert Series

Magnificent May is the final month in the Braidwood Autumn Concert Series, heralding two fantastic concerts. The first event on Thursday 9 May, part of the Canberra International Music Festival, leaves the ACT behind for a number of historic locations in Bungendore and Braidwood districts. The historic St Andrews Anglican Church in Braidwood forms the setting for a trumpet and organ recital, featuring the British trumpeter Richard Fomison and the young Canberra-based organist Jonathan Lee. Whilst Richard has performed with the world's greatest period ensembles, Jonathan is at the cusp of his own international exploration. The program is specifically designed to fit the church and its remarkable pipe organ built by Mr W G Rendell (1853-1934). Music on this occasion will include Clark's famous Prince of Denmark voluntary (yes, a favourite for royal weddings), organ music by Bach and glorious trumpet music from the classical period.

Jonathan Lee is an 18-year-old organist from Canberra, a Wesley Organ Scholar who sprang to prominence winning the Under 18 Section of the 2015 and 2016 Sydney Organ Competition. Jonathan has been a student of Philip Swanton

and Christopher Wrench and held an Organ Music Scholarship at Canberra Grammar School. He has already performed on the grand organs of Sydney Town Hall and St Mary's Cathedral. In 2019 he takes up the much coveted Organ Scholar position at Hereford Cathedral in the United Kingdom.

Our second concert at the Braidwood Uniting Church sees the triumphant return of Limestone Consort on Sunday 26 May. Led by Lauren Davis, this ensemble returns with some rarely heard yet beautiful works from the trio sonata repertoire, featuring oboe and violin with works by Handel, Zelenka, Brescianello and others.

For more information on these concerts, please email the Concert Co-ordinator: [artwork123@icloud.com](mailto:artwork123@icloud.com) or call 0427260856



## PREACHING THE PROVERBS

Andrew Errington, Academic Dean of St Mark's RTO



Reformed Church of Canberra  
15 Rivett Place, Rivett



Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August  
9:30am-2:30pm



\$30 per person  
\$20 concession

Further details to come at:

<https://canberrachristianconventions.org.au/requip/>



## Diocesan Synod 2019

Our Diocesan Synod will be held from 6-8 September 2019 in Goulburn.