



## *Caring for the nervous system of the body of Christ*

Issue No: 24/1

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**National Director's opening devotional**

**SOMA Mission & Anglicans Ablaze mini-conference in Sth Gippsland, VIC in May**

*If your spiritual tanks are empty, or the fire for the Holy Spirit needs rekindling ... head over to South Gippsland in May ...*

**Anglicans Ablaze mini-conferences in QLD & NSW**

*The Anglicans Ablaze mini-conference in May is only the beginning. Two more conferences are being organised later this year ...*

**Former SOMA Director, Liz Rankin's induction**

*Rev Liz has settled into her new parish at Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads ...*



Greetings

to all SOMA Missioners,

Is the spiritual fire in your heart burning brightly, or has it died to a faint smoulder?

The imagery of fire shines very brightly throughout the entire Biblical story. In fact, fire is often regarded as one of the most powerful images for God's presence, power and judgement in Scripture. Right from the earliest pages of God's story, the cherubim of God guarding the entrance into God's presence, held "flaming swords which flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life" (Genesis 24). Later when God appeared to Moses, it was through a mysterious bush which burned yet was not consumed (Exodus 3). Then when God presented himself before his people to give his law, his presence was seen as a 'consuming fire' (Exodus 19:8) and this fiery presence continued with them as they travelled through the wilderness.

The imagery of fire representing God's presence and power continues through the New Testament, taking on the meaning of spiritual zeal and empowerment for ministry. John first prophesied Jesus' promise that his disciples would be baptised with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Matthew 3:11). We see this promise fulfilled when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them at Pentecost in the form of tongues of fire.

Certainly, from the moment the Holy Spirit takes residence in our hearts, the fiery gifts He brings are always living and active. He doesn't

## Upcoming SOMA International Mission to Tanzania

*National Director, Rev. Mel and Rev. Wayne Walters will be joining SOMA International's Revive East Africa mission in Tanzania ...*

## Anglicans Ablaze Australia Blog

*If you are a Charismatic Anglican, ablaze with the Holy Spirit, a new blog has been created to encourage, uplift and stir you to serve God in the power of the Spirit*

## New SOMA online bookstore opening soon ...

*The SOMA team have been working hard to bring a range of books which will be available for purchase soon through Amazon ....*

## Regulars:

-  Prayers
-  International News
-  Are you part of a small group?

merely dwell; He empowers, He refines, He emboldens, and He transforms. Yet, like a smouldering ember, the fervency of His presence within us can wane if left unattended.

In a world characterized by turmoil and strife, the need for the Holy Spirit's transformative power has never been greater. We're bombarded daily with messages of fear, division, and despair. In such times, fanning into flames the gift of the Holy Spirit becomes not just a suggestion but a necessity.

Paul personally knew the importance of keeping the Holy Spirit's presence aflame within our hearts. It was for this reason that he urged Timothy to "fan into flame the gift of God" which was imparted to him through the laying on of hands. Flickers of this symbolism continue throughout Paul's letters. For example, in Romans 12:11, he writes 'Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord.' Interestingly, this phrase literally means "keep boiling in the spirit".

Spiritual fervour is absolutely vital for ministry, Paul contends, which is why he urges Timothy to fan or stoke his spiritual fires into flame. Paul continues, *"the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline."* The Holy Spirit infuses us with courage, enabling us to overcome fear and uncertainty. He instils within us a profound sense of love, both for God and for others. And He equips us with self-discipline, enabling us to navigate life's challenges with resilience and grace.

So, how do we go about fanning the flames of the Holy Spirit within us? It begins with a deliberate commitment to spiritual disciplines such as prayer (particularly, Jude writes, praying in the Spirit (Jude 1:20), meditation on Scripture, worship, and fellowship with other believers. These practices stoke the fire of the Spirit, igniting within us a passionate love for God and a fervent desire to live out His purposes.

Additionally, we must continually surrender ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to guide and empower every aspect of our lives. As we yield to His promptings, we experience firsthand the power, love, and self-discipline that Paul describes.

There is one other way we can be assisted in fanning the flames of the

Holy Spirit within us, and that is intentionally stepping aside to meet with other believers for the purpose of spiritual renewal and transformation.

Knowing the difficulty we all have in maintaining our spiritual fervour, Sharing of Ministries Abroad (SOMA) is working with leaders from the Anglican Renewal Network of Australia (ARNA) to organise three mini Conferences called "Anglicans Ablaze Australia". Learn more about these conferences soon.

In closing, those familiar with *A Prayer Book for Australia*, will be aware of the spiritual practice of praying the Daily Offices. With an aim to keep our spiritual fervour white-hot and boiling, let us make a commitment to pray the morning prayer,

*"For this reason, I remind you to fan into flames the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline." –*

*2 Timothy 1:6-7 (NIV)*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever. Amen.

Yours in Christ's service *Rev Mel*



## Upcoming SOMA & Anglicans Ablaze mini-conference in Sth Gippsland, VIC

Pentecost is coming early in Inverloch and Wonthaggi

*Are your spiritual tanks drained? Are you trying to minister while on empty?*

**Finally! An event to refill, refresh and revive the spiritual fire – in Gippsland, Victoria.**

To enliven their Centenary Celebration, the Anglican Parish of Inverloch and Wonthaggi are organising a powerful week-long mission, which will culminate in a three-day mini-conference bringing refreshment and revitalisation to all participants.

From Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May teams from both the *Anglican Renewal Network Australia* (ARNA) and *Sharing of Ministries Abroad* (SOMA), will minister alongside each other weaving together a program designed to refresh, equip and invigorate all ages in the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

**soma** SHARING OF MINISTRIES ABROAD

*Does your heart need rekindling?*

Anglican parish  
**Inverloch & Wonthaggi**  
Missional activities:

- Visiting speakers
- teaching on Holy Spirit
- Bible studies
- healing services
- moving in gifts of the Spirit

5-9 May | Cost: FREE  
Entire program available at [Somaau.org/Gippslandmission](http://Somaau.org/Gippslandmission)

[admin@basscoastanglican.org.au](mailto:admin@basscoastanglican.org.au)  
[somaau.org](http://somaau.org) | [basscoastanglican.org.au](http://basscoastanglican.org.au)  
[contact@somaau.org](mailto:contact@somaau.org)

**ARNA** Anglican Renewal Network Australia

Anglicans  
*Ablaze*  
**Australia**

10-12 May | Cost \$35 pp (including lunch)  
\$30 Conc. or Clergy

[Anglicansablaze.org.au](http://Anglicansablaze.org.au)  
[info@Anglicansablaze.org.au](mailto:info@Anglicansablaze.org.au)

The centenary mission starts at Inverloch on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> May with a combined service at 10 am. The Right Reverend Richard Treloar, Bishop of Gippsland will lead the celebrations. During the week the SOMA team assisting Bishop Ian and Jill Lambert, Chair of SOMA Australia, will minister throughout the Parish with numerous teaching and ministry events.

For the first portion of the week, participants can join SOMA Team members on a *Journey of self-discovery in God*, there are even activities for the oldies.

On Wednesday evening, a host of ministers from various dioceses, led by Rev Melinda McMahon will gather at 6pm for a healing service, where the gifts of the Spirit will be utilized to encourage, equip and build up those who attend, and personal healing prayer will be available.

On Ascension Thursday, the SOMA Team will continue ministering with lay and clergy leaders with more Bible studies occurring in the afternoon. Finally, at 6pm Canon Gill Varcoe will shine a spotlight on the ministry of *The Holy Spirit – Past, Present and Future* during an evening Ascension Day Celebration Service.

With heightened spiritual momentum we move from Inverloch to Wonthaggi. On Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> May kicks off the first Anglicans Ablaze mini-conference for 2024. The evening service at 6.30 pm St George's Wonthaggi's is specifically designed to equip spiritual leaders for service in their local parish. *(Read more about what the Anglicans Ablaze Conference is all about next)*

Then on Saturday, from 10 am to 4.30 pm a number of workshops are being organised including topics such as: The person and work of the Holy Spirit and the healing ministry in the local church. After lunch participants may choose from a number of small group electives delving further into topics such as moving in the prophetic, unpacking the fruit of the Spirit, women's small group ministry and how to respond when healing doesn't come.

The conference climaxes with Reverend Dr Teresa Parish speaking on how every believer can be filled with the Holy Spirit. Of course, being filled with the Spirit is never a once only event, so why not come along and be immersed again! While it is free to participate in all of the SOMA mission activities, registration to attend the Anglicans Ablaze mini-conference is \$30 and may be made at: [www.anglicansablaze.org.au/gippslandmay2024/](http://www.anglicansablaze.org.au/gippslandmay2024/)



## What are Anglicans Ablaze Conferences Australia all about?

We live in a world when our spiritual tanks are constantly being drained, and the fire of the Spirit is often being doused with cold water. Is it little wonder that many of us are feeling spiritually depleted?

In an effort to keep the fire of spiritual renewal burning around Australia, SOMA and ARNA are organising three Anglicans Ablaze conferences throughout this year. Inverloch and Wonthaggi's centenary celebrations described above, represents the first Anglicans Ablaze conference.

Subsequent conferences are being planned in Queensland, from 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> July at Bardon Anglican Church. Then, later in the year, in New South Wales, from 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> October at Southlakes Anglican Church in Morisset, on Lake Macquarie will be set ablaze.

Registrations for all three conferences can be made at the Anglicans Ablaze Conference website ([anglicansablaze.org.au](http://anglicansablaze.org.au)).



Does your heart need rekindling?

 **soma** SHARING OF MINISTRIES ABROAD A combined initiative  **ARNA** Anglican Renewal Network Australia

# Anglicans Ablaze Australia

Gippsland VIC 10-12 May	Bardon QLD 19-21 July	Newcastle NSW 11-13 October
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[Anglicansablaze.org.au](http://Anglicansablaze.org.au) [info@Anglicansablaze.org.au](mailto:info@Anglicansablaze.org.au)

We are inviting Anglicans from every corner of Australia to join us at one of the three Anglicans Ablaze mini-conferences, each designed to provide a sanctuary in which to refresh, empower and equip believers to walk out their spiritual journey in the power of the Spirit.



## Liz Rankin's commissioning



Our beloved Liz Rankin, previous National Director of SOMA, was commissioned at St Peter's Ocean Grove and All Saints Barwon Heads in early March this year. We congratulate Liz on her new appointment and pray that God's blessing will be on the whole community as they undertake to fulfill God's mission.



## SOMA International mission to Africa

On Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> May Rev Melinda, the SOMA National Director, and Rev Wayne Walters will head off to participate in the SOMA International mission in Dodoma, Tanzania. The Anglican Church of Tanzania welcomes the SOMA International team who will teach on the role of the Holy Spirit and moving in the Spiritual gifts to the clergy of several African Dioceses. Then the clergy will return to their own diocese to teach the remaining clergy. The mission will conclude on 9<sup>th</sup> June. While Reverend Wayne will continue to a different destination, Rev Melinda will travel to Kenya to attend the CALL2ALL Strategic Summit, which draws Anglicans from around the world to consider strategies for winning and disciplining the next generation.



Sometimes, it can be lonely being a Spirit-filled Anglican. You often feel like you stick out like a sore thumb during worship on Sundays. Should I raise my hands? What should I do with the word of knowledge I heard the Spirit whisper to my heart? Is anyone else praying in the Spirit, like I do at home?

It is questions like these that fill the minds of those who have been filled with the Spirit, and are actively desiring to walk in all the gifts of the Spirit which the Apostle Paul described to the Corinthian church.

If you are feeling a bit lonely, or need some encouragement – you may be interested in reading a new blog at [www.anglicansablaze.au](http://www.anglicansablaze.au).

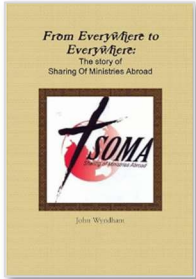


# New online bookstore coming soon

Over the past few months, the SOMA team have been putting together a number of resources, which will soon be available for purchase both on Amazon and the SOMA website.

Here are some of the books soon to be republished and made available:

## From Everywhere to Everywhere by John Wyndham



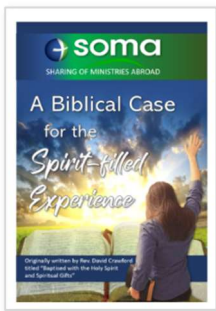
So, how do we go about fanning the flames of the Holy Spirit within us? John Wyndham's landmark book retells the history of SOMA.

Although this book has been available for purchase for a few years, the cover of John's book is soon to be redesigned and made available as an ebook.

This will pave the way for the ebook to be sent to all Bishops in Australia, reminding them of SOMA's important ministry.

## A Biblical case for the Spirit-filled Experience

originally authored by Rev. David Crawford



Can we have confidence of the Spirit-filled experience?

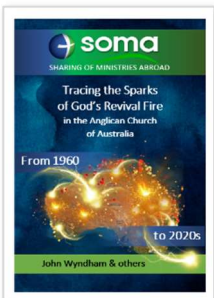
Where in the Bible can we learn how to receive the fullness of the Spirit that Jesus promised to His followers?

These, among others, were the questions presented to Rev. David Crawford as the Charismatic movement spread throughout Australia in the early 1970s, resulting in congregations being shaken and hundreds of hearts being set ablaze with the Holy Spirit.

This booklet presents a biblical case for the Charismatic experience, reassuring every child of God that Jesus' promise to baptise His followers in the Holy Spirit, still remains available today. This book is available for purchase on [Amazon as either an ebook or paperback](#).

## Tracing the Sparks of Revival Fire in Australia

written by John Wyndham and others

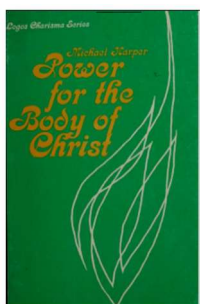


This book follows how the Charismatic renewal spread through the Anglican Church of Australia from the late 1960s to the present day.

SOMA's own Rev. John Wyndham wrote the original historical account, and other contributing authors have made this historical record a unique and important story of charismatic history in Australia.

This is a work in progress and may be retitled before publishing.

## Power to the Body of Christ by Michael Harper



First published in 1964. SOMA has been granted permission to republish Michael Harper's easy to understand booklet. The cover design of this book will be updated before being listed on Amazon.

*From the back cover:* Every Christian needs the power of the Holy Spirit. Without it the Christian life is dull, unreal and ineffective. Yet so few know how to receive this power which is promised to every member of the body of Christ. This booklet seeks to answer this basic problem by showing in simple language how the Christian of today can receive the same experience as the disciples at Pentecost.



## Please Pray:

- Rev Bulli Wooley, SOMA South African National Director, has asked for prayer as SOMA seeks new financial supporters to assist them in undertaking future SOMA missions.
- Prayer is welcomed for the upcoming Anglicans Ablaze conferences, that many will be refreshed, and empowered to fulfil God's mission in their local parishes.
- Prayer is also welcomed for SOMA International's mission in Tanzania as clergy are taught about the role of the Holy Spirit, and this teaching extended to further clergy throughout the south African dioceses.

### Do you pray for spiritual renewal in your local parish?

Knowing the power of prayer, Rev Melinda's church at Southlakes Anglican has been using *Pray the Word for Your Church 31 Prayers That Seek God's Purposes and Power* by Tiece L King. On Day 3 of this book, there is a prayer for the Filling of the Holy Spirit. I have provided it here to encourage you to pray for your parish.

*Father, how thankful I am for the seal of the Holy Spirit on my life, His deposit in my heart that testifies that I am truly Yours. But today, Father, I come asking for more. Fill me afresh, I pray, with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. (Bring your heart before the Lord. Ask for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit).*

*I ask for myself and my brothers and sisters at (name of church), that we would be increasingly radical in putting to death our sinful natures that the lordship of Jesus might be firmly established in our living, and there be greater room for the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. O God, may we be clothed with power from on high! Make us ready to receive all that You have for us, I pray.*

*Forgive us, Father, for the plans that we have made and the ways that we have walked in our own strength and have ignored the Holy Spirit. In doing so, we have quenched the Spirit's fire. Have mercy, Lord, and fill us again with the Holy Spirit.*

*I pray for our minister and ask that they would lead us by the Holy Spirit into deeper waters. Pour out your Holy Spirit on them, I pray, with a fresh anointing to live out their calling.*

*I ask for our wardens, lay leaders, deacons, and parish council members. Oh God, may all things be accomplished through the leading of, and submission to, the Holy Spirit. In all ways and in all things, may selfish ambition be put to death and the life of the Spirit unleashed in the hearts of those who lead us!*

*As we gather to worship together, I ask that the Holy Spirit rain down on us that we may be changed and first-love passion for Jesus burn within us once again. I ask that the Holy Spirit be present in power among us, from youngest to oldest. Heavenly Father, fill us to overflowing with the Holy Spirit. (Pause and pray for those in your church community whom you know by name. Ask that the Holy Spirit be poured out on their lives).*

*May we be led and guided by the Holy Spirit into ever deeper truth that we might truly know Christ and make him known. Increase our hunger for your Word and for holiness and the fullness of the expressions of the Spirit among us.*

*May we learn to live by the Spirit in our everyday living, being attentive to His voice and obedient to His promptings.*

*May we keep in step with the Holy Spirit, putting aside our own agendas, watching closely for where He is at work, and eagerly entering in.*

May the fruit of the Spirit increase in our lives causing us to overflow with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. May it be evident to all that we belong to You.

Through the continual filling of the Holy Spirit, change us, O God, and in so doing, may Your church come alive and be revived. In Jesus name I ask. **Amen.**

## International News

- SOMA International is organising a mega mission in Dodoma, Tanzania Diocese from 29th May through to 9<sup>th</sup> June. Prayers are welcomed for Rev Melinda and Rev Wayne Walters who will participate in this mission.
- More information on this mission can be obtained from SOMA UK's website at this link:  
<https://somaauk.org/tanzania24>
- SOMA South Africa, under the leadership of National Director, Rev Buli Woolley is seeking new financial sponsorship for their next season of missions. Read more on this mission at: <https://somasasa.org/mission-to-cambodia/>
- SOMA USA is supporting the Clergy/Spouse Mission Conference in the Diocese of West Lango, Uganda. Read more:  
<https://www.somausa.org/upcoming-events-list>

## Are you part of a small group who practices moving in the Spirit??

At my church, Southlakes Anglican Church, we have started a small group who meets to practice moving in the gifts of the Spirit, following the Apostle Paul's instructions,

*"When you meet together some will sing, another will teach, or tell some special information God has given him, or speak in an unknown language, or tell what someone else is saying who is speaking in the unknown language, but everything that is done must be useful to all, and build them up in the Lord."*

(1 Corinthians 14:26)

This verse reminds us that when we meet, it is not only to be encouraged by our shared community, but also to encourage one another through the gifts we have received from the Spirit.

We also meet to be prepared and trained in how to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our neighbourhoods. Then we will be ready to pray for the sick, share words of prophecy and proclaim the good news of what Jesus has done in our lives.

Are you part of this type of group? If not, why not start one in your local parish?



[www.somaau.org](http://www.somaau.org)



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