

St Mary's



Annual Reports 2017

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Parish of St Mary's Anglican Church, North Melbourne

The Annual Meeting of the parish will be held at:
11.45am on Sunday 19 November 2017

Nominations of Candidates for the offices of:

2 Churchwardens

9 Members of Parish Council

2 Members of Incumbency Committee

shall be given to Fr. Craig D'Alton on or before 11.30 am on Sunday
12 November 2017.

After prayers, the order of business shall include:-

1. The reading of this notice;
2. The Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting;
3. Reception of the electoral roll of the church of the Parish;
4. An annual report by the incumbent;
5. An annual report on the proceedings of the Parish Council and on the financial affairs of the parish by the Parish Council;
6. The audited accounts of the churchwardens for the year ended 30 September immediately preceding the meeting;
7. A report from the Parish Council on the pastoral care, evangelism, community service and educational programs of the parish;
8. A report by the churchwardens of the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church of the Parish and vicarage and other buildings of the Parish;
 - a) A report by the Incumbent on the entries in the registers of the Parish for the financial year, including numbers of baptisms, person received into communicant membership, confirmations, marriages, funerals, Sunday services, acts of communion and other such statistics from the registers as Archbishop in Council determines;
 - b) A report by the churchwardens and confirmed by the auditors on Parish assessment for the current financial year as calculated in accordance with the requirements of the Archbishop in Council.

9. The election and appointment of churchwardens and members of the parish council;
10. The election of auditors;
11. The election of lay representatives to the parish Incumbency Committee;
12. Any other matters of parochial or general church interest.

By the order of the parish council
Signed _____(Secretary)

MINUTES OF THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

St Mary's Anglican Church, Parish of North Melbourne

Held at: St Mary's Church, North Melbourne

On: Sunday 20 November 2016

At: 11.35 am

Chair: The Reverend Dr Craig D'Alton (the Vicar)

1 Opening Prayers

The meeting commenced at 11.45 am with prayer.

2 Attendance and Apologies

In attendance: Elsdon Storey, Christine Storey, Winsome Roberts, P.A Heath, Clare Florence, Kerry Dehring, Andrew Barnard, Rhondda Fahey, Graeme Acher, Denise Archer, Beverley Phillips, Helen McCallum, David Keuneman, Peter O'Donoghue, Andrea O'Donoghue, Audrey Statham, Heidi Lee, Paul Kathner, Margaret Dean, David Bryson, Anne Sunderland, Adam Wing, Luke Hopkins, Alice Christofi, Harriet Jenkins, Simon L Jackson, Charles Sowerwine, Josephine Snowdon, Geoffrey Jenkins, Virginia Towsey, Jim Osborne, Fiona Blanch, John Blanch, Susan Brennan, tom Shearer.

Apologies: Gregory Reinhardt, Denys Harraway, Heather Harper, Judie Bainbridge, Ewan Ogilvie, Susan Gribben, Jenny Langmead, Katie Holmes, David Morley

3 Reading of Notice of Meeting

It was proposed and carried that the Notice of the Meeting be taken as read. [Proposed Graeme Archer, seconded Peter O'Donoghue]

4 Minutes of 2013 Annual Meeting

Proposed and carried that the Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting be approved and signed by the Vicar as a true record of the meeting.[Proposed Christine Elsdon, seconded Rhondda Fahey]

5 Reception of Electoral Roll

The Vicar made the Electoral Roll available for inspection by laying it on the Secretary's table. It was proposed and carried that the Electoral Roll be received.

6 Annual Report: Incumbent

The Vicar's Report had been circulated prior to the meeting, copies

were available at the meeting and the Report was taken as read. He added some brief comments:

Bold stats of number created a 12% increase. One reason is the additional members from Canterbury Fellowship and thank you to them for trusting us and joining us. Over the last 6 years we have seen a growth of 40%. More people then more work get done. Very pleasing is the current demographics, especially the increase of the 20-30 year old group which have also created their own small community.

Special thanks to Anne Sunderland: Anne is taking a year out as Warden and a thank you to Anne as she likes every to be done well and this is an important asset, especially as Warden. she will be greatly missed.

Special thank you to Andrew Barnard: Andrew has this year formally relinquished the role as Treasurer and on parish Council. Great person to talk to about life in and out of the Parish. They are both still a large part of the Parish though just not on Council this next year.

Archdeaconry – Fr Craig is enjoying the new and inspirational role. I will need to give up the teaching at Trinity and this part will be missed but I have not enough time to do both well.

In the coming year I will become Priest in Charge at St Alban's North Melbourne. For the first month or two a large amount of organization is required. Phillip Bewley will be part of this transition and will be here at St Mary's every fortnight at 8am and working in St Mary's Parish on Wednesdays.

Parishioners raised the following:

Strategic Plan – the Vicar and Church Wardens are to create a formal document to go to the Parish in the new year. Which will be a working document for the next 5-7 years.

Mission – St Alban's is included in this our parish will support them on an ongoing basis. The Diocese perceives St Mary's and St Alban's as one parish. Aspects need work and St Mary's has the expertise to help St Alban's. St Mary's/St Alban's/Mission House will work together as per the Strategic Plan.

Budget - \$15000.00 for Mission work. Some of the increase in monies will go to St Alban's. We will increase mission giving as we need to make up for last year's shortfall of \$5000.00.

Governance – the absence of a Parish Council member for three or more meetings was queried by a parishioner, who was asked to put the query in writing to the Parish Council to follow up.

Relationship with Trinity – Still strong in that Craig will still be involved on a smaller scale.

St Mary's Kindergarten – The Vicar advised that he as President and Fiona Blanch and Kerry Dehring were on the Kindergarten Board and that a very good relationship existed with them, illustrated by the sharing of resources.

Community Life – Chairperson had not been appointed and will be advised after next Parish Council Meeting.

7 Report from the Director of Music

Thank you to Ms Beverley Phillips for all her hard work.

9 Annual Report: Secretary to Parish Council The Secretary's Report had been circulated prior to the meeting, copies were available at the meeting and the Report was taken as read. Questions and comments were invited but there were none.

10 Annual Report: Churchwardens The Churchwardens' Report had been circulated prior to the meeting, copies were available at the meeting and the Report was taken as read. Questions and comments were invited. Sad to know that Anne Sunderland is standing down and a vote of thanks was given. There was a discussion about the lawn mowing and noted that it was a decision made prior to the Vicar starting at St Mary's that it would be done professionally on a regular basis and was decided that this decision would stand. It was discussed that the Perimeter fence was in poor condition and it would be a good idea to arrange a working bee to paint the fence. It was proposed by Elsdon Storey and Seconded by Jim Osborne
CARRIED

11 Annual Report: Treasurer - including Budget

The Treasurer's Report had been circulated prior to the meeting and copies were available at the meeting. The Treasurer presented a fully audited set of accounts.

12 Report Light Up! The Report had been circulated prior to the meeting, copies were available at the meeting and the Report was taken as read.

14 Election and appointment of Churchwardens and members of Parish Council The Vicar declared that as the nominations for Wardens and Parish Council Members did not exceed the positions available, all were duly elected.

Churchwardens: David Bryson, Susan Brennan

Parish Council: Fiona Blanch, Kerry Dehring, Harriet Jenkins, Tim Pilbrow, Winsome Roberts, Elsdon Storey, Adam Wing.

Rhondda Fahey was appointed the Vicar's Warden.

15 Election of Auditors Andrew Barnard nominated the Banks Group, Melbourne, to be elected as Auditors. Carried.

16 Election of two Lay representatives to the Incumbency Committee The Vicar reported that two nominations had been received for the positions of Lay Representative to the Incumbency Committee, Christine Storey and Simon Jackson, and he declared both to have been elected. The Churchwardens will soon appoint one of their number to serve on the Committee.

17 Any other business

Tom Shearer raised a matter in writing and passed the letter around at the meeting. The letter was handed to Secretary and spoken to by the Vicar. Thank you to Tom for raising the issue and the Vicar spoke to the matter in regards to Governance Policy and advised that the Parish Council had already discussed the matter at the November Parish Council and a motion was passed. The motion was read out at the meeting. It was asked that more information, such as reports to the Parish Council be available for public viewing. It was discussed and pointed out that it is not normal practice to have reports be part of the minutes. Tom Shearer proposed to accept the motion by the letter. Seconded Jim Osborne Voted on 2/22 and NOT CARRIED.

18 Closing Prayers The meeting closed with the Grace at 12.45.

Annual Report of the Incumbent

2017 has been a big year at St Mary's.

Strategic Plan

During the first part of the year the strategic planning exercise that began in early 2016 coalesced into a comprehensive new document to guide the parish forward for the next few years. In my report this year I will use the Plan as a framework for reporting to the Parish on how we have progressed so far in what will be a three to five year exercise.

The over-arching goal of the Plan has been to make a reality of the more aspirational elements of our vision and mission statement: to be an inner-city Christian community that strives to be faithful, inclusive and sacramental; to be caring, thoughtful and inviting.

The Plan has been arranged under five strategic directions, all aimed at growing the parish substantially in faith and numbers across all age groups. A quick perusal of the annual statistics reveals that, on numbers at least, we are able to demonstrate good progress on that goal over the past twelve months. Sunday attendances have increased by 9% on the previous year, and total annual attendance (excluding weddings and funerals) has risen by 7.4%. Compared to two years ago, our Sunday figures have risen by 22% and our total figures by 20%. This is, by any measure, a strong set of results, suggesting that our Plan is pointing us in the right direction. These numbers serve as an encouragement to continue in pursuing the Plan over the coming years.

The first strategic direction is "Improving pathways", by which we mean making it easier for people to be able to find St Mary's, and to become involved. It is, if you like, about making sure the front door is open and inviting. During the past year we have worked to make increased use of our social media presence, especially Facebook, and we are working towards a further upgrade of the parish website within the next year or so. The parish Facebook page, whose posts used usually to receive one or two hundred views at most, now regular receives over 1000 views per post, and even as many as 3000.

A very much large number of people than before are finding us on social media, and are finding us interesting. By further increasing our social media presence and improving our web site, we can expect an even higher level of interaction with those beyond the regular worshipping community, but also a “flow on effect” of more people coming along for a look at who we are and what we do on Sundays and during the week.

The aim to provide a monthly service in a style different to our usual worship has been well executed this year by a re-conception of LightUp! in its new 10am slot. There is a full report on this later in these papers, but I would like here to thank Josephine Snowdon and her team of volunteers who, along with Harriet Jenkins, have made it all work. We will need to re-evaluate how to continue LightUp! or something similar to it next year, as we farewell Josie from the parish at the end of November. I am delighted for her sake that she will be taking a full-time ministry role as chaplain to the Samaritans Foundation in the diocese of Newcastle at the end of November, making full use of her skills in ministry and disability. In addition to LightUp! we will also shortly begin offering a new set of mediation services coordinated by Fr Philip Bewley. These sorts of “non-traditional” services may be expected to provide new pathways in to the St Mary’s community for those for whom the 8am and 10am services are too formal or too busy, as well as to provide alternate modes of worship for existing parishioners.

Building our presence in the community through signage has perhaps been most pronounced through the recent Parish Council initiative to place a sign on the corner encouraging people to read their Bibles and think carefully in the context of the marriage equality debate. That sign, with a large rainbow heart, has led to an extraordinarily large amount of good will from the local community. As I have commented to parish council, it is possibly the best bit of community outreach we’ve done in the seven years I’ve been here. We need to consider carefully how to make further such statements of our values that encourage the wider community to look at St Mary’s as being a “church for people who think.”

The second strategic direction is “Building a place to stay”. This is about ensuring that, once people have arrived, there is enough here

to sustain and grow them as people of faith. In more graphic terms, we want the front door to be open (Pathways), but we want the back door to be as closed as possible, so that people do not wander away through boredom or lack of engagement.

We have begun to implement all the major drivers of this strategy this year, with a continued prioritisation of the 10am Sung Eucharist as our “flagship”, through investment in liturgy, music, preaching and related infrastructure, including commissioning a new mass setting from Australian composer Christopher Willcock SJ, which will be premiered in February 2018. We have also begun the monthly Sunday Lunch programme, which has been very well received. May I extend my thanks to those who have assisted in the preparation and serving of food. I would warmly encourage others to consider becoming involved in order to lighten the load on “the usual suspects”!

Particularly pleasing has been the response to the new “Church for People who Think” study series at 11.40am each Sunday. This idea grew out of the former “Back to the Bible” Study series that ran roughly every other month. The seminars have been very well attended, with numbers regularly requiring us to bring extra seating into the chapel. My thanks to all who have given, or have agreed to give, talks in this series. It really is very exciting to see in action the extraordinary depth of talent and knowledge within this parish. 2018 will see a full year of such offerings, and more besides. My hope would be that as this format develops further, it may lead some within the parish to consider further study in theology or related areas.

The third strategic direction concerns developing what we have called “an intergenerational culture”. This fits into the “long-term goal” section of the strategic plan, and contains several items that will take time to plan and implement. Nonetheless, we are beginning to work actively to ensure that we value children and adults equally in how we structure parish life. In particular, we intend to take more care with rostering over the coming year to ensure a greater demographic spread wherever possible. I would warmly encourage those not on the rosters to consider whether there is something you might be willing and able to do, especially if your age group is not

generally visible in that role. Harriet Jenkins is working to establish a system whereby adult-directed activities, such as the study group series, are paralleled with child-centred activities, even if sometimes that activity is simply play. This will enable the parents of small children to engage more actively with our other programmes.

In 2018 we will begin rolling out the first attempt at a “mentoring faith” programme, by revisiting the “Animate Faith” course that we piloted several years ago. Sam Miller has done some very useful work in this and related matters to provide parish council and the clergy with a template with which to launch this idea. We intend that each group doing this course should be a mix of those “older and younger in faith” – in other words those who are long-established in their Christian commitment, and those who might just be starting out on a faith journey.

The fourth strategic direction concerns “Community engagement”. Our links with local caring and social justice agencies continue to develop, in particular our relationship with UnitingCare Hotham Mission. John Blanch and Judy Bainbridge are both valued members of the board of Hotham Mission, and we are exploring ways for St Mary’s to make other contributions to the work of this locally-based agency.

We have cemented a formal partnership with Anglicare Victoria this year, by providing a “home base” for John Silversides, who is Anglicare chaplain to two Melbourne prisons. John is now officially part of the St Mary’s ministry team, and is licensed as a lay minister in the parish. We also continue to provide regular food assistance to St Mark’s Community Centre in Fitzroy, and regular food and other assistance to the Anglicare Mission House in Fitzroy. Less formal relationships, though cash donations and directed collections for Anglicare, Anglican Overseas Aid and ABM continue as in past years.

Our relationship with Trinity College has continued to be strong this year, even though I have had to withdraw from teaching on a regular basis due to my increased external commitments as an archdeacon. We have all enjoyed having Sam Miller on placement in succession to Jacob Legarda last year, and both Fr Luke Hopkins and Canon

Prof Dorothy Lee continue to make St Mary's their "Sunday home", whilst having full-time commitments at Trinity.

The fifth strategic direction concerns buildings and finance, and some of these matters are also addressed in the Churchwardens' report. Plans have been developed, in consultation with parishioners and other stakeholders, for a major renovation of the parish hall, including the offices, the toilets, a re-configuration of the Small Hall, changes in the provision of hospitality in the large hall, and increased storage. We are working towards undertaking this work with the assistance of the Smith Trust at some point in the next year or two. This work will transform how we operate. During this past year the main hall was re-painted, and the addition of the wonderful new mural by Paul Kathner has greatly enhanced the space. May I extend my personal thanks to Paul for his generosity in gifting his time and work for this project.

There has been no major work undertaken on the rental properties this year other than replacing the driveway between 171 Howard street and the vicarage, however incremental improvements continue. Similarly, no major work has been undertaken on the vicarage, and plans will need to be developed next year to ensure we attain our goal of completing all outstanding work on that property by 2020. We have not yet done the work necessary to develop a strategy to build our cash reserves, but this remains high on my list of priorities to "future-proof" the parish finances.

In addition to the building-related matters identified in the strategic plan, Parish Council made the decision to work towards putting a proper heating system into the church before next winter. Thanks to a windfall distribution from the Lambrick Trust and the willingness of a number of parishioners to contribute financially to the project, we hope to be able to finance this large piece of work with minimal resort to external financing before next winter.

All in all, we have done extremely well in implementing the first year of the strategic plan. Much remains yet to be done, and the actual fruits of our labours in some cases remain to be seen, however it has become very clear to me as the year has progressed that we have made some very good decisions in the planning process, and

that the parish should be confident that the next few years, with this plan to guide us, will be fruitful in ministry. As a parish we will need to continue to become more open to change as we learn to grow. That growth, in faith as well as in numbers, will ensure that this faithful, inclusive and sacramental congregation continues to be inviting of new members, encouraging of deep thought and prayerful reflection on matters of faith and life in general, and caring both of those who share in our fellowship, and those in the community around about us.

In addition to matters covered by the strategic plan, I would like to make the following comments and thanks in this report:

St Alban's

During the year I have been priest in charge of St Alban's North Melbourne as well as St Mary's. It has been an extremely difficult year at St Alban's, and some weeks ago that parish voted almost unanimously to petition Archbishop in Council for the parish to be discontinued. The final service at St Alban's is expected to be on 3 December.

Archdeaconry

I have continued this year as Archdeacon of Melbourne, a role I am finding rewarding, albeit occasionally time-consuming and frustrating. Notwithstanding the time involved, I believe that being in this role has actually enhanced my ministry at St Mary's, as I am able to benchmark what we do against other parishes, and sometimes see some really good ideas being implemented elsewhere that have the potential to enhance this parish's life as well.

Assistant Clergy

We have been blessed this year to have Fr Philip Bewley back at St Mary's one day per week and, from early this year, also on Sundays. I am delighted that he has agreed to continue as part-time Assistant Priest at St Mary's for a further three years.

We have also continued to be blessed with the Sunday ministries of Canon Prof Dorothy Lee and Fr Luke Hopkins, both of who add enormously to the richness of our liturgical and parish life. As well as the obvious benefits in the life of the parish, it has been a blessing to me personally to have three such colleagues in ministry as part of the clergy team.

Lay Ministries

Harriet Jenkins has continued to provide an invaluable ministry as Children and Families minister, and her report is to be found later in these papers. Her initial two year contract expires at the end of this year, however I am delighted that she has agreed to continue in the role next year.

Beverley Phillips and the choir have been in excellent form this year, enriching our worship every week, and continuing to make a musical contribution beyond the parish on several occasions with “visiting gigs” to Ballarat and our own St Paul’s Cathedral.

I have already mentioned Josie Snowdon’s excellent and generous work through LightUp!, and extend to her the thanks and best wishes of the parish as she prepares to move to Newcastle.

John Silversides has been a new face in the ministry team, and although his main ministry focus is elsewhere, it has been good to welcome him fully in to the life of the parish.

Kerry Dehring has continued as parish administrator, and keeps me and the rest of us organised with flair and patience. The parish would not function as well as it does without her.

Sam Miller has been our ever-present theological student this year, and has really thrown himself in to parish life. I have been delighted at his growth as a person in ministry over this year.

Churchwardens Rhondda Fahey, Susan Brennan and David Bryson, together with all the members of parish council, have continued to provide leadership, and to assist me in innumerable ways over the past year. Susan, together with Winsome Roberts and Harriet Jenkins

will be retiring from Parish Council this year. The former two have served six consecutive years, which means that they need to take a “sabbatical”, and in Harriet’s case her formal licensing into the children’s ministry role means that she is no longer eligible to be on council. My thanks to all three for their service.

After Easter this year Tom Dalton finished his work as Sacristan to concentrate on his increasingly full-time career as an opera singer. In his place a “Sacristan Team”, consisting of Anne Sunderland, Sam Miller, Alice Christofi and Adam Wing have shared the sacristan’s duties. I am delighted that what had been a small paid role for an individual is now a direct ministry of a group of parishioners.

Susan Gribben has continued to lead the newly re-branded Hospitality Committee. She and the other members of the committee, along with the many volunteers on the morning tea roster and for major events, have ensured that we are all appropriately fed and watered. My thanks to all.

Finally, my thanks to everyone who has been involved in any way in rostered ministries as servers, communion assistants, readers and intercessors, welcomers and helpers, flower arrangers, drivers, money counters, and many other less formal ministries helping the parish to run as well as it does. As I mentioned at the outset, this has been a good year at St Mary’s, and that is above all a community effort. I look forward to all that the new year will bring, and pray blessings on all who meet and worship here, that with Jesus Christ as our light and our guide, we may continue to grow in faith and numbers.

- Fr Craig

Report from the Secretary on the proceedings of the Parish Council

At the time of preparation of this Report the Council has met on ten occasions since the last annual meeting. In addition, a Council Planning Day was held at St Mary's on 11 February 2017.

Meetings typically take place at the Vicarage between 7.30 and 9.00 pm on the second Thursday of the month. Between meetings Council members kept in touch with one another by email and had the ability to make decisions by email if a matter could not wait until the next scheduled meeting. Emergency meetings can be called if required although none have been held this year.

During the year the Chair of Council was the Reverend Dr. Craig D'Alton.

Other Members of Council during the year were as follows:

1. Susan Brennan; Churchwarden
2. David Bryson; Churchwarden
3. Rhondda Fahey; Churchwarden
4. Tim Pilbrow; Treasurer
5. Fiona Blanch;
6. Kerry Dehring; Secretary
7. Harriet Jenkins
8. Winsome Roberts
9. Elsdon Storey
10. Adam Wing

Council continued to make decisions based on Reports from the Vicar, Churchwardens and Treasurer (including detailed financial reports), with input from others as required.

Significant matters:

- Council was kept informed of all developments at St Alban's over the year.
- Council commissioned the artwork in the Hall by Paul Kathner.
- Council discussed throughout the year the Strategic Plan and how it was being implemented over time.
- Council discussed and approved the proposal of the Heating of the Church and the obtaining of quotes direct with Heating companies and obtaining funding through Trusts.

- Council discussed and approved the establishment of a volunteer Sacristan committee.
- Council discussed and agreed to go through a consultation process for the upgrade of the Parish Hall.
- Council approved the budget for 2017/2018.

Kerry Dehring
Secretary

Churchwardens' Report

Parishioners may sometimes wonder just what it is that wardens do. According to the Parish Governance Act 2013, we have a range of duties and we've decided to present our report by reference to them. In fulfilling our duties, we are particularly mindful of Strategic Direction 5 of St Mary's Strategic Plan "Investing in our future" which contemplates redevelopment of the Parish Hall by 2020, completion of renovation of the church rental properties by 2022, improvements to the vicarage by 2020 and building of a capital cash reserve for emergency property maintenance. We aim to ensure that all our recommendations to Parish Council are in line with St Mary's mission and the other directions of our Strategic Plan.

In attending to our responsibilities, the wardens appreciate especially the skills, attention and diligence of our vicar in working with the wardens to act as responsible stewards of St Mary's property.

First, the wardens are responsible for the care and maintenance of the church, the vicarage and all other buildings and property of the parish.

To this end, we have:

For the church,

- Commenced investigations about heating for the church, including obtaining a quote for installation of hydronic heating with a gas line from Howard Street, securing expert input from our heritage consultant, and proposing use of funds from the Lambrick Trust supplemented by fundraising from the parish
- Undertaken preliminary inquiries into stormwater easements and drainage infrastructure across the church. Stormwater drainage issues across the whole block are yet to be resolved.
- Installed security cameras at the church doors

For the church grounds,

- Considered options for the memorial garden, including installation of a stone masonry circle and cross (similar to St Stephens, Richmond) and postponed further action until the gas pipe for heating is installed.

For the vicarage,

- Recemented the driveway between vicarage and 171 Howard Street

For the kindergarten,

- Continued ongoing dialogue with the kindergarten about future managements arrangements, including the need for upgrade of the existing facilities

For Edith Head Hall,

- In recognition of St Mary's original ownership of the Edith Head Hall, been consulted by the diocese through the vicar about the future use of Edith Head Hall when Trinity vacates in 2017

For the church hall and offices,

- Painted the interior of church hall
- Installed and dedicated the Paul Kathner mural
- Obtained a structural report on the crack in the church hall offices confirming that the crack is not comprising the structural integrity of the building
- progressed plans for reconfiguration and renovation of the church hall, including discussion of a preliminary study and plans prepared by Greenway Hirst Page, architects and resolution to consult with the parish about options
- Upgraded the photocopier and purchased carpet for Light Up

For the church rental properties,

- Managed church rental properties at 171 Howard Street, 198, 200, 202 and 204 Chetwynd Street through Woodards real estate and overseen general maintenance and repair, including for example repair of fence at 171 Howard Street, replacement of hot water service at 200 Chetwynd Street, replacement of stove at 198 Chetwynd Street

Second, the wardens are responsible for the care of the furniture of the church and all things necessary for the conduct of public worship, including the bread and wine.

To this end, the wardens usually employed a sacristan. Since Tom Dalton's retirement at Easter, the voluntary Sanctuary Guild has been established to set up the church for worship.

Third, the wardens are responsible for keeping in order the church and grounds and seeing that everything in and about the church is fit and in proper order for the due performance of public worship

Temporary arrangements for the votive candle stand have been put in place.

Weekly cleaning of the church and hall is provided by contracted cleaners.

Beautiful floral decorations are provided by parishioners.

Regular mowing of the lawns is provided by contracted mowers. Monthly maintenance of the church gardens is provided by volunteers with the St Mary's Gardening Group.

A memorial book has been purchased.

Directional street signs to St Mary's have been arranged for erection in early 2018.

The wardens were delighted to support the installation of a sign in the church grounds which contributed to the marriage equality debate in accordance with the church's values as an inclusive, sacramental and faithful community.

Fourth, the wardens are responsible for keeping order in the church during public worship, providing for due seating and collection of offerings.

The wardens observe that the St Mary's congregation is generally an orderly group and require limited intervention to ensure appropriate reverence during public worship.

In terms of seating, the chairs in the Mary Chapel allow for flexibility in worship, and since the inception of the meditation group, are arranged in a semi-circle.

Offerings are collected by members of the congregation, counted by wardens or members of parish council and banked by Kerry Dehring, parish administrator. Many parishioners take advantage of the direct debit arrangements which are available for regular giving.

Fifth, the wardens are responsible for reporting to the parish council all repairs or alterations required in the fabric, fittings or furniture of the church and the fabric and fittings of the vicarage.

Nothing to report.

Lastly, the wardens are responsible for complying with Commonwealth, Victorian and Melbourne City Council laws and regulations regarding property.

Professional standards training for all clergy, parish council and all parishioners involved with children is proposed for 2018.

Other parts of the Parish Governance Act as they pertain to the wardens' responsibilities are not applicable at this time.

The wardens express their profound gratitude to all St Mary's staff and volunteers, particularly to Father Craig for his guidance, initiative and diligence in relation to church property; to Kerry, for her conscientious implementation of the decisions of parish council; and to all the members of the St Mary's community who help to look after the assets with which we have been entrusted.

In accordance with regulations Susan Brennan is standing down from Parish council. She has brought to her term a quickness of mind, her legal advice and a generosity of spirit. Thank you so very much, Susan. Finally we wish to thank the parish for allowing us the privilege of serving the St Mary's community as wardens.

Rhondda Fahey, David Bryson, Susan Brennan

Parochial Statistics

Worship

Public Services – 312

Public Sunday Services – 120

Annual Statistics:	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Total attendance	4817	5406	5810
Total acts of communion	3457	3852	4184
Total Sunday attendance	3604	4062	4428
Total Sunday acts of communion	2917	3260	3557
Christmas attendance	242	255	229
Christmas Communicants	118	141	138
Easter Attendance	135	131	127
Easter Communicants	120	115	112
Baptisms	6	7	2
Weddings	6	2	6
Funerals	1	1	4
Other acts of communion		21	48

Membership

Number on Electoral Role 70

Treasurer's Report

This report is based on audited financial statements.

Appointment of Auditors

The Banks Group Melbourne undertook the audit of the Parish Accounts for the church year ending September 2017.

Overview

Overall, this has been a solid year financially. Our key income streams are stable and growing, and enable the Parish to plan confidently for the years to come. We continue to operate with a cash surplus

Banking and Cash Reserves

The cash position has improved during this year by \$36,587. At the end of September the Parish had cash reserves of \$136,568 of which \$94,734 is on deposit with the Anglican Development Fund. The balance of \$41,834 is on deposit in Parish controlled accounts held with the Westpac Banking Corporation.

Loans

The Parish has borrowed monies from the Anglican Development Fund to cover improvements to the Chetwynd Street properties and improvements to lighting and sound in the church properties. These loans have been repaid according to schedule during the year.

Loan Balances	Prior Year	This Year
ADF 640 – 202 Chetwynd Street	231,466	214,470
ADF 762 – 200 Chetwynd Street	38,071	33,396
ADF 829 – Lighting and Sound	49,129	44,070
	318,667	291,936

Diocesan Assessment

The Diocesan Assessment of \$32,821 has been paid in full.

Mission Giving and Outreach

During the course of the year \$15,000 was distributed to the following organisations: Anglicare (\$4000), Anglican Overseas Aid (\$2500), Anglican Board of Mission (\$2000), Brotherhood of St. Laurence (\$2000), Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project (\$2000),

The River Nile Learning Centre (\$2000), National Trust of Australia – Victoria (\$500). This fulfils the 2017 budget intention.

National Trust of Australia Project 725 – St Mary’s Anglican North Melbourne

The National Trust of Australia reports on a year ending 30 June. In the period ending 30/06/2017, donations of \$9,200 were received. There were no disbursements during this period, and the balance as of 30/06/2017 was \$11,279.

Over the life of the fund, donations and interest have totalled \$722,293 and \$711,013 has been disbursed to the benefit of the Parish and the broader community (including administration fees of approximately 6%).

Financial Results and Budget Performance

The actual results for the year ending September 2017 in comparison with the budget for the year are as follows:

	Budget	Actual
Total Operational Income	\$141,360	\$231,475
Total Operational Expenses	\$280,550	\$308,850
Total Property Income	\$255,000	\$242,235
Total Property Expenses (including interest)	\$91,000	\$115,765
Result (excluding amortisation)	\$24,810	\$49,095
Amortisation of Improvements	\$32,275	\$32,275
Net Profit / (Loss)	(\$7,465.00)	\$16,820
Variance (Actuals minus budget)	\$24,284.97	

Operational Income

Operational income was higher than budgeted. While most of this increase was due to additional Diocesan grants for the Archdeacon and Prison Chaplain stipends and an unanticipated disbursement from the Lambrick Trust (\$46,356), offerings and pledges were \$1000 above budget, and our total assessable income was 5% above budget. Funds received from the Lambrick Trust have been transferred to the St Mary’s Project account at the ADF and will be applied to the Church Heating project.

Operational Expenses

Operational expenses were generally close to budget expectations. There were some anomalies: Staff-related expenses were higher than budgeted due to the addition of the Prison Chaplain position and the Priest's additional duties as Archdeacon (both of which are entirely offset by Diocesan grants). These are anomalies in this year's budget but will be factored in to subsequent budgets. Costs for maintenance on Church, Vicarage and Hall were 50% over budget expectations. The overall operational expenses were a more modest 10% over budget.

Property Income

Income from rental properties and hall hire continue to be a stable and significant contributor to the Parish. Income was down 5% mostly due to short vacancy periods.

Property expenses

Rental property expenses were higher than budgeted (27%). Much of this was due to incorrect budgeting for land tax obligations. Maintenance costs were also higher than expected.

Interest charges associated with our loans to improve the Chetwynd Street properties reduced from \$16,015 to \$12,456.

The Parish continues to amortise the significant expenditure on properties improvements over a number of years. The value of \$32,275 represents one tenth of the total cost of improvement. The amortisation is expected to continue for the next six years.

Concluding Remarks

The burden on the Treasurer is significantly ameliorated by the capable support of the Parish Office Manager and the keen financial sensibilities of the Vicar. I would like to record my thanks to both Father Craig and Kerry Dehring for their support to me as incoming Treasurer this year. Their contribution has been immense.

Tim Pilbrow
Honorary Treasurer

St Mary's North Melbourne

Balance Sheet

As of September 2017

Assets	
Current Assets	
Westpac General Account	\$33,891.71
Anglican Funds Account CF7492	\$46,999.20
ADF Access Cash - 05009234	\$47,735.33
Trade Debtors (Acc Rec)	(\$3,841.24)
Westpac Projects Account	\$1,610.41
Westpac Benevolence Fund	\$6,331.57
Major Projects	
202 Chetwynd St Improvements	\$147,466.62
200 Chetwynd Improvements	\$29,088.77
Total Assets	\$309,282.37
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Trade Creditors	(\$1,679.05)
Corp. Card Clearing (Westpac)	\$24.00
Benefit Card Clearing (Comm)	\$2,089.84
GST Liabilities	
GST Collected	\$540.47
GST Paid	(\$2,378.85)
Payroll Liabilities	
Vicar Super Clearing	(\$2,343.26)
Non Vicar Super Clearing	(\$503.76)
Vicar Superannuation	\$2,494.79
Benefits Clearing Vicar	\$145.07
Benefits Clearing Other Clergy	\$1,308.83
Donations to External Entities	
Donations External Missions	\$350.00
St Mary's Material Aid Project	\$6,376.57
ADF Development Loans	

ADF 640 - 202 Chetwynd	\$215,417.50
ADF 762 - 200 Chetwynd Street	\$33,548.49
ADF 829 - Lighting & Sound	\$44,269.68
Total Liabilities	\$299,660.32
Net Assets	\$9,622.05
Equity	
Retained Earnings	(\$6,952.06)
Current Year Earnings	\$16,819.97
Historical Balancing	(\$245.86)
Total Equity	\$9,622.05

October 2016 - September 2017

October 2016 through September 2017

	Budgeted	Actual
Operational Income		
Assessable Income		
Offerings / Collections		
Collections Cash	\$30,000.00	\$26,474.05
Pledge Giving	\$85,000.00	\$90,243.12
Donations to St Mary's	\$0.00	\$189.00
Total Offerings / Collections	\$115,000.00	\$116,906.17
Fund Raising		
Fund Raising Programmes Gross	\$10,000.00	\$13,664.45
Fund Raising Programmes Exp	\$0.00	(\$3,796.90)
Total Fund Raising	\$10,000.00	\$9,867.55
Legacies and Bequests		
Gen Bequests Legacies Trusts	\$0.00	\$619.11
Total Legacies and Bequests	\$0.00	\$619.11
Investment Income		
Interest Bank and Investments	\$1,000.00	\$1,088.49
Total Investment Income	\$1,000.00	\$1,088.49
Other Income (Weddings etc)		
Weddings Gross	\$5,000.00	\$8,400.00
Weddings Direct Costs	\$0.00	(\$1,136.36)
Funeral / Other Fees Gross	\$0.00	\$2,775.00
Funeral / Other Direct costs	\$0.00	(\$363.63)
Total Other Income (Weddings etc)	\$5,000.00	\$9,675.01
Total Assessable Income	\$131,000.00	\$138,156.33
Non Assessable Income		
Diocese Grant - Archdeacon	\$10,360.00	\$13,397.00
Diocese Grant -Prison chaplain	\$0.00	\$20,272.14
Fund Raising Specific Mission		\$113.25
Spec Requests Legacies Trusts	\$0.00	\$46,356.51

Grants Non Anglican Entities	\$0.00	\$384.00
Other Receipts - Recoveries	\$0.00	\$12,795.54
Total Non Assessable Income	\$10,360.00	\$93,318.44
Total Operational Income	\$141,360.00	\$231,474.77

Operational Expenses

Staffing

Vicar and Locums

Vicar - Gross Pay - Stipend	\$25,306.76	\$32,680.08
Vicar - Super Salary Sacrifice	\$5,623.80	\$8,617.73
Vicar - Benefits	\$28,287.24	\$29,122.37
Vicar - PAYG Tax	\$4,200.00	\$930.00
Vicar - Superannuation	\$12,082.20	\$8,893.41
Vicar - LSL	\$4,500.00	\$1,512.00

Clergy Staff

Clergy -Gross Pay - Stipend	\$0.00	\$19,709.73
Clergy - Benefits	\$0.00	\$6,081.66
Clergy - Superannuation	\$0.00	\$3,422.35
Clergy - Sickness & Acc Ins	\$0.00	\$572.00
Clergy - Km Reimbursement	\$0.00	\$273.80
Clergy - Donations foundations	\$0.00	\$1,625.00

Lay Staff

LM - Gross Pay	\$25,679.48	\$12,239.61
LM - Benefits	\$4,530.36	\$4,530.36
LM - Tax PAYG	\$3,480.00	\$784.00
LM - Superannuation	\$1,310.16	\$1,310.16

Secretarial and Support Staff

Office - Gross Pay	\$10,086.56	\$11,244.72
Office - Tax PAYG	\$2,779.20	\$694.80
Office - Superannuation	\$1,134.24	\$1,134.24

Organist and Choir Staff Expen

Organist - Gross Pay	\$15,120.00	\$15,120.00
Organist - Superannuation	\$1,436.40	\$1,436.40
Relief Organist	\$0.00	\$600.00

General Staffing Expenses

Staff Training	\$1,000.00	\$593.64
Workcover / Licenses	\$0.00	\$1,621.26
Farewell Gifts to Staff	\$0.00	(\$10.56)
Total Staffing	\$153,000.00	\$164,738.76

Parish Operations

Banking Fees	\$50.00	(\$0.32)
Diocesan Assessment	\$32,000.00	\$32,851.00

Professional Services		
Audit	\$3,500.00	\$3,600.00
Accounting	\$0.00	\$6,064.24
Agents / Consultants	\$0.00	\$2,950.00
Ministry Related Expenses		
Travel	\$2,400.00	\$2,501.01
Children and Family Resources	\$2,400.00	\$381.42
Liturgical Supplies	\$1,100.00	\$3,136.61
Liturgical Vestments & Equip.	\$0.00	\$224.41
Liturgical Books & Music	\$1,100.00	\$1,709.10
Administration Expenses		
Office Supplies / Stationery	\$800.00	\$4,413.34
Printing and Postage	\$0.00	\$3,201.82
Dues and Subscriptions	\$840.00	\$256.85
Occ. Health and Safety	\$0.00	\$10.91
Hospitality	\$0.00	\$1,570.88
Freight	\$240.00	\$25.00
Telephone and Internet	\$3,120.00	\$3,465.63
Computer Hardware & Software	\$3,000.00	\$620.91
Church, Vicarage and Halls		
CVH - Gas and Electricity	\$5,280.00	\$4,090.00
CVH - Water	\$608.00	\$1,679.05
CVH - Insurance	\$11,580.00	\$12,068.78
CVH - Residential Rates	\$1,440.00	\$394.28
CVH - Security	\$384.00	\$4,274.80
CVH - Cleaning	\$4,980.00	\$5,624.65
CVH - Pest Control	\$400.00	\$930.00
CVH - Lighting and Heating	\$2,700.00	(\$5.45)
CVH - Church Loan Interest	\$2,628.00	\$2,436.56
CVH - Maintenance - Grounds	\$10,000.00	\$1,998.11
CVH - Maintenance - Buildings	\$10,000.00	\$27,477.48
Organ and Piano		
Organ - Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Organ - Insurance	\$1,000.00	\$1,160.19
Total Parish Operations	\$112,550.00	\$129,111.26
Vestry Resolved Donations		
Donations - Christian Mission/	\$15,000.00	\$10,500.00
Donations - Non-Christian Miss	\$0.00	\$4,500.00
Total Operational Expenses	\$280,550.00	\$308,850.02
Operating Profit	(\$139,190.00)	(\$77,375.25)

Other Income		
Property Income		
Hall Rental	\$25,000.00	\$23,508.59
Kindergarten License	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Residential Rentals	\$220,000.00	\$208,727.00
Total Property Income	\$255,000.00	\$242,235.59
Total Other Income	\$255,000.00	\$242,235.59
Other Expenses		
Rental Property Expenses		
Rental - Professional Services		
Rental -Agent and Letting Fees	\$10,000.00	\$12,871.44
Rental - Staffing Expenses		
Rental - Gross Pay	\$6,390.96	\$7,496.64
Rental - Tax PAYG	\$1,852.80	\$463.20
Rental - Superannuation	\$756.24	\$756.24
Rental - Services / Utilities		
Rental - Gas and Electricity	\$5,000.00	\$6,337.75
Rental - Water	\$7,200.00	\$7,414.93
Rental - Insurance	\$4,320.00	\$3,972.06
Rental - Rates and Land Tax	\$11,520.00	\$20,468.37
Rental - Security	\$0.00	\$129.80
Rental - Cleaning	\$3,960.00	\$4,609.00
Rental - Maintenance		
Rental Maintenance - Buildings	\$15,000.00	\$26,474.20
Rental Maintenance - Grounds	\$10,000.00	\$11,215.00
Bad Debts		
Property Loan Related		
Interest		
Rental loans -Interest Charges	\$15,000.00	\$13,556.30
Non-Cash Amortisation		
Total Property Expenses (including interest)	\$91,000.00	\$115,764.93
Result (excluding amortisation)	\$24,810.00	\$49,095.41
Amortisation of Improvements	\$32,275.00	\$32,275.44
Net Profit / (Loss)	(\$7,465.00)	\$16,819.97

**St Mary's Anglican Church, North
Melbourne
2017-18 Budget**

OPERATIONAL INCOME

Assessable income:

Offerings/ collections		
Cash	\$30,000	
Pledges	\$95,000	¹
Donations	\$5,000	
TOTAL	\$130,000	

Fund raising	\$10,000	
Investments	\$1,000	
Weddings/ funerals (profit)	\$7,500	
TOTAL ASSESSABLE INCOME	\$148,500	

Non-assessable income:

Diocesan grants (archdeacon)	\$10,360	
Diocesan grants (prison chaplain)	\$40,544	
TOTAL NON-ASSESSABLE INCOME	\$50,904	

TOTAL OPERATIONAL INCOME	\$199,404	
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OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

Staff:

Vicar	\$80,000	²
Other clergy	\$32,000	³
Diocesan grants (prison chaplain)	\$40,544	
Children/ family ministry	\$15,500	
Lay staff (office)	\$13,000	
Music staff	\$17,000	
Student	\$3,000	
Total	\$201,044	

¹This represents a \$10,000 increase on last year's budget, based on last year's actuals

²This year the vicar is taking additional time off in lieu of the 10% loading previously received.

³Father Philip Bewley, two full days per week.

Operations:	
Diocesan assessment	\$34,000
Professional services	\$3,500
Ministry related expenses	\$5,000
Admin expenses	\$7,500
Music expenses	\$5,000
Church/vicarage/hall expenses	\$28,000
Church/vicarage/hall maintenance	\$25,000 ⁴
Loan interest	\$2,600
Donations	\$15,000
Total	\$125,600
TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	\$326,644
OTHER INCOME	
Hall	\$22,000
Kindergarten license	\$10,000
Properties	\$220,000
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	\$252,000
OTHER EXPENSES (Rental properties)	
Staff (office)	\$8,800
Professional services	\$12,000
Utilities	\$14,000
Rates/taxes	\$20,000
Maintenance	\$30,000
Loan interest	\$15,000
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	\$99,800
TOTAL CASH SURPLUS (LOSS) – not including amortisation	\$24,960
Non-cash amortisation of works on 200 and 202 Chetwynd st	\$32,275
TOTAL SURPLUS (LOSS)	(\$7,315)

⁴ This does not include any costs related to the church heating project.

Budget notes

The Parish budget for the church year 2017 – 2018 is based on a conservative but confident modelling of the recurring income and expenditure associated with the Parish operations and properties.

In addition to the notes on the budget pages, your attention is drawn to the following:

Operational income and expenses

The budget anticipates that operational income will match the staffing expenses. While we continue to rely on property income to cover the total operating expenses, the fact that our operating income offsets this significant portion of our ministry expenses is an encouraging indication of the health of the Parish finances and their alignment with the Parish's strategic goals in ministry and outreach.

Donations

The budget contains a provision of \$15,000 for donations to mission giving and outreach, which is approximately 10% of anticipated assessable income.

Maintenance of properties

Amounts for church, vicarage and hall maintenance, and rental property maintenance have been increased slightly over last year's budget.

Interest charges

The budget contains a provision of \$15,000 for the interest on loans provided by the ADF for the improvements to property and \$2,600 for interest on the loan provided by the ADF for the lighting and sound installation.

Amortisation of improvements

The budget contains a provision of \$32,275 for the amortisation of the improvements undertaken to 202 and 200 Chetwynd Street. This is a non-cash expense.

Diocesan assessment - \$34,000

This is an estimate based on this year's accounts.

Surplus - \$24,960

The budget aims to deliver a surplus of \$24,960. After the inclusion of the non-cash amortisation expense of \$32,275, a paper loss of - \$7,315 is expected.

Tim Pilbrow
Honorary Treasurer

St Mary's Kids

2017 has been another successful year for the Children's Ministry Program. The content based on the Creative Ideas for Children's Worship books, has largely focused on the People of the Bible and how they relate to one another. We have also looked at what it means to follow God, how the people of the Bible followed him and how we can follow him in everyday life. We also spent part of this year talking about goal setting and the importance of failure in reaching our goal. The children have continued to work on their 'Church Manners' and I am pleased to say that many member of the congregation have commented to me that they are now noticing an improvement in the children's engagement with the service.

This year we have also introduced Light Up! to the children ministry program to coincide with the 10am service time. This has been well received by our families and the children continue to demonstrate an enthusiasm for this alternative style of worship.

Several new families have joined us here at St Mary's this year, resulting in many new faces in the kids' corner and friendship amongst the children. Our number of pre-schoolers has doubled since last year whilst our primary school age numbers have also increased. This poses the question how can we further develop the Sunday School program to provide for both age groups?

I would like to thank the Sunday School Team, Michael Golding, Rebe Taylor, Winsome Roberts and Alice Christofi for their hard work, dedication and support throughout the year. I would also like to thank the parents, grandparents, aunts and other important people who make the continued effort to bring their children every week, it is very much appreciated.

Harriet Jenkins
Children and Families Minister.



LIGHT UP! Report

Light Up! has continued to run throughout 2017, on the first Sunday of the month, at 10 am in tandem to the Eucharist rather than at 3pm, as in 2016. It is now in its third year of evolution as St Mary's alternative worship ministry. As a modified service of Prayer Praise and Proclamation (APBA), Light Up! continues to focus on styles of liturgy and communication that work through the senses, in order that it can offer a sacred space of worship for those with a different learning style and needs, often those with different abilities and certainly children. Finishing at 10.50am and many then move across to the main church for Holy Communion: if desired people can stay for art and child friendly healthy snacks. The two congregations share morning tea together.

Light up! is inter-generational and ecumenical in its intention, encouraging direct interaction between all ages, in learning and worshipping together. Planning, promotion (via Facebook and other) development of each service, coordination of volunteers and leading of the service is by Josephine Snowdon, Lay Minister.

Josephine attended a day workshop at the CTM on Intergenerational Church and the evening presentation by Yong on Theology and Disability at CTM. Josephine gave a talk at the 11.30 am "Church that Thinks" sessions, that was well attended.

Harriet Jenkins, Children's and Families Minister facilitate engagement of the children who attend, supporting them in their worship participation and art activities that follow after the service.

A total of eight volunteers are on the list and vary in their participation and ability to attend. Each has attended a brief education session run by Josephine as per Diocesan requirements for working with children and have also been introduced to the Light Up! ethos on disability inclusion. Each volunteer offers different

skills and gifts to the service. Parents and other people of all ages are also welcomed.

Attendance average is 14 across the eight services this year, having doubled the 2016 attendances- adults and children in mostly equal numbers. As a result of this broad participation at Light Up!, instrumental wind and string musicians have been leading us in singing simple hymns at the service. This complements the use of prerecorded contemporary inspirational music throughout. Children have the opportunity to participate for set liturgical tasks such as candle lighting, handing around percussion instruments.

Jan Crombie, Archdeacon for Parish Partnerships, visited our service early in the year and was extremely pleased with how Light Up! currently operates and fulfills its intended mission. An article has been submitted to the NW Melbourne news to follow on from an earlier one submitted by Emily Payne in 2015, and will be published in the summer edition, as they believe it would be of interest to their readers!

Josephine Snowdon, Lay Minister

Music Report

The past year has been one of the 'usual' years where we have tried to follow as faithfully as possible the liturgical calendar, to lead the congregation in worship as inclusively as possible, and to sing both the classical literature as well as exploring contemporary material. We were delighted to welcome Andrea Sherko to our midst, then saddened to farewell Clare Florence just recently. Chips and Virginia, Christine and Elsdon all enjoyed overseas travel during the middle of the year, but we still had a full ensemble most weeks. Colds and sniffles provided the greater challenge.

Three choristers were involved in Melbourne Opera's "Lohengrin" chorus, with David continuing on for Donizetti. We also celebrated the news of David and Jackie's engagement, and note also David's fine rendition of the Baritone solo in the Faure Requiem at Christ Church Cathedral for the All Souls celebration.

There have been reports circulating that the tradition and music of Evensong has been attracting people back to Cathedrals and other places worldwide. It is noticeable around Melbourne that the number of Evensong offerings is increasing, of which our quarterly offering has been but one. We were also privileged to be invited to lead the Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral at the beginning of October. It has taken some time for us to settle as a choir into the rhythm of this liturgy, but with at least 6 settings of the Canticles in our library and repertoire, this is now less of a challenge.

In June Fr Craig and I met with Christopher Willcock SSS, to commission a St Mary's setting of the Eucharist. Chris is working on this whilst Composer in residence at Oxford. The plan is to introduce it in the couple of weeks prior to Lent at the beginning of the choir year 2018. So with this commission the music budget for both this year and a substantial part of next has been spent. The balance has been used to increase our library repertoire, and most recently on 8 Manhasset music desks for the choir. We have not used these on Sundays thus far but found them of considerable assistance for Tuesday rehearsals.

Following a recent meeting with Hargreaves Organ I am hopeful of having put into place a maintenance plan and ongoing future care of our organ. It is an extremely stable instrument usually requiring only minimal, but expert attention. During the year Dr Geoffrey Cox of OHTA (organ historic trust of Australia) wrote up the history of

our instrument which can be accessed either on the OHTA site or via our website.

For future discussion and consideration at some time we hope will be the need for extra choir gowns - we nearly ran out on a couple of occasions, a most delightful problem! The other that Craig and I sometimes discuss is a possible better seating/desk plan for the choir. That is a real challenge, but one for the bucket list. We are just relishing the longed for and now imminent heating for next winter. Tuesday evenings won't be quite the same!!

Beverley Phillips, Director of Music

Hospitality Committee Report

St Mary's Hospitality Committee is appointed by Parish Council to:

- coordinate food and other hospitality for parish events;
- assist in the planning and work for the Parish Fair under the direction of the Parish Fair Coordinator; and
- organise outreach events and events to welcome newcomers to the Parish

Our committee members are Marion Poynter, Rhonda Fahey, Denise Archer, Susan Gribben and Father Craig.

This year our major events were a Victoriana Evening in mid February, a Christmas in July Dinner, and our Patronal Dinner. Having caterers provide food for the two dinners makes our task much easier, because we are few in number but not in years! Each of these events was very well attended and a lot of fun, and provided an opportunity for us to introduce friends to the social life of our community, as well as contribute funds to the work of our church.

The Parish Fair, run in partnership with St Mary's Kindergarten and ably coordinated by Harriet Jenkins and Andrew Barnard, was a happy and successful event for all involved, even though our activities have been scaled back compared with previous years.

We provide refreshments after every service at St Mary's including those for special celebrations and Evensong. In addition since June this year, following a decision of the Parish Council, we have held a midday monthly lunch, keeping it simple and varying the format eg it could be a picnic or BBQ or soup. We have been delighted that on each occasion more than twenty have stayed and enjoyed getting to know each other better.

We are grateful to all who have responded so readily to our periodic calls for cakes, jams, chutneys, scones, sandwiches, salads and have provided a whole host of other delicious goodies. You all help build and maintain St Mary's reputation for generous and joyful hospitality.

Susan Gribben

Convenor

