

*St Mary's*



**Annual Reports 2018**

## 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 18 November 2018

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 11 November 2018.

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 2017 ANNUAL MEETING**

**St Mary's Anglican Church, Parish of North Melbourne**

Held at: St Mary's Church, North Melbourne

On: Sunday 19 November 2017

At: 11.45am

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

### **1 Opening Prayers**

The meeting commenced at 11.49am with prayer.

### **2 Attendance and Apologies**

As per list completed during meeting

### **3 Reading of Notice of Meeting**

It was proposed and carried that the Notice of the Meeting be taken as read. [Proposed Beverley Phillips, seconded Susan Brennan]

CARRIED

### **4 Minutes of 2016 Annual Meeting**

Proposed and carried that the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting be approved, with minor grammatical amendments and signed by the Vicar as a true record of the meeting.

[Proposed Rhondda Fahey, seconded Christine Storey] CARRIED

### **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. CARRIED

### **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.

A very good year. Very proud of Parish at the moment and a great place to be the Vicar here. Thank you to Tim Pilbrow as Treasurer, particularly to work with someone else's system.

Thank you to all in the production of the Strategic Plan and it is standing us in good stead for the future. There is much courage and heart required to move forward and fortunately we have this document to guide us.

Signage on Church Grounds – Congratulations to Craig for putting

up sign early and dealing with Graffiti. Rainbow heart very powerful and simple Thanks to all. Craig noted that the decision was instigated by Parish Council and not by himself. It is a good precedent but should not happen too often. Mainly to indicate to the community that what you think our Parish stands for is not actually true on certain issues.

Kindergarten: Relationship is strong but at the moment there are some difficulties. There is a discussion to change the arrangement of our agreement with the Cluster Management. We do wish to do everything possible to keep the Kindergarten running in it's current form but there is a difficulty at the moment, especially in regards to the building. Request from Beverley Phillips for the Parish Council to formally thank Meredith and all Kindergarten Staff for the wonderful work that they do.

Geoff Jenkins asked in regard to the Fair what was the money that was raised by the Kindergarten used for. As we have two Parish Council representatives on the Kindergarten committee it was noted that the monies raised was used for general resources plus a book drive.

Acceptance of Incumbent Report Proposed by Elsdon Storey  
Seconded by David Bryson CARRIED

### **7 Report on entries in Parish Register: 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. Acceptance of the Parish Register was carried

### **8 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. Acceptance of the Secretaries report was carried.

### **9 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.

Appreciation in relation to Craig D'Alton and Kerry Dehring for work done and assistance in the performing of the Church Wardens duties.

Edith Head Hall: currently tenanted to Trinity College. It is on St Mary's land but no income for the lease. As per a previous agreement the monies go to GFS which use the funds throughout the Diocese. Trinity Colleges Agreement finishes December 2017 and they will not be renewing. An Agreement has been signed with another organization who will be using it as a hotel in the future.

Beverley Phillips asked if the no access to parking will be changed with the new tenants and was told that probably not at the moment.

Acceptance of the Church wardens report was Carried.

### **10 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.

Strongly supported by Craig D'Alton and Kerry Dehring and have learnt the system fairly well for the year. Cash flow working well and a higher base balance in the account would be better for the future.

Geoff Jenkins asked was the parish Assessment paid and up to date. We paid the Diocese \$32,000.00 this financial year and we have comfortably met our obligation and on time.

Simon Jackson note that it was good to know that the Assessment is fully paid on time.

Luke Hopkins asked if there would be a levy applied to parish's to address the cases of Child Sexual Abuse. It was advised that this could be a possibility but would require further diocesan discussion.

Lambrick Trust: To a number of parishes of which we are one get an annual disbursement from this Trust. We have not had one for the last 3 years so we received a lump sum this year. Should now be paid quarterly but not something we can budget for as the amount is unknown. The lump sum we received will be used for the heating of the church.

Elsdon Storey commented that the Treasurer's role is an onerous job and we should pass on our thanks to Tim for a wonderful job under

difficult circumstances.

Budget: Our operating income covers our operating Expenses in regards to Staff and Ministry expenses which is excellent from a budgeting point of view.

Acceptance of the Treasurers Report was carried.

### **11 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.

Acceptance of the Light Up! report was carried.

### **12 Report: Director of Music**

The Report had been circulated prior to the meeting, copies were available at the meeting and the Report was taken as read. Acceptance of the Director of Music report was carried

### **13 Report: Hospitality**

The Report had been circulated prior to the meeting, copies were available at the meeting and the Report was taken as read. Acceptance of Hospitality report was carried.

**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:     1. David Bryson  
                              2. Anne Sunderland

Parish Council:

1. Andrew Barnard
2. Fiona Blanch
3. Claudine Chionh
4. Kerry Dehring
5. Timothy Pilbrow

6. Elsdon Storey

7. Adam Wing

Rhondda Fahey was appointed the Vicar's Warden.

**15 Election of Auditors** Tim Pilbrow, Treasurer, nominated Andrew Fisher of 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**

Beverley Phillips commented on the fact that we have the extra Ministry of Fr Luke Hopkins and Revd Canon Dorothy Lee which is extraordinary and makes our ministry richer. Thank you to both for all their work. All in attendance were thankful.

**18 Closing Prayers** The meeting closed with the Grace at 12.26pm



## Annual Report of the Incumbent

This is my eighth, and my final, Annual Report as vicar of St Mary's. On 21 October it was announced that I am to be the next vicar of Christ Church, South Yarra. My final Sunday at St Mary's will be on 6 January 2019, and I will cease to be vicar on 31 January, the date of my induction at Christ Church.

Writing a report in the wake of such an announcement is bitter-sweet. I find myself sad at the fact of my impending departure, and yet deeply grateful for the past eight years, for the season of ministry we have enjoyed together as a parish, and for what has been achieved during that period. In this year's report, I therefore will present material related to the past twelve months, but also some reflections on the past eight years, and some hopes for the future.

\* \* \*

2018 was the second year of the three year strategic plan adopted by Parish Council early in 2017. As last year, I intend to structure the first part of my report as a "reporting back" exercise to the parish in how the implementation of the plan has unfolded, and what yet remains to be done.

To reprise what I said last year at this point, "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."

As was the case last year, the annual statistics demonstrate that the goal of numerical growth continues to track well. Attendances have tracked at roughly a 5% annual increase across all measures. Compared to three years ago, our Sunday figures have risen by 29% and our total figures by 26%. This is, by any measure, a strong set of results, suggesting that our Plan is pointing us in the right direction,

notwithstanding that the rate of growth has slowed a little from last year.

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. This was an area in which considerable strides forward were made in 2017. In 2018 we have begun work towards developing a St Mary’s podcast, and discussed a website update. This is to be a priority area for 2019. We have now developed a regular pattern of “non-traditional” services alongside our “core business” offerings, with Messy St Mary’s, Light Up! and meditation services. There is new City of Melbourne street signage pointing to St Mary’s, and we have begun a discussion about exterior lighting of the building and the main corner sign.

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.

This strategic direction has now been fully implemented with considerable success. As I commented last year, the transition of the “Church for People who Think” programme to being a weekly event has been extremely successful, and my thanks to all who have contributed both as presenters and as enthusiastic participants in the sessions. There can be few congregations in Melbourne where roughly 40% of attendees at the main service regularly stay back for a time of study and reflection. The monthly lunches are an enjoyable fellowship experience, and my thanks to those who have provided the hospitality!

The decision to do major works on the church heating has been in part inspired by the goal of ensuring that the church building is a place people want both to visit and to return to – even in winter! We look forward to those works commencing in January 2019, with all preliminary works now undertaken, and tenders under consideration at the time of writing of this report.

The third strategic direction concerns developing what we have called “an intergenerational culture”.

This is the area in which we have probably done the least direct work this year, although I would make note of the increasing profile of those in the 18-35 age range both in visible ministries and “behind the scenes”.

The fourth strategic direction concerns “Community engagement”. Our links with local caring and social justice agencies continue to develop, in particular our relationship with Uniting Care Hotham Mission. John Blanch and Judy Bainbridge are both valued members of the board of Hotham Mission.

We have continued our partnership with Anglicare Victoria by providing a “home base” for John Silversides, who is Anglicare chaplain to two Melbourne prisons. John 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, through cash donations and directed collections for Anglicare, Anglican Overseas Aid, the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ABM continue as in past years.

Our relationship with Trinity College has been less obvious this year, with me not undertaking any teaching in the college. We maintain links, however, through Canon Prof Dorothy Lee continuing to make St Mary’s her “Sunday home”, whilst having full-time commitments at Trinity. We have also enjoyed having Sam Miller and Jack Lindsay on placement. Sam has now concluded his placement, but we are seeking to have him licensed as an honorary lay minister to continue at St Mary’s.

The fifth strategic direction concerns buildings and finance, and some of these matters are also addressed in the Churchwardens’ report. The plans for a major renovation of the parish hall have been put on hold following the decision instead to seek Smith Trust funds for the works in the church. This remains on our list of “things to do,” but will not now happen for a few more years. In the meantime

more minor works of improvement, especially stabilising elements of the exterior, have taken place.

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. We have not yet done the work necessary to develop a strategy to build our cash reserves, but this is a top priority for parish council for the new year.

All in all, we continue to do well in implementing the strategic plan. Much remains yet to be done, and Parish Council has established new priorities within the identified goals, acknowledging that some of what we had hoped for in this three-year period will not come to fruition. Nonetheless, the plan has provided a strong framework for parish activities, and will continue to do so until the time for its major revision, which will be in 2020.

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

### **Archdeaconry**

I have continued this year as Archdeacon of Melbourne, a role that I have found increasingly demanding on my time, especially since taking up the chair of the Building Committee. For that reason, mid-year I resigned my seat on Archbishop in Council, in order to free up some time both for the archdeaconry and for the parish. It was a good decision.

### **Assistant Clergy**

Fr Philip Bewley has continued two days per week this year, providing invaluable assistance to me, a second regular liturgical priestly presence, and outstanding pastoral care. During the year Fr Luke Hopkins was appointed as vicar of St Martin's Hawksburn. We farewelled Luke with many thanks for his ministry over the past several years, and wish him every blessing at St Martin's. Canon Prof Dorothy Lee continues in her honorary capacity at St Mary's, though

has been less visible this year due to increased Sunday commitments in the chapel at Trinity, and often being “on grandma duty” on Sunday mornings. My thanks to all who have been part of the clergy team this year.

## **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. The number of children Sunday by Sunday, and the level of their engagement through Sunday School, LightUp! And “Messy St Mary’s” is a testament to Harriet’s skill and energy in this area of ministry. Harriet also took the lead in coordinating the very successful Parish Fair in May, ably assisted by Marion Poynter and many others.

Beverley Phillips and the choir have continued in excellent form this year, enriching our worship every week. I suspect that some at St Mary’s do not quite understand how lucky we are to have the quality of music that we do. The collegial relationship I have enjoyed with Beverley has been one of my personal and professional highlights of the past eight years at St Mary’s.

John Silversides continues in his prison chaplaincy role, and it is great that St Mary’s is able to provide a “home base” for such an important and demanding ministry.

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. This year she has also undertaken the important role of Child Safe Officer, and it is pleasing to be able to report that all of those who require background checks for lay ministries in the parish have completed them. Kerry’s work in this crucial area has been outstanding.

This year we have had two theological students on informal Sunday placements. Sam Miller has continued to throw himself in to parish life, and it was announced a few months ago that, whilst he is going to step aside from formal theological studies for a time, he will continue at St Marys as an authorised lay minister. Jack Lindsay

began an informal placement during the year, and has been a constant presence in the liturgical team Sunday by Sunday.

Churchwardens Rhondda Fahey, Anne Sunderland 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. David will be stepping aside as churchwarden this year for his "sabbatical year". My thanks for his invaluable assistance, especially in gently prodding me to concentrate on strategic rather than immediate issues.

The "Sacristan Team", consisting of Anne Sunderland, Sam Miller, Alice Christofi and Adam Wing have shared the sacristan's duties throughout the year. It is a wonderful thing to be able to open the church on Sunday morning knowing that all is in readiness!

Susan Gribben has continued to lead the 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. With Jesus Christ as our light and our guide, we may continue to grow in faith and numbers.

\* \* \*

I will resist the temptation at this point to list "highlights and achievements" of the past eight years at St Mary's. For me, more important than attendance statistics and building works has been the development over the past few years of a culture of confident discipleship; an understanding that what we have here at St Mary's is of value, and that others beyond the Sunday worshipping community find value in it as well. At the centre of all that we do is the love of Jesus. Christian community is only that when Christ is at

the centre. For me, St Mary's in 2018 is a Christ-centred community that understands that the reason for being a people who gather together is a shared love of the God whom we worship and serve.

If there is one change that I would highlight as representing this renewed focus over the past eight years it is this: When I arrived at St Mary's in 2010, it seemed to me that everything was labelled as "ours" – "our" church", "our" worship, "our" hall, our" morning tea, "our" money", "our" vicar. The word "our" is now almost entirely absent both from parish literature, and from the parish's mind-set. We have come collectively to understand that none of these things are "ours"; they are all God's, and we merely hold them in trust for future generations. It is that God-centred focus and understanding that I hope will be my main legacy as I prepare to say goodbye to a community that I have loved, and from whom I have felt much love in return. My prayer for St Mary's North Melbourne is that, led by whoever the next vicar may be, this community will continue to grow in faith and numbers, as a community of Christ, and a church in the world.

Fr Craig D'Alton  
Vicar

## **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 10 February 2018.

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. Anne Sunderland; Churchwarden
2. David Bryson; Churchwarden
3. Rhondda Fahey; Churchwarden
4. Tim Pilbrow; Treasurer
5. Fiona Blanch;
6. Kerry Dehring; Secretary
7. Andrew Barnard
8. Claudine Chionh
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 discussed and approved the Heating of the Church and obtained funding through the Smith Trust and Lambrick Trust. This project was approved to go to tender and start in the New Year.
- Council was kept informed of all developments at St Mary's Kindergarten in regards to management.
- Council approved the Child Safe Policy and the role of a Child Safe Officer and was kept informed of the update of all parishioners who required specific documentation.
- Council discussed throughout the year the Strategic Plan and how it was being implemented over time.



- Council approved the budget for 2018/2019.

Kerry Dehring  
Secretary

## Churchwardens' Report

The past year may best be described as a time of maintenance and planning, both of which are achievements in themselves!

### Church Properties

Maintenance on church properties has continued throughout the year.

We note...

Small hall: the west gable has been repaired together with other minor maintenance on the west wall.

204 Chetwynd Street: Possum removal was undertaken, there was repainting at 1/204 and a review of plumbing works at 2/204.

202 Chetwynd Street: Repairs to flooring and repainting.

Garden maintenance has involved general clearance at 204 Chetwynd Street and 171 Howard Street and the removal of the bay tree in the vicarage garden. An arborist was consulted with regard to the Moreton Bay Fig in the church grounds and the Chinese Elm in front of the vicarage.

### St Mary's Kindergarten

The dialogue with the kindergarten with regard to future management plans has continued but progressed little. As no firm proposal has yet been made by ECMS, any action relating to building reports has been postponed. Participation on the kindergarten committee has continued as usual.

### Road Signage

Road signage works were completed in January.

### Church Heating

The church heating project has experienced a number of delays throughout the year. The planned siting of the radiator panels on the church walls proved impracticable resulting in a new approach with an underfloor system and accompanying renovation of much of the church floor.

There were further delays with planning approvals but eventually the tendering process was able to begin in late September.

The cost of the project has been covered by parish donations and funding from the Lambrick and Smith Trusts.

It is now anticipated that the major works will commence as soon as possible in the New Year with completion by Easter.

None of this could be achieved without the support of the St Mary's community. The Wardens would like to thank the members of Parish Council and in particular Kerry Dehring and Tim Pilbrow for their guidance in financial matters and support in implementing the budget.

We regretfully note that in accordance with the Parish Governance Act, David Bryson will not be continuing as a church warden in the coming year. His thoughtful and caring approach to all parish concerns has been truly appreciated.

We lastly, but not leastly, thank Fr Craig for his unflagging enthusiasm for all parish projects and his continual confidence in the future of St Mary's. As we now prepare for his departure in January may we add what a very real pleasure it has been to serve as church wardens during his time at St Mary's. His outstanding leadership has made our task all the easier and we sincerely wish him well for all future endeavours.

**David Bryson, Rhondda Fahey, Anne Sunderland**

## Parochial Statistics 2018

### Worship

Public Services – 405

Public Sunday Services – 135

<b>Annual Statistics:</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
Total attendance	4817	5406	5810	6089
Total acts of communion	3457	3852	4184	4316
Total Sunday attendance	3604	4062	4428	4646
Total Sunday acts of communion	2917	3260	3557	3682
Christmas attendance	242	255	229	206
Christmas Communicants	118	141	138	137
Easter Attendance	135	131	127	147
Easter Communicants	120	115	112	132
Baptisms	6	7	2	11
Weddings	6	2	6	4
Funerals	1	1	4	3
Other Acts of communion		21	48	158

### Membership

Number on Electoral Role

69



## 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 2018.

### 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 \$114,141 of which \$48,263 is on deposit with the Anglican Development Fund and \$29,052 is on deposit in an Anglican Funds investment account. The balance of \$36,826 is on deposit in the Parish Westpac.

### Loans

The Parish loans from the Anglican Development Fund have been repaid according to schedule during the year. Two loans cover improvements to the Chetwynd Street rental properties and one loan covers costs of the church lighting and sound system.

Loan Balances	Prior Year	This Year
ADF 640 – 202 Chetwynd Street	\$214,470	\$198,494
ADF 762 – 200 Chetwynd Street	\$33,396	\$28,780
ADF 829 – Lighting and Sound	\$44,070	\$39,146
	<b>\$291,936</b>	<b>\$266,420</b>

### Diocesan Assessment

The Diocesan Assessment of \$32,851 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 (\$2500), Brotherhood of St. Laurence (\$2000), Hotham Mission Asylum Seeker Project (\$2000),

The River Nile Learning Centre (\$2000). This fulfils the 2017-2018 budget intention.

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

During the last year donations of \$1,200 were received, leaving a closing balance of \$12,432 in our National Trust Project account.

Over the life of the fund, donations and interest have totalled \$723,493, and \$711,061 has been disbursed for maintenance of the church buildings (less 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:

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Total Operational Income</b>	\$199,404	\$221,137
<b>Total Operational Expenses</b>	\$326,644	\$332,696
<i>Operating Profit / (Loss)</i>	<i>(\$127,240)</i>	<i>(\$111,559)</i>
<b>Total Property Income</b>	\$252,000	\$257,336
<b>Total Property Expenses (including interest)</b>	\$99,800	\$123,611
<b>Net cash profit / (Loss)</b>	\$24,960	\$22,166
<b>Less Amortisation of Improvements</b>	\$32,275	\$32,275
<b>Net Profit / (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$7,315)</b>	<b>(\$10,109)</b>
<b>Variance (Actual minus budget)</b>	<b>(\$2,794.00)</b>	

### **Operational Income**

Operational income was 11% higher than budgeted. Most of this increase was due to an unbudgeted disbursement from the Lambrick Trust (\$12,150) and donations towards the Church heating and flooring project (\$13,750). Offerings and pledges (\$123,385) were \$1600 below budget. Funds received from the Lambrick Trust will be applied to the Church heating and flooring project during 2018-2019.

### **Operational Expenses**

Operational expenses were generally close to budget expectations (2% increase). As an indicator of the stability of our finances, our operational income (offerings, donations, fundraising, interest income, wedding and funeral fees, diocesan grants) continues to

cover the staffing component of the parish's operational expenses (\$201,722).

### **Major projects**

Parishioners donated \$13,750 towards the church heating and flooring project. Initial expenses towards this project during the year amounted to \$24,077. Funds received from the Lambrick Trust are being used to cover expenses for this project. The balance of costs of this project will be borne by a grant from the Smith Trust.

### **Rental Property Income and expenses**

Income from rental properties and hall hire continue to be a stable and significant contributor to the Parish. Income was up 2%.

Rental property expenses were higher than budgeted (24%). Much of this was due to incorrect budgeting for land tax obligations, and moving hall-related expenses into this category. These anomalies will not recur in future years.

The Parish continues to write down significant expenditure on rental property improvements (over a ten-year period ending in 2022). This reduces the amount we pay in our annual Diocesan assessment. The amortisation amount of \$32,275 represents one tenth of the total cost of improvements.

### **Concluding Remarks**

The burden on the Treasurer is significantly ameliorated by the capable support of the Parish Office Manager, Kerry Dehring, and the keen financial sensibilities of the Vicar. I would like to record my sincere thanks to Kerry and Father Craig.

Tim Pilbrow, Honorary Treasurer



# St Mary's North Melbourne

## Balance Sheet

As of September 2018

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Assets		
Current Assets		
Westpac General Account	\$19,321.80	
Anglican Funds Account CF7492	\$29,052.07	
ADF Access Cash - 05009234	\$48,263.21	
Trade Debtors (Acc Rec)	\$10,548.94	
Westpac Projects Account	\$12,076.30	
Westpac Benevolence Fund	\$5,428.04	
Major Projects		
202 Chetwynd St Improvements	\$120,275.70	
200 Chetwynd Improvements	\$24,004.25	
Total Assets		\$268,970.31
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Corp. Card Clearing (Westpac)	-\$1,250.59	
GST Liabilities		
GST Collected	\$564.60	
GST Paid	-\$535.42	
Donations to External Entities		
St Mary's Material Aid Project	\$5,428.04	
ADF Development Loans		
ADF 640 - 202 Chetwynd	\$198,494.36	
ADF 762 - 200 Chetwynd Street	\$28,780.26	
ADF 829 - Lighting & Sound	\$39,146.61	
Income from External Trusts		
Total Liabilities		\$270,627.86
Net Assets		<u>-\$1,657.55</u>
Equity		
Retained Earnings	\$8,667.53	
Current Year Earnings	-\$10,079.22	
Historical Balancing	<u>-\$245.86</u>	
Total Equity		<u>-\$1,657.55</u>

**St Mary's North Melbourne**  
430 Queensberry Street  
North Melbourne VIC 3051

**Profit & Loss Statement**

October 2017 through September 2018

8/11/18  
2:48:15 pm

<b>Operational Income</b>			
Assessable Income			
Offerings / Collections			
Collections Cash	\$24,953.20		
Pledge Giving	\$98,432.41		
Total Offerings / Collections	\$123,385.61	\$123,385.61	
Fund Raising			
Fund Raising Programmes Gross	\$10,947.65		
Fund Raising Programmes Exp	-\$1,579.87		
Total Fund Raising	\$9,367.78	\$9,367.78	
Legacies and Bequests			
Lambrick Trust	\$12,150.30		
Total Legacies and Bequests	\$12,150.30	\$12,150.30	
Investment Income			
Interest Bank and Investments	\$1,469.32		
Total Investment Income	\$1,469.32	\$1,469.32	
Other Income (Weddings etc)			
Weddings Gross	\$6,100.00		
Weddings Direct Costs	-\$990.90		
Funeral / Other Fees Gross	\$1,680.00		
Funeral / Other Direct costs	-\$318.18		
Total Other Income (Weddings etc)	\$6,470.92	\$6,470.92	
Fundraising - Specific Project			
Church Heating - Donations	\$13,750.93		
Total Fundraising - Specific Project	\$13,750.93	\$13,750.93	
Total Assessable Income		\$166,594.86	
Non Assessable Income			
Diocese Grant - Archdeacon		\$9,360.00	
Diocese Grant - Prison chaplain		\$40,770.39	
Other Receipts - Recoveries		\$4,412.24	
Total Non Assessable Income		\$54,542.63	
Total Operational Income		\$221,137.49	
<b>Operational Expenses</b>			
Staffing			
Vicar and Locums			
Vicar - Gross Pay - Stipend	\$28,568.40		
Vicar - Super Salary Sacrifice	\$5,736.24		
Vicar - Benefits	\$28,407.25		
Vicar - Superannuation	\$8,604.36		
Vicar - LSL	\$1,530.00		
Vicar -Sickness & Accident Ins	\$1,407.13		
Clergy Staff			
Clergy -Gross Pay - Stipend	\$34,298.88		
Clergy - Super Sal Sacrifice	\$731.40		
Clergy - Benefits	\$21,071.04		
Clergy - Superannuation	\$10,117.21		
Clergy - LSL	\$348.35		
Clergy - Sickness & Acc Ins	\$556.84		
Clergy - Housing Allowance	\$7,956.00		
Clergy - Km Reimbursement	\$639.00		
Clergy - Utilities Telephone	\$1,094.76		
Clergy - Donations foundations	\$1,300.00		
Lay Staff			
LM - Gross Pay	\$9,540.48		
LM - Benefits	\$4,655.76		

# St Mary's North Melbourne

## Profit & Loss Statement

October 2017 through September 2018

8/11/18  
2:48:15 pm

LM - Superannuation	\$1,349.76		
Secretarial and Support Staff			
Office - Gross Pay	\$12,105.20		
Office - Superannuation	\$1,149.96		
Organist and Choir Staff Expen			
Organist - Gross Pay	\$15,120.00		
Organist - Superannuation	\$1,586.40		
Relief Organist	\$450.00		
General Staffing Expenses			
Staff Training	\$400.00		
Workcover / Licenses	\$2,337.89		
Farewell Gifts to Staff	\$660.00		
Total Staffing			\$201,722.31
Parish Operations			
Banking Fees		\$0.45	
Diocesan Assessment		\$32,851.00	
Professional Services			
Audit	\$2,500.00		
Accounting	-\$2,008.37		
Ministry Related Expenses			
Travel	\$2,184.11		
Children and Family Resources	\$1,076.52		
Liturgical Supplies	\$2,875.88		
Liturgical Vestments & Equip.	\$697.97		
Liturgical Books & Music	\$5,859.30		
Administration Expenses			
Office/Kitchen Supplies	\$2,853.22		
Printer and Printing	\$3,058.50		
Dues and Subscriptions	\$256.85		
Police checks & WWC	\$645.45		
Hospitality	\$774.07		
Freight	\$40.00		
Telephone and Internet	\$3,667.03		
Computer Hardware & Software	\$765.55		
Church and Vicarage			
CV - Gas and Electricity	\$4,824.85		
CV - Water	\$976.88		
CV - Insurance	\$10,924.15		
CV - Residential Rates	\$512.80		
CV - Security	\$1,950.48		
CV - Cleaning	\$4,845.00		
CV - Pest Control	\$360.00		
CV - Lighting and Heating	\$24,077.73		
CV - Church Loan Interest	\$2,172.93		
CV - Maintenance - Grounds	\$4,808.95		
CV - Maintenance - Buildings	\$1,194.26		
Organ and Piano			
Organ - Insurance	\$1,198.61		
Total Parish Operations			\$115,944.17
Vestry Resolved Donations			
Donations - Christian Mission/		\$11,000.00	
Donations - Non-Christian Miss		\$4,000.00	
Total Operational Expenses			\$332,666.48
Operating Profit			-\$111,528.99
Other Income			
Property Income			

# St Mary's North Melbourne

## Profit & Loss Statement

October 2017 through September 2018

8/11/18  
2:48:15 pm

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Hall Rental	\$22,618.82		
Kindergarten License	\$10,000.00		
Residential Rentals	\$224,718.05		
Total Property Income		\$257,336.87	
Total Other Income			\$257,336.87
Other Expenses			
Rental Property Expenses			
Rental - Professional Services			
Rental - Agent and Letting Fees	\$13,797.51		
Rental - Staffing Expenses			
Rental - Gross Pay	\$8,070.28		
Rental - Superannuation	\$766.74		
Rental - Services / Utilities			
Rental - Gas and Electricity	\$1,192.55		
Rental - Water	\$9,427.76		
Rental - Insurance	\$4,103.79		
Rental - Rates and Land Tax	\$24,769.45		
Rental - Pest Control	\$2,090.00		
Rental - Maintenance			
Rental Maintenance - Buildings	\$17,253.25		
Rental Maintenance - Grounds	\$6,225.00		
Rental - Hall			
Hall - Cleaning	\$4,455.00		
Hall - Maintenance	\$9,903.16		
Hall - Gas & Electricity	\$5,971.51		
Hall - Water	\$1,554.12		
Hall - Insurance	\$1,594.91		
Bad Debts			
Property Loan Related			
Interest			
Rental loans -Interest Charges	\$12,436.63		
Non-Cash Amortisation			
Amortisation of Improvements	\$32,275.44		
Total Other Expenses			\$155,887.10
Net Profit / (Loss)			<u><u>-\$10,079.22</u></u>

## **Budget notes**

The Parish budget for the church year 2018 – 2019 is based on a conservative but confident modelling of the recurring income and expenditure associated with the Parish operations and properties.

### **Operational income and expenses**

The budget anticipates that operational income will cover 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 remains an encouraging indication of the health of the Parish finances and their alignment with the Parish's strategic goals in ministry and outreach.

### **Diocesan assessment - \$28,629**

This amount is based on income and expenses for 2017-2018.

### **Donations to charitable organisations**

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

### **Major projects – Church heating and flooring**

Funds to cover this project (expected cost \$205,000) will come primarily from a grant from the Smith Trust (\$170,000) and income received from the Lambrick Trust in 2017 and 2018 (of which \$40,894 has been retained for this purpose). As a contingency reserve, we will nominate further funds anticipated from the Lambrick Trust in the coming year (\$12,000), and will draw if necessary on funds from the Parish's National Trust account (\$12,432).

### **Maintenance of properties**

Amounts for church and vicarage maintenance, and rental property (including hall) maintenance are slightly reduced from last year's budget based on actual expenditure.

Note that from this year, we will be recording expenses pertaining to the church hall under 'Other Expenses' (previously listed with church and vicarage expenses).

## **Amortisation of improvements**

The budget includes an amount for amortisation of improvements to rental properties at 202 and 200 Chetwynd Street. This is a non-cash expense. The Parish continues to write down significant expenditure on rental property improvements (over a ten-year period ending in 2022). This reduces the amount we pay in our annual Diocesan assessment. The amortisation amount of \$32,275 represents one tenth of the total cost of improvements.

## **Surplus - \$39,040**

The budget aims to deliver a cash surplus of \$39,040. After the inclusion of the non-cash amortisation expense of \$32,275, an adjusted surplus of \$6,7655 is expected. In the event that the church heating and flooring project costs are higher than anticipated, I am confident that we will still reach the end of the financial year with a cash surplus.

Tim Pilbrow, Honorary Treasurer

St Mary's Anglican Church, North Melbourne  
2018-2019 Budget

**OPERATIONAL INCOME**

*Assessable income:*

Cash offerings	\$30,000	
Pledge offerings	\$100,000	
Donations to St Marys	\$0	
<b>Offerings/collections total</b>		<b>\$130,000</b>
<b>Fund raising</b>		<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Investment income</b>		<b>\$1,500</b>
Weddings (net)	\$3,000	
Funerals (net)	\$2,000	
<b>Weddings/funerals income total</b>		<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSESSABLE INCOME</b>		<b>\$146,500</b>

*Non-assessable income:*

Diocesan grants (archdeacon)		\$5,360
Diocesan grants (prison chaplain)		\$40,544
Fundraising (specific mission)		
Specific bequests, legacies, trusts		
Smith Trust - for church heating & floor	\$170,000	
National Trust - for church heating & floor	\$12,432	
Lambrick Trust (retained from previous years) - for church heating & floor	\$40,894	
Lambrick Trust (income 2018-2019) - for church heating & floor	\$12,000	
<b>Specific bequests, etc. total</b>		<b>\$235,326</b>
<b>TOTAL NON-ASSESSABLE INCOME</b>		<b>\$281,230</b>

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**TOTAL OPERATIONAL INCOME** **\$427,730**

**OPERATIONAL EXPENSES**

*Staffing expenses*

*Vicar and Locums*

Vicar - Gross Pay - Stipend	\$35,167	
Vicar - Super Salary Sacrifice	\$5,959	
Vicar - Benefits	\$29,370	
Vicar - Superannuation	\$8,942	
Vicar - LSL	\$1,582	
Vicar - Sickness & Accident Ins	\$1,680	
<b>Vicar and locums total</b>		<b>\$82,700</b>

*Clergy Staff*

Clergy - Gross Pay - Stipend	\$34,010	
Clergy - Super Salary Sacrifice	\$0	
Clergy - Benefits	\$21,771	
Clergy - Superannuation	\$8,034	
Clergy - LSL	\$525	
Clergy - Sickness & Accident Ins	\$1,130	
Clergy - Housing Allowance	\$7,956	
Clergy - Km Reimbursement	\$160	
Clergy - Utilities Telephone	\$1,104	
Clergy - Donations foundations	\$3,900	
<b>Clergy staff total</b>		<b>\$78,590</b>

*Lay Staff*

Lay Staff - Gross Pay - Stipend	\$10,200	
Lay Staff - Benefits	\$4,720	
Lay Staff - Superannuation	\$1,400	
<b>Lay staff total</b>		<b>\$16,320</b>

*Secretarial and Support Staff*

Office - Gross Pay	\$12,968	
super	\$1,232	
<b>Office staff total</b>		<b>\$14,200</b>

*Organist*

super	\$15,695	
relief organist	\$1,495	
	\$500	
<b>Organist total</b>		<b>\$17,690</b>

**General staffing expenses** **\$2,350**

## STAFFING EXPENSES TOTAL

\$211,850

*Parish operations*

Diocesan assessment		\$28,629	
Professional services			
audit	\$2,500		
Professional services total (audit)		\$2,500	
Ministry related expenses			
travel	\$3,600		
children/family resources	\$1,200		
liturgical supplies	\$2,800		
liturgical vestments & Equipment	\$0		
liturgical books/music	\$2,400		
Ministry related expenses total		\$10,000	
Administrative expenses			
Office supplies/stationery	\$3,300		
Printing and postage	\$3,300		
dues and subscriptions	\$300		
hospitality	\$600		
telephone and internet	\$3,700		
computer hardware/software	\$960		
Administrative expenses total		\$12,160	
Church/vicarage/hall expenses			
CVH gas/electricity	\$3,600		
CVH water	\$2,000		
CVH insurance	\$12,167		
CVH rates	\$624		
CVH security	\$2,100		
CVH cleaning	\$6,000		
CVH pest control	\$720		
CVH heating and floor	\$205,000		
CVH Church loan interest	\$2,300		
CVH maintenance - grounds	\$5,000		
CVH maintenance - buildings	\$15,000		
Church/vicarage/hall expenses total		\$254,511	
Organ/piano			
Organ - insurance	\$1,200		
Organ/piano total		\$1,200	
<b>PARISH OPERATIONS TOTAL</b>			<b>\$309,000</b>
Donations (Christian Mission)		\$15,000	
<b>DONATIONS (TOTAL)</b>			<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</b>			<b>\$535,850</b>
<b>OPERATING PROFIT/LOSS</b>			<b>(\$108,120)</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			
Hall		\$22,000	
Kindergarten license		\$10,000	
Properties		\$226,000	
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>			<b>\$258,000</b>
<b>OTHER EXPENSES (Rental Properties)</b>			
Rental - Professional services (agent fees)		\$14,000	
Rental - Staff (office)		\$8,800	
Rental - Gas and electricity		\$8,544	
Rental - Water		\$8,000	
Rental - Insurance		\$3,996	
Rental - Rates/taxes		\$27,000	
Rental - Pest controls		\$0	
Rental - cleaning		\$0	
Rental - Maintenance - buildings		\$25,000	
Rental - Maintenance - grounds		\$2,500	
Loan interest (rental properties)		\$13,000	
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES</b>			<b>\$110,840</b>



<b>TOTAL CASH SURPLUS (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$39,040</b>
Non-cash amortisation of works on 200 and 202 Chetwynd st	\$32,275
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$6,765</b>



## St Mary's Kids

2018 has been another successful year for the Children's Ministry Program. This year, we have continued to provide children's ministry during the 10:00 Sunday morning service through 3 different programs; Sunday School, Light Up! and Messy St Marys.

- **Sunday School** has remained largely the same with children going out to the hall for their own teaching time, during which there are prayers, activities and reflection on the gospel for the day.
- **Light Up!** Since Josie's departure at the end of 2017 Light Up! has continued with a few minor changes. The service continues to prioritise the strengths of children with sensory and related challenges. However due to the children we have regularly attending Light Up! this is not always vital. Light Up! continues to be an opportunity for children to practice relaxation and quiet prayer time as well as providing a longer session time for more in depth lessons.
- **Messy St Mary's:** New in 2018 Messy St Mary's has been positively received by the church community. The program is specifically designed for children 4 years and under and their families and focuses on introducing the stories of the bible through sensory play, music and movement.

The content for all these programs is based on the Creative Ideas for Children's Worship books. This year we have focused on the People of the Bible (with a special focus on the women) 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. The children have also been working on their 'Church Manners', understanding how and why we behave as we do when we're in Church and when we're at Sunday School as well as encouraging engagement throughout the service. Having the children engaged throughout the service will continue to be a long-term goal for the Children's Ministry Program.

Attendance this year has increased on last year. A consistency has been with many families attending 3 or 4 Sundays in a month. On average we have 5 kids each week, with the largest group on a

standard Sunday being 15 kids. Notably over Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October we had between 25-30 different children attending with at least half here both weeks. The majority of the children are currently Primary School age (5-12 years) however as a result of introducing Messy St Mary's the number of Pre-schoolers (2-4 years) has also increased, as has the number of infants and toddlers (0-2 years).

I would like to thank the Children's Ministry Team, Alice Christofi, Samuel Miller and Adam Wing for their hard work, dedication, support and creativity throughout the year. Lastly, I would 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.

## Music Report

In my previous report I noted two items with future implications. The first was the commissioning of a special mass setting by composer Fr Christopher Willcock SJ. As expected, the trust we placed in Christopher to create something very special was fulfilled on time with the birth of *Missa Sanctae Mariae*. The mass was first sung on Sunday, February 11 in the presence of the composer, who also gave a fine homily on the occasion. The mass was also used as the setting for the Easter season, with Christopher again visiting at Pentecost to see how we were getting on as a community with the setting. As Director of Music at this time, I am delighted, humbled and grateful that we have been the means to enrich the corpus of Australian liturgical music with such a fine and sensitively composed setting that reflects the text, our tradition and spirituality. The second, the upkeep of the organ by Hargreaves Organ, is yet to happen, but will take place in 2019 with works associated with the installation of the church heating system. This organ, a rebuild by Knud Smenge, the organ (intact) moved from New Zealand to Queensland then to Victoria, is justifiably internationally renowned (see the Organ Historical Trust of Australia and the St Mary's websites for details). The careful custody of this instrument, never an issue in the parish, perhaps comes into greater focus with Knud's death a few months ago, because although this is not a 'pure-bred' Smenge, it was the first instrument out of the newly formed Smenge Organ factory in Peel Street.

Choir numbers have continued to have the usual ups and downs of a suburban congregation. As well as service times, choristers spend up to three hours a week practicing, sometimes in extreme temperatures. (The new heating system is eagerly anticipated!) Fluctuating numbers in various parts have occasionally meant that ensemble singing has been challenging. Please remember this if you are inclined to be critical. Of course, constructive criticism is welcome and instructive, and should be directed to me as Music Director or to me through the clergy rather than to individual members of the choir. Please be pastorally aware that the voice is a very personal instrument and very attached to personal and emotional wellbeing.

Despite fluctuating numbers, however, the core group has faithfully and generously kept the program going throughout the year. To

them and to the entire choir I note my gratitude and deep respect for their work, dedication, patience and sacrifice of both time and freedom. It is a privilege to be the one who leads such a dedicated group.

In reviewing the year, I note that the quarterly Evensongs have continued and have now become part of our calendar. As we try to broaden the number of settings to reflect the liturgical seasons, suggestions from the congregation are always welcomed and considered. Also, this year we prepared with joy and excitement for the parish weddings of Jacquie and David, and Alice and Luke. It is always a great privilege to be part of these celebrations and, augmented by family members and friends, the choir rose to both occasions with gusto and enthusiasm.

This year has brought the urgent need for all members of the congregation who may deal with minors to comply with the *Code of Conduct for Child Safety*. All current members of the choir, both active and on leave, have fulfilled the necessary documentation checks for this regulation. As all potential choristers must also comply from first contact, please remember to mention it if you are encouraging someone to join the choir.

In the New Year, Fr Craig D'Alton leaves St Mary's for Christ Church, South Yarra. Both the choir and I will miss him for his pastoral care and interest, for his encouraging and appreciative comments, often derived from experiences elsewhere, and for his fine voice and musical contribution. Part of this has been the proper accommodation and substantial broadening of the choir library. I wish to record in this annual report my sincerest gratitude, respect and honour to have been Director of Music during this time. We wish Craig the very best in his new ministry and assure him of our prayerful support. We know that South Yarra will appreciate and use his gifts to the full.

My hope for the future of music at St Mary's is that the choir will continue to grow, hopefully lowering the average age as more young people continue to join the parish, that we are the means of enthusing young organists, and that we can continue to be a place that enables the creation of new music for the liturgy, both locally and universally. I dream that somehow, sometime, we can find slightly more comfortable accommodation for choir in the sanctuary, which works for everyone, is flexible, and a good space for books

and bodies. Above all, I hope that, in the words of the hymnist, Fred Pratt Green, 'when in our music God is glorified and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though all creation cried, Alleluia.'

Beverley Phillips  
Director of Music

## Hospitality Committee

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, Rhondda Fahey, Denise Archer, Susan Gribben and Father Craig.

Our Parish Fair was held on 5 May. The weather was fine, coordination and cooperation with the Kindergarten was excellent, lots of people came and enjoyed themselves and the Parish and Kindergarten between them made over \$10,000. Many thanks to Harriet for a great job as Coordinator and Marion who got us all making jams, cakes and chutney, and to everyone else who rallied round. Each year we debate whether it is worth the effort and each year, after the event, we decide it was.

This year instead of Christmas in July we had a Cocktail Party on St Sexburga's Day, which was a great success, thanks to Rhondda and many helpers – will it become an annual celebration? Wait and see!

Apart from these two events, and the Patronal Dinner in August, for which we get caterers in, we have continued to provide lunch on the first Sunday of the month, a practice which we started last year and we are pleased that 20 – 30 people have attended each time.

We also organise refreshments after every special Parish Service, Celebration and Evensong.

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.



We are about to start planning for next year and would welcome ideas, as well as person power, from parishioners.

Susan Gribben  
Convenor

## The Stitchers Group

This little group has two main aims: first, to stitch tapestry kneelers to replace ancient ones in the church; and second, to knit blankets for the asylum seekers centre. The kneelers depict simple patterns from around the church, for example, the Jerusalem Cross at the apex of the sanctuary stencil and the Maria Regina Coeli symbol in our



windows and brass work. The blankets are formed by crotchetting together knitted squares.

While some stitchers prefer to do their needlework at home, the main group meets on Thursday mornings from 10 am to noon for stitching, chat and laughter. If you would like to join us, we can provide designs, wool, tapestry and frames.

Being at the church during the week on a regular, purposeful basis fosters our awareness of how many people outside the regular congregation use our buildings and grounds as places of quiet, prayer and even refuge in the busy-ness of their lives. We think they like to see us there too, in quiet witness to our love of our church and the wider world.

## The Gardening Group

Do you remember the old asphalt tennis court? Almost ten years ago now, the parish removed the surface from its corners and side and cut a large hole in the middle. A garden designer planted these areas



with trees, shrubs and grasses native to the North Melbourne area. Memorial garden benches were placed beside the path to the kindergarten entrance, Between the benches stood pots of strelitzia kindly donated by a parishioner. The plantings flourished but all but one of the pots got broken. This pot has now been moved to a new place, by the church and new terracotta pots filled with boronia and flannel flowers have again

softened the area.

The memorial garden along Howard Street has been rejuvenated. The gardening group, which monitors the changes, meets on the



second Saturday each month from 9.30am till noon. The composition of the group varies as people's busy lives permit. Turning up to lend a hand need not represent a permanent commitment but simply a willingness to help on the day. We could always do with more

gardeners because a small group can only concentrate on a small part of the garden each time and the rest always needs watering or pruning or weeding. One extra person makes so much difference! As we work, passersby stop to remark how much pleasure the garden gives them. And as the season's pass, and roses give way to cineraria, and iris gives way to lavender and rosemary, there is almost always something new. Seeing the fruits of their labours gives who dig, weed and plant, and get their hands dirty as much pleasure as it gives those who walk along the street or use the grounds and the hall.