

Annual Report 2022



St Mary's Anglican Church
North Melbourne

November 2022

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH NORTH MELBOURNE

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NOTICE OF 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Parish of St Mary's Anglican Church, North Melbourne (the Parish)

The Annual Meeting of the parish will be held in the church at:

11.30 am on Sunday 20 November 2022 in person and by videoconference and/or teleconference.

Nominations of Candidates for the offices of:

2 Churchwardens

6 Members of Parish Council

2 Members of Incumbency Committee

shall be given to the Vicar before 8.00 am on Sunday 13 November 2022.

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 by the Parish Council;
6. The audited accounts of the churchwardens for the year ended 30 September immediately preceding the meeting and presentation of the budget approved by the Parish Council;
7. A report from Parish Council on the pastoral care, evangelism, community service and educational programs of the Parish including reports by Parish groups;
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;
9. A report by the Incumbent on the entries in the registers of the Parish for the financial year, including numbers of baptisms, persons received into communicant membership, confirmations, marriages, funerals, Sunday services, acts of communion and other such statistics from the registers as Archbishop in Council determines;
10. 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.
11. The election and appointment of churchwardens and members of the parish council;
12. The election of auditors;
13. The election of lay representatives to the parish Incumbency Committee;
14. Any other matters of parochial or general church interest.

By order of the Parish Council

Signed

Andrew Murray (Parish Secretary)

ST MARY'S NORTH MELBOURNE – ANNUAL MEETING 2021

Date:	Sunday, 21 November 2021
Time:	11.30am
Venue:	St Mary's Anglican Church, North Melbourne and by Zoom
Chair:	Fr Jan Joustra (Vicar)
Attendees:	As per list completed during meeting.
Secretariat:	Andrew Murray (Parish Secretary)

Documents for Tabling:

1. Notice of the 2021 Annual Meeting
2. Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting
3. Vicar's Annual Report 2021
4. Parish Secretary's Report 2021
5. Churchwardens' Report 2021
6. Treasurer's Report 2021
7. Parish Budget 2022
8. Parish Financial Accounts 2021 (together with confirmation of audit)
9. Director of Music Report 2021
10. Climate Action Group Report 2021
11. St Mary's Kids Report 2021
12. Child Safety Report 2021
13. Hospitality Committee Report 2021
14. Synod 2021 – Lay Representatives Report

Minutes:

1.	Welcome and opening prayer. The meeting was opened at 11.35am. Apologies: Denise Archer, Graeme Archer, Fiona Blanch, Charles Sowerwine, Andrew Sherko, Andrea O'Donohue	Chair
2.	Reading of the Notice of the 2021 Annual Meeting It was proposed that the Notice of the Meeting be taken as read. Moved: Michael Golding Seconded: Winsome Roberts CARRIED	Chair
3.	Minutes of previous 2021 Annual Meeting approved as a true and accurate record of that meeting. Moved: Beverley Philips	Chair, Secretary

	<p>Seconded: Sam Miller</p> <p>APPROVED</p> <p>No matters arising from minutes not otherwise addressed during the business of this meeting.</p>	
4.	<p>Reception of the electoral roll of the church of the Parish.</p> <p>The Vicar made the Electoral Roll available for inspection by laying it on the Secretary's table.</p> <p>Michael Golding noted that there was at least one unintended omission from the parish roll, but that anyone unintentionally omitted remained enrolled at the Parish. The Vicar noted that the roll will be corrected and re-displayed.</p> <p>It was proposed and carried that the Electoral Roll be received.</p> <p>Moved: Jan Joustra</p> <p>Seconded: Sam Miller</p> <p>CARRIED</p>	
5.	<p>Annual Reports</p> <p>5.1. Vicar's Annual Report 2021 – including a report on the pastoral care, evangelism, community service and educational programs of the Parish.</p> <p>The Vicar's Annual Report 2021 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2021 prior to the meeting and was taken as read.</p> <p>The report by the Vicar also included reporting on the entries in the registers of the Parish for the financial year, including numbers of baptisms, persons received into communicant membership, confirmations, marriages, funerals, Sunday services, acts of communion and other such statistics from the registers as Archbishop in council determines.</p> <p>Michael Golding noted that the bequest received from the Estate of Terry Cutler is correctly stated in the Vicar's and Churchwardens' Report as \$800,000. However, the financial accounts only note a bequest of \$400,000, as this amount was received during the financial year. The receipt of the remaining \$400,000 from the estate occurred in the new financial year and will be included in next year's financial accounts. The parish has an entitlement in the Will of Terry Cutler to half the residual estate.</p> <p>Michael Golding provided a verbal update to the parish on the nature of the bequest.</p> <p>The Vicar noted that geological and engineering reports of the foundations of the current bell tower have been received.</p> <p>The Vicar noted his thanks for all who contributed reports.</p> <p>The Vicar noted that despite lockdowns, there is a strong sense of community life in the parish. The Vicar also noted Geoffrey Jenkins' work in organising morning prayer during the week and Delta Studies. The Vicar noted the importance of the parish community, particularly for mental health and wellbeing.</p>	Chair

It was proposed that the Vicar's Annual Report 2021 be tabled and accepted.

Moved: Jan Joustra

Seconded: Sam Miller

CARRIED

5.2. Parish Secretary's Report 2021 – including a report on the proceedings of Parish Council

The Parish Secretary's Report 2021 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2021 prior to the meeting and was taken as read.

It was proposed that the Parish Secretary's Report 2021 be tabled and accepted.

Moved: Beverley Phillips

Seconded: Winsome Roberts

CARRIED

5.3. Churchwardens' Report 2021 – including a report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church of the Parish and vicarage and other buildings of the Parish.

The Churchwardens' Report 2021 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2021 prior to the meeting and was taken as read.

It was proposed that the Churchwardens' Report 2021 be tabled and accepted.

The Vicar noted his thanks to the Churchwardens for all of their work during the week, most of which goes unseen.

Moved: Beverley Phillips

Seconded: Winsome Roberts

CARRIED

5.4. Treasurer's Report 2021 together with audited Financial Accounts of the Parish

The Treasurer's Report 2021 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2021 prior to the meeting and was taken as read. The Treasurer also provided a verbal update to the Parish on the financial position of the Parish, noting particularly that parish giving had continued to be lower with lockdown.

The Vicar noted that the role of Treasurer is an onerous task in any parish, and that Tim has done an excellent job as treasurer.

Audrey Statham asked whether the cash giving figure included online giving. The Treasurer responded that online giving is reported as pledged giving.

Audrey Statham asked regarding improvements to 202 Chetwynd Street appearing as an asset. The Treasurer noted that the value from improvements made to the property a number of years ago is considered an asset, but the amount is depreciated over a period of ten years.

Winsome Roberts asked whether Parish Council had put in place a strategy for the giving shortfall and for the future, especially if future lockdowns are likely. The Vicar responded, noting that a Stewardship Campaign was to begin immediately prior to the last lockdown. As we have come out of lockdown so close to the end of the year, there is not enough time to run a full stewardship campaign. It is intended that this campaign will begin early next year.

It was proposed that the Treasurer's Report 2021 and the audited accounts be tabled and accepted.

Moved: Beverley Philips

Seconded: Winsome Roberts

CARRIED

5.5. Parish Budget 2022

The Parish Budget 2022 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2021 prior to the meeting and was taken as read. The Treasurer spoke to the Parish Budget 2022, noting that the expectation of parish giving remained high. The budget is based on parish giving returning to pre-COVID-19 levels. Although this will reduce the cash reserves slightly, due to some outstanding debts, it will improve the parish's financial standing. However, if parish giving remains low, the parish may not be in a strong financial position.

Katie Holmes asked whether there would be a return to in-church giving. The Treasurer noted that Parish Council may need to seek further clarity on in-church giving. The Vicar and the Treasurer conferred briefly and indicated that there was an intention for this to restart.

Beverley Philips requested an update on the use of the parish halls. The Vicar responded that Darrell has been active in promoting the use of the halls, and that he has made an effort to maximise the income of the parish through the hall. A mop sink has been installed in the women's toilets so that the kitchen can now be considered as a commercial kitchen by the local council, which may provide a potential income stream.

It was proposed that the Parish Budget 2020 be accepted.

Moved: Beverley Philips

Seconded: Winsome Roberts

CARRIED

5.6. Director of Music Report 2021

The Director of Music Report 2021 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2021 prior to the meeting and was taken as read.

Beverley Philips noted that Darrell in the parish office has done an outstanding job and that the parish is extremely lucky to have such a capable administrator.

A vote of thanks to Darrell was moved.

Moved: Beverley Philips

	<p>Seconded: Jan Joustra</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>It was proposed that the Director of Music Report 2021 be tabled and accepted.</p> <p>Moved: Beverley Philips</p> <p>Seconded: Winsome Roberts</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>5.7. Climate Action Group Report 2021</p> <p>The Climate Action Group Report 2021 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2021 prior to the meeting and was taken as read.</p> <p>It was proposed that the Climate Action Group Report 2021 be tabled and accepted.</p> <p>Moved: Beverley Philips</p> <p>Seconded: Winsome Roberts</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>5.8. St Mary's Children's Ministry Report 2021</p> <p>The St Mary's children's ministry report 2021 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2021 prior to the meeting and was taken as read.</p> <p>It was proposed that the St Mary's children's ministry report be tabled and accepted.</p> <p>Moved: Beverley Philips</p> <p>Seconded: Winsome Roberts</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>5.9. Hospitality Committee Report 2021</p> <p>The Hospitality Committee Report 2021 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2021 prior to the meeting and was taken as read.</p> <p>It was proposed that the Hospitality Committee Report 2021 be tabled and accepted.</p> <p>Moved: Beverley Philips</p> <p>Seconded: Winsome Roberts</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>5.10. Synod 2021 – Lay Representatives Report</p> <p>The Report on Synod 2021 from the Lay Representatives of the Parish was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2021 prior to the meeting and was taken as read.</p> <p>It was proposed that the Synod 2021 report be tabled and accepted.</p> <p>Moved: Beverley Philips</p> <p>Seconded: Winsome Roberts</p> <p>CARRIED</p>	
6.	Elections	Chair, Secretary

	<p>6.1. Election and appointment of Churchwardens and members of Parish Council</p> <p>The Vicar declared all positions vacant.</p> <p>The Vicar declared that as the nominations for Churchwardens and Parish Council Members did not exceed the positions available, all were duly elected.</p> <p>Churchwardens elected by parishioners (2)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anne Sunderland 2. Michael Golding <p>Churchwarden appointed by the Vicar (1)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sam Miller <p>Members of Parish Council elected by parishioners (6)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adam Wing 2. Tim Pilbrow 3. Rebe Taylor 4. Andrew Murray 5. Roslyn Moloney <p>Members of Parish Council appointed by the Vicar (3)</p> <p>None at the Annual Meeting</p> <p>6.2. The election of Auditors</p> <p>Tim Pilbrow nominated Andrew Fisher of the Banks Group, Melbourne, to be elected as Auditors.</p> <p>Moved: Tim Pilbrow</p> <p>Seconded: Sam Miller</p> <p>CARRIED.</p> <p>6.3. The election of lay representatives to the parish Incumbency Committee</p> <p>The Vicar declared that as the nominations for lay representatives to the Parish Incumbency Committee did not exceed the positions available, all were duly elected.</p> <p>Lay Representatives to the parish Incumbency Committee elected by parishioners</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Andrew Murray 	
7.	<p>Any other matters of parochial or general church interest.</p> <p>7.1. Delta Studies</p> <p>Geoffrey Jenkins provided an update on the parish's Delta Studies program. Delta Studies has had a program of consideration of the Old Testament, the New Testament and Christian Ethics on alternate</p>	Chair

	<p>Sundays. Delta Studies also examined other subjects, such as the Uluru Statement from the Heart and refugees.</p> <p>Geoffrey noted his thanks to the Prophet Jeremiah, to the Evangelist Mark for their contributions; Mtr Dorothy put together some excellent studies, including on Romans 16; and to Michael and Margaret Noble for their contributions on birds.</p> <p>7.2. Peter O'Donohue noted his, and the parish's, thanks to the Vicar for his leadership and enthusiasm through a difficult period.</p> <p>The Vicar noted that planning our life together as a parish is extremely important.</p>	
8.	The annual meeting concluded with the saying of the Grace.	
8.	<p>Actions Arising</p> <p>8.1. None</p>	

VICAR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022

It is my pleasure to present the Vicar's report for 2022.

It was a great relief that 2022 was a much more stable year, with no lockdowns, allowing us to resume services as normal and start to rebuild the congregation and attendance numbers. Attendance is slowly coming back to pre-Covid times but more work needs to be done to achieve this. The greatest difficulty that Covid posed, apart from the financial aspects, was that there is always a natural attrition in a parish, as people move overseas or to other regions, and during extended lockdowns it is impossible to welcome new members. This, of course, is not only a St Mary's problem, but a church wide problem, nationally and internationally. As with the whole of society, it will take many years to work through all the repercussions of the pandemic.

One of the things that Covid did was to remind us of the importance of community, and that really needs to be our focus for the coming years. One thing we do need to encourage is regular attendance. Many parishes have deliberately stopped live-streaming to encourage people not to stay home but attend in person. It is not our intention to do this, but I certainly do encourage all to be conscious in their attendance as it is very difficult to build community if many are opting to watch services on-line rather than in person. As part of the move to rebuild our community connections the Social Committee held the Reunion Dinner in August. This was a great success with close to 90 people in attendance. Over the next year I hope the Social Committee will be able to organise other activities that will bring people together. I would like to extend my thanks to the Social Committee for their work in the past year, especially in helping to bring people together and raising much needed revenue for the parish.

Assistant Clergy. As you all know, I recently took long-service leave which was a great blessing, a time for refreshment and renewal and also a great opportunity to travel again after so many years of restrictions. This was made much easier for me and the parish because of the assistance of our Assistant clergy, particularly Mother Dorothy who was able to step in as the locum. This parish is particularly blessed with capable and talented assistants. Mother Dorothy's vast biblical knowledge is frequently enjoyed by all, Fr Mark's theological insights, likewise and Mother Robyn's great preach and liturgical presence are a blessing to all. I think I can cheekily add Fr Luke I here as well, not only because of his great Patronal Festival sermon, but I also noticed his assistance while I was on leave. Thank you to all.

Our serving team is also a great asset to our Sunday liturgies, helping with setting up on Sunday morning, assisting with services and then with cleaning up after. Thanks to all who work so hard.

Wardens, speaking of hard work, do so much unseen work each week, and we have brilliant wardens at St Mary's, who are a really good complimentary team. Sadly this year, Diocesan regulations require that Anne steps down for at least the next year. Many thanks

Anne for all your hard work on Parish Council and as a warden and I hope you will have time for some refreshing activities for the next twelve months. I'm pleased to say that Sam has agreed to stay on as Vicar's Warden for the coming year. A special thanks to Michael who does so much background work on behalf of St Mary's, your work is invaluable.

Also stepping off Parish Council this year is Tim our former Treasurer. It is hard to thank him enough for all his many hours of slaving away to keep the parish running. Tim also has come to the end of his six years. Fortunately, during the year he was successfully able to hand all the books over to Paul, who is doing an equally brilliant job as Treasurer.

Another person who work extremely hard for the parish is Darrell in the office. So many extra hours, such efficiency, always friendly and helpful and never seems to loose his cool, even when dealing with telecommunication companies, Darrell is truly an asset and needs all our thanks.

Parish Council has functioned very successfully over the last year and we continue to mostly meet via Zoom. This year we will loose Adam as he has reached his 6 year limit, so like Anne is required to take at least one year off. We recently also lost Rebbe as a parish council member due to work pressures. Thanks for your contribution over the last year.

Continuing at the centre of parish life, Beverly and the Choir work hard every week to keep up the wonderful standard of music. Many thanks to you all.

Children's Ministry has taken a different turn this year with Harriet stepping down from a paid position to being a volunteer. We are very grateful to Harriet for putting Children's Ministry into a format that it can now be run successfully by a group of volunteers. Thanks also to Harriet for taking on the role of Safe Ministry Officer and coordinating all the requirements that permit us to minister within Diocesan and Government regulations, not an easy undertaking.

Delta Studied have continued over the past year in a slightly amended form which allows on-line participation. Many thanks to Geoff and all involved in making this such a successful source of on-going education for all in the parish.

As you know gardening and flowers are very close to my heart. Many thanks to our gardening group, mostly Margaret and Helen, for their hard work. Also many thanks to the flower arrangers for brightening our liturgies and brings the gifts of God into the service.

The Morning Prayer Team has now become the prayerful backbone of the parish. After being forced to go on-line with the first wave of Covid, the group of approximately 12 parishioners has met on-line three mornings a week. This is an important ministry, shared equally between clergy and laity. Many thanks to Geoff for all his work in organising this ministry and to all those involved a big thank you.

This year the parish benefitted substantially from the Cutler Bequest. This was initially left to the parish by former parishioner Terrence Cutler, to complete the tower. However, the bequest fell well short of the sum needed, and so According to the terms of the Will and with the support of his family we are initiating a series of projects over the next year that will see much capital works. These include:

Landscaping, building a low retaining wall around to the church on the Howard St side, a stained glass window in the Lady Chapel, a new cupboard in the Lady Chapel to hide all the bits and pieces, finish the sanctuary painting and then repaint the interior once the roof work over the organ is completed and all other damaged plaster repaired. All the works to be carried out will be supervised by our heritage architects.

Over the next year especially, a lot of time and energy will go into realising the wonderful gift that Terry Cutler gave us, and I hope that it will contribute to refreshing the life of the parish after the last difficult years as well as securing our major physical asset, our beautiful church.

Below are the on-line statistics as collected by Michael Golding.

Online Statistics Report for Annual Meeting 2022

The reporting period is 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022

YouTube

We uploaded 54 videos of services to the St Mary's YouTube channel. They attracted 2,920 views at an average of just over 52 per service.

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve attracted the most views (291).

The figures include one memorial service (Graeme Prior), which attracted 219 views.

The figures for "views" include those who watched services as livestreams.

The figures are open to interpretation. A "view" does not mean that someone watched the video all the way through. One "view" may represent more than one person watching (e.g. where people watch a service as a family).

COVID restrictions of varying severity were in place at times throughout the year and this seems to have impacted online viewing but even when attendance in person was an option videos continued to be viewed.

The videos are available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiZQMHTiPmmkRUG7iEPz86w/streams>

Zoom Morning Prayer

Zoom Morning Prayer is held at 9.00 am three times a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It is convened by Geoff Jenkins and led in turn by those who attend. During the year 155 services were held, with a total of 1,215 attendances giving an average attendance of 7.8.

We pause now to remember those of our fellowship who have now entered into the fellowship of the angels in the presence of God.

May they Rest In Peace and Rise in Glory.

Jan Joustra
(Vicar)

PARISH SECRETARY REPORT 2022

Presented to the annual meeting of St Mary's Anglican Church, North Melbourne

Parish Council

Parish Council met ten times during the 2021-22 year on the following dates:

- **December** – Tuesday 14 December 7.30pm
- **February** – Sunday 20 February 12pm
- **March** – Thursday 24 March 7.30pm
- **April** – Thursday 28 April 7.30pm
- **May** – Thursday 26 May 7.30pm
- **June** – Thursday 29 June 7.30pm
- **July** – Wednesday 27 July 7.30pm
- **August** – Wednesday 31 August 7.30pm
- **September** – Wednesday 28 September 7.30pm
- **October** – Thursday 27 October 7.30pm

There was no meeting of Parish Council in January 2022. On Sunday 20 February 2022, a meeting of Parish Council was held which included a planning session for the remainder of the year.

Draft minutes of each meeting of Parish Council were circulated to parish councillors within one day of each Parish Council meeting, enabling timely review of the minutes by parish councillors. Minutes of each Parish Council meeting, following confirmation as a true and accurate record of business by Parish Council, were made available for parishioners to view in the Church.

With the exception of the February meeting, Parish Council continued to meet virtually (using the Zoom platform) throughout the 2021-22 year. Meeting virtually has continued to prove convenient for parish councillors, and there were no meetings which were required to be postponed due to an insufficient quorum of members being present.

Parish Council noted with thanks the service of Anne Sunderland, Adam Wing, and Tim Pilbrow who all have concluded their terms on Parish Council, and have served the parish in a number of different capacities. Parish Council also thanked Rebe Taylor for her service, who resigned from Parish Council in August 2022 due to commitment clashes.

Annual Meeting 2021

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the Parish of St Mary's Anglican Church, North Melbourne was held on Sunday, 21 November 2021. Aside from the standard order of business, the parish thanked the Vicar for his hard work during the difficult circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and a brief update was provided on the Delta Studies program. The minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting were prepared by the previous Parish Secretary.

Correspondence

A record of parish correspondence in and out of the parish office was prepared by the parish administrator and provided to the Parish Secretary prior to each meeting of Parish Council, at which any incoming or outgoing correspondence was noted by Parish Council.

Parish records

Despite the difficulties of the periodic imposition of COVID-19 lockdowns and multiple pivots to online worship, statistics of online worship attendance were received by Parish Council at each meeting. In person worship statistics continue to be recorded in the Register of Services.

Parish Roll

The Electoral Committee comprising the Locum Vicar and the Parish Secretary met on Sunday, 30 October 2022 and considered the parish's Electoral Roll. A number of applications were received of persons wishing to be enrolled with the parish. These applications were considered together with removal persons not regularly and habitually attending public worship at the parish.

The Electoral Roll was confirmed, certified and published by the Electoral Committee on 30 October 2022 and displayed at the entrance to the church.

Other business

Details of parish office holders were provided to the Diocese in February 2022.

Andrew Murray,
Parish Secretary.

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT 2022

The year got off to a rocky start, with our (hopefully) final lockdown due to Covid. We were able to hold services in small numbers with masks, which by February opened to full capacity, without masks, vaccine mandates or check ins. We are thankful that so far, the church has not been an outbreak location, thanks largely to the sensible behaviour of the members of the parish – Many including all the choir still wear masks, and people have been staying home when unwell. To make this easier, the parish has continued to provide a livestream of the service. Thanks to Harriet and Adam, for the gift of a new camera, which rotates and allows us to see all that is happening in the church.

Not everything that goes on at St Mary's happens within the church. This year, members of St Mary's were involved in marches and protests that are close to the heart of the parish. We participated in the Palm Sunday March for Asylum Seekers and were seen at various climate action vigils, notably in the electorates of Chisholm and Kooyong in the lead up to the federal election. Following these vigils, our banner was framed and installed atop the bell tower, where it remains for the time being. We also held a few social events on a Monday night at the Castle Hotel in North Melbourne. These were well received by those who attended.

Staff

Father Jan has had another busy year in the parish, finishing off with some long service leave. He started the year in front of a camera once again, and for a month after reopening, he and the clergy team offered four Sunday services each week. At the end of the month, it was determined that there was not the appetite for a midday or evening service, so it was reduced back to 8am and 10am. Fr Jan continued his usual practice of pastoral visits to members of our community who were unable to join us in church and was finally able to demonstrate his legendary hospitality skills - particularly of note is the huge spread that was put on for the Patronal Festival. He has continued to restore various pieces of church furniture, with a special mention going to his work on restoring the font cover, so that it can continue to be used for years to come. The parish gardens (on which Fr Jan and the gardening team have worked) continue to bring joy to the wider North Melbourne community. It is common to see people having picnics, children playing and dogs socialising in the grounds, and while they have always been welcomed to do so, our lovely gardens have made the space so much more inviting to them. The grounds of St Mary's have long been an important form of outreach for the parish, and Fr Jan and our gardeners take full advantage of this. Indeed, we have received comments from non-parishioners that it is lovely to have the vicar so visible and approachable to people in the community. Thank you to all those who keep our grounds so welcoming, and to Fr Jan for all the work you have done in the parish over the past year.

Dorothy finished her tenure as a stipendiary assistant priest in January of this year but stayed on as an associate. She also stepped in as our locum while Fr Jan took his long

service leave in September and October and has kept the ship afloat and pointing in the right direction. We are thankful for her work throughout the year, but particularly as our locum for the past few months.

Beverley continues to bless us with her musical skills, and her wealth of knowledge. This year, Council endorsed a change in employment type for Beverley, and she will soon be Licensed as a stipendiary Lay minister. This is an acknowledgment for Beverley that her role as Director of Music is not just a job, but it is a valued ministry within our parish. The choir, under Bev's direction, continues their tradition of wonderful accompaniment in our worship. Thank you, Bev, and St Mary's choir.

Darrell has continued in his splendid work over the past 12 months, handling the administrative needs of the parish with competence, speed, and a smiling face. His hard work has led to improvements in the parish hall which we hope makes it more appealing to a wider range of tenants. He works hard each week to produce our pew sheets, and, [together with editor Rhondda Fahey], produces Ave, our parish newsletter. Darrell's work is a huge support to the parish, particularly the wardens, and we are grateful for his efforts. Thank you, Darrell.

This year we also had Fr Mark and Mtr Robyn with us as associate priests, regularly providing us with their presence at the altar and in the pulpit. Rev Robert Gribben also shared his wisdom with us in his sermons at times during the year. We thank all three for their contributions to the life of the parish this year and look forward their presence in the next.

Finances

Finance is always a sensitive topic, and this year it has been particularly so. This year has brought up several financial challenges for the parish. Reduced income from property and hall rentals, as well as lower pledged giving compared to pre-Covid levels have partnered with increased insurance and maintenance costs, having a real impact on the parish budget. We held one major fundraiser this year, with the wonderful Patronal Festival dinner raising some much-needed funds for the parish. No doubt that as we venture further into a post lockdown world, we will have more opportunities for similar fundraising events. One tool that has been introduced to help bolster our budget is a new Square reader which comes with an online payment tool. This allows us to accept payments through credit and debit cards and has shown its worth both on Sundays during the offertory, with a QR code, and at our stalls throughout the year, where the reader is used. In March, a Stewardship Program was launched. We provided budget projections and outlined to members of the parish the many ways that they can contribute. This was met with some success, though not enough to draw the budget into surplus.

Our treasurer, Paul has been instrumental in helping us navigate the budget, providing us timely advice, and not being afraid to tell us exactly how it is – even when it isn't what we have wanted to hear. He has put in a huge effort since he took over from Tim earlier this

year and we look forward to continuing to work with him through 2023. Tim, our former treasurer, stayed on council this year and has provided context and assistance to both Paul and the wardens. Both Paul and Tim have put in a huge volume of work this year, and we cannot thank them enough.

Cutler bequest

At the October parish council meeting, the bequest from Terry Cutler held approximately \$900,000. There are limits to what we can and can't do with the money, but discussions are ongoing around how it may be best spent. Parish Council and the wardens have authorised some expenditure from this bequest, in line with the legal advice we've received. Our first use of the bequest was to engage a heritage architect to estimate the cost of building the bell tower. We were provided with an image of what it would look like and told how it could be completed. It



is a grand looking tower, which comes with an even grander price. We were quoted a range of \$8.3-12.8 Million, depending on the construction methods. After receiving this report from the architects, we discussed it with Terry's family and are now working with them to provide an alternative memorial which would satisfy Terry's wishes. We have at this stage requested that the architects produce costings for some other works including some landscaping and improvements in the Mary Chapel.

Properties

St Mary's maintains the Church, Hall, Vicarage and nine rental properties. While we are grateful for these properties, they do, at times test our resolve. At some stage throughout the year, each of the properties has presented an issue, whether it be maintenance or lack of occupants. The church has developed some new leaks, the hall heating required repairs, and our rental properties have all needed some TLC, with major work being required to restore heating to two of the apartments in September. Most of our rentals have been occupied for the year, which has generated a substantial portion of the parish income for 2022. Three of our properties had vacancies, one was filled quickly, and a second had multiple prospective tenants pull out at the last minute. The third property took much more time to fill, following the eviction of a tenant who had done damage to the property. Thanks to Fr Jan as well as Chris and Malcolm who put in some long days cleaning and repainting the property. Darrell continues to chase up leads for potential hirers of our hall space, and Bruce Selleck of Risk Strategies has conducted routine OHS checks of the church and halls at the request of the diocese. Woodards continues to be our real estate

partner, acting as property manager for our residential properties, and providing us with our advertising boards often seen on the corner of Queensberry and Howard Streets.

Edith Head Hall

Edith Head Hall continues to stand on the corner as a monument to what could be. The diocese pays for 24/7 on site security for the building, after a number of incidents involving squatters and vandals gaining access to the site. A question was raised on behalf of the parish at Synod by Audrey Statham, asking how much this is costing the diocese, though no formal response has been received at this time.

2022 has been another difficult year for St Marys. While tough decisions have been made and will continue to be made, we look forward to 2023 with hope and faith that the next year will bring welcome change and renewal in the parish, building on our beloved traditions, and revitalising our community. While many thanks have already been given in this report, inevitably someone will have been missed. Please be assured that we are thankful for each member of this parish, and for each of the gifts you bring.

Michael Golding, Anne Sunderland and Sam Miller, Churchwardens

TREASURER'S REPORT 2022

This report is based on unaudited financial statements at the time of writing.

Appointment of Auditors

The Banks Group Melbourne has undertaken the audit of the Parish Accounts for the church year ending September 2022.

Overview

While parish giving has almost rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, other income from our rental properties and the Hall have not yet rebounded fully, and many of our expenses have increased.

- Adjusting our income expectations accordingly due to the COVID-19 pandemic meant that overall, our cash and pledge income were just under expectations by about \$2,800.00. Parish Council had proposed a stewardship campaign to help increase our cash and pledged giving, but regrettably, this did not have the desired effect. Church giving was just over \$142,000 for the year, largely in line with parish giving from 2018-2019.
- Fundraising was about 20%, or \$2,000, less than budgeted.
- The parish received about \$135,000 more than anticipated from the Cutler bequest, which continues to be an incredible blessing. However, the money from the Cutler bequest can be used in limited ways, so its positive effect on the parish finances is similarly limited.
- Interest income was less than expected due to the economic downturn prompted by COVID-19.
- Rental income was considerably less than budgeted for the year, and rental income from the Hall is still at about 50% of pre-pandemic levels.
- We continue to defer payment of the parish assessment and insurance premiums, and the figure now owing to the diocese has risen from a total of \$12,340 to \$41,892.00, despite our best efforts to erase our debt to the diocese.
- Expensive emergency repairs to several of our rental units, particularly in August and September 2022, meant that we needed to use money otherwise earmarked for debt reduction on restoring the usability of the rental units.
- Parish expenses have overall not reduced, and in many cases have increased with the cost of living.
- The Pandemic relief measures meant to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 are no longer available.

The combined results of our reduced income and increased expenses, not including the higher-than-expected amount received from the Cutler Bequest, means that we ended the year with \$371,949 in net profit, about 10% below budgeted expectations, or about \$43,490 less than the expected \$415,440.

However, removing the Cutler funds entirely from our figures presents a very different picture. Without the Cutler bequest, we had a net loss of over \$29,000 instead of a net gain of \$15,440. This does not include the debts owed to the Diocese at the start of the year, which have increased over the 2021-2022 year.

Banking and Cash Reserves

The parish's cash position has remained stable over the year, increasing from \$68,688 to \$76,563 (excluding Anglican Benevolent Society funds and funds received from the Cutler Bequest), representing an increase in our cash position of \$7,874. This cash position is still well below the \$108,000 we had at the end of the Fiscal Year 19-20

From October 2021 to September 2022, we received an additional \$500,000 in additional bequest-related income and about \$34,500 in related interest from the Cutler estate to be used for specific purposes for parish buildings. Given the specific use of these funds, I have not included them in considering our operating cash position.

Loans

The Parish loans from the Anglican Development Fund have been repaid according to schedule during the year. Parish loans cover improvements to the Chetwynd Street rental properties and expenses incurred in recent years for church lighting, sound system, heating, and flooring. The 200 Chetwynd and 202 Chetwynd Loans were combined in 2022 as part of a loan restructure, reflected below for ease of comparison.

Loan Balances	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Combined Chetwynd Loans	\$187,533	\$160,724	\$152,385
ADF 992- Heating & Floor	\$42,643	\$33,613	\$30,685
ADF 829 – Lighting and Sound	\$29,677	\$23,494	\$21,160
	\$259,853	\$217,831	\$204,230

Diocesan Assessment

We incurred an assessment of \$33,483 from the Diocese of Melbourne, in addition to the \$5,742 still owing at the start of the financial year. We have paid \$22,968. The remaining \$16,257 has been deferred to the 2022-2023 year and is included with 'accounts payable' on the balance sheet.

Mission Giving and Outreach

During the year, \$8,000 was earmarked to be distributed to various organisations including Anglican Missions and others. However, this was earmarked with the proviso that the church would have the finances available to do so. Regrettably, we were not able to distribute any of the \$8,000 originally earmarked due to the financial stress the church was under this year.

A special collection was taken following the eruption and Tsunami which affected Tonga in January 2022. \$1,290 was raised and distributed to Tonga.

National Trust of Australia Project 725 – St Mary’s Anglican North Melbourne
Donations of \$1,854 were received since last reported. The closing balance as of 30 September 2022 was \$15,194.

Over the life of the fund, donations and interest have totalled \$744,940.24, while \$729,746.02 has been disbursed for maintenance of the church buildings (including administration fees of approximately 3.7%).

Anglican Benevolent Society

St Mary’s North Melbourne continues to run a relief program under the auspices of the Anglican Benevolent Fund. The purpose to which we have applied these funds is to provide support in kind to St Mark’s Fitzroy’s homeless outreach program. Parishioners contributed \$3,800 to the program during the year. Donations in kind (Coles and Bunnings gift cards) totalling \$6,265 were made to St Mark’s.

Financial Results and Budget Performance

The actual results for the year ending September 2020 in comparison with the budget for the year are as follows:

	Budget	Actual	Variance (actual minus budget)
Total Operational Income	\$170,704	\$167,206	-\$3,498
Less: Total Operational Expenses	\$258,032	\$276,012	\$17,980
Operating Profit / (Loss)	-\$87,328	-\$108,805	-\$21,477
Add: Total Property Income	\$228,004	\$200,871	-\$27,133
Less: Total Property Expenses	\$125,236	\$121,773	-\$3,463
Net profit (loss) (income minus expenses)	\$15,440	-\$29,708	-\$45,148
Net profit (loss) not including Cutler Bequest	\$15,440	-\$29,708	-\$45,148

As the funds received from the Cutler Estate are not able to be used for general parish expenses, I have removed these from consideration when considering the parish’s overall financial performance this year. We have ended the year with a considerable loss relative to budgeted projections.

The balance sheet shows an improvement in our equity position, from \$291,044 at the start of the financial year to \$768,253 on 30 September 2022. However, if we do not include the Cutler Bequest income, our equity position has declined from -\$109,025 at the start of the financial year to -\$148,168 by 30 September 2022.

Operational Income

Operational income (excluding the Cutler Bequest income) was <1% lower than budgeted. This reflects the less-than-expected income from parish collections and

expected fundraising income, as well as the cost of sales from our Christmas Fundraising activities.

Jobkeeper payments

JobKeeper payments were managed by the Diocesan payroll office but have now ceased.

Operational Expenses

Operational expenses were 7% above budgeted expectations. This was in part due to increased office expenses, including telephone and internet as well as printing and stationery costs, gas and electricity price increases, just under \$12,500 to do the necessary groundwork for the church tower project, a project that was ultimately beyond our ability to complete given our available sources of funding.

Additionally, we were in arrears to the Diocese for unpaid insurance premiums in the 20-21 fiscal year, which was added to in 21-22. I note also that we have deferred payment on \$16,495 of our insurance costs, and \$7,425 in land tax to be paid during the 2022-23 financial year, which is included in our 'accounts payable' on the balance sheet.

Rental Property Income and Expenses

Income from residential rental properties was down 13.4%. This reflects a vacancy in one property for several months while repairs were being carried out, as well as another vacancy for a longer period than anticipated.

Rental property expenses were 6.3% below budget, but this can be accounted for because of the arrears in land tax and insurance. If land tax and insurance had been paid as they ought, an additional \$10,283 in expenses would have been paid, bringing our expenses above budget by 3.6%. Urgent maintenance in August and September also exceeded our expected maintenance costs by a considerable margin.

Hall Income was 14% above budget, reflecting an improvement to our modified expectations related to the downturn in expected revenue due to COVID-19. Hall-related expenses were higher (24%) due to higher-than-expected energy costs and extra maintenance work.

The Parish continues to write down significant expenditures on rental property improvements (over ten years ending in the 2022-2023 financial year). This reduces the amount we pay in our annual Diocesan assessment. The non-cash amortisation amount of \$32,275 represents one-tenth of the total value of improvements made and does not affect our cash reserves.

Concluding Remarks

With income lower than expected and expenses higher than expected, the parish has continued its difficult financial trajectory. Last year, most of our primary obligations were covered, but our arrears have increased despite our best efforts, and the increased cost of living has made our energy and maintenance costs that much higher. We have deferred approximately \$42,000 in payments to the diocese, up from \$22,000 at the end of 2020-2021, and I cannot be certain this trajectory will ease in the coming year if the trend seen over the last two years continues.

In budgeting for the new financial year, I have tried to be realistic with the finances brought in by our operational and non-operational income, while budgeting conservatively

for expected expenses with a little bit of wiggle room. The result of these deliberations is a deficit budget of just under \$60,000 over the 2022-2023 fiscal year, not including the arrears owing to the diocese. Our total anticipated shortfall is therefore just over \$102,000, representing a significant challenge to the parish.

Meeting our budgeted expectations for the coming year will see the church in deficit at the end of the year. As was mentioned last year, this is not a sustainable situation, and we need to work together if we are to maintain our presence and have a positive impact in North Melbourne and the surrounding suburbs.

My hope, therefore, is that we will exceed budget expectations for income during 2022-23.

I would not be able to fulfil my current role as treasurer without the ongoing support of several people, including Tim Pilbrow for his assistance in helping me transition into the role, and his continued assistance with questions that I have. The Parish Office Administrator, Darrell Pitt, has been incredibly helpful in keeping on top of incoming invoices and handling many of the day-to-day transactions requiring attention. Our external bookkeeper, Don Hu, has continued to reduce significantly the amount of time I would have otherwise required to monitor and work with the accounts, making it possible for me to continue as treasurer and reducing pressure on the parish administrator.

Paul Eikelboom,
Honorary Treasurer (November 2022)

Copies of the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss statement for the 2020-21 financial year are attached following this report.

A budget for 2022-23 is included following the current year's reports.

Balance Sheet

St Mary's Anglican Church North Melbourne

As of 30 September 2022

Account	30 Sep 2022
Assets	
Bank	
ADF Access Cash	42,748.96
Anglican Funds TF8854 Lambrick	9,889.39
Anglican Funds TF8877 St Mary's Anglican Church North Melbourne-Terrence Cutler Est	916,420.40
Westpac Benevolence Fund	3,474.53
Westpac General Account	16,140.16
Westpac Projects Account	7,784.67
Total Bank	996,458.11
Current Assets	
Accounts Receivable	1,000.00
Total Current Assets	1,000.00
Fixed Assets	
Improvements - 200 Chetwynd St	3,666.17
Improvements - 202 Chetwynd St	11,512.02
Total Fixed Assets	15,178.19
Total Assets	1,012,636.30
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	40,177.00
ADF - Consolidated Chetwynd Loans (0640 + 0762)	152,384.63
ADF - Heating & Floor	30,684.82
ADF - Lighting & Sound	21,159.51
GST	(3,496.80)
Rounding	0.01
Total Current Liabilities	240,909.17
Non-current Liabilities	
St Mary's Material Aid Project	3,474.53
Total Non-current Liabilities	3,474.53
Total Liabilities	244,383.70
Net Assets	768,252.60
Equity	
Current Year Earnings	505,211.90
Retained Earnings	263,040.70
Total Equity	768,252.60

Budget Variance
St Mary's Anglican Church North Melbourne
1 Sep 2022 to 30 Sep 2022

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var AUD	Var %
Income				
1. Parish Collections				
Income - Parish Collections - Cash	\$17,440.10	\$15,000.00	\$2,440.10	16.3%
Income - Parish Collections - Pledge Giving	\$124,830.20	\$130,000.00	-\$5,169.80	-4.0%
Total 1. Parish Collections	\$142,270.30	\$145,000.00	-\$2,729.70	-1.9%
2. Fundraising				
Income - Fundraising	\$8,050.05	\$9,996.00	-\$1,945.95	-19.5%
Income - Fundraising - Specific Mission	\$1,290.00	\$0.00	\$1,290.00	
Total 2. Fundraising	\$9,340.05	\$9,996.00	-\$655.95	-6.6%
3. Weddings and Funerals				
Income - Funerals	\$2,981.81	\$1,200.00	\$1,781.81	148.5%
Income - Weddings	\$0.00	\$2,004.00	-\$2,004.00	-100.0%
Total 3. Weddings and Funerals	\$2,981.81	\$3,204.00	-\$222.19	-6.9%
4. Donations and Bequests				
Donations and Bequests	\$534,919.73	\$400,000.00	\$134,919.73	33.7%
Total 4. Donations and Bequests	\$534,919.73	\$400,000.00	\$134,919.73	33.7%
5. Investments and Interest				
Interest Income	\$139.59	\$504.00	-\$364.41	-72.3%
Trust Distributions - Lambrick Trust	\$13,138.35	\$12,000.00	\$1,138.35	9.5%
Total 5. Investments and Interest	\$13,277.94	\$12,504.00	\$773.94	6.2%
6. Auxiliary Payment Methods (Square)				
Square Sales	\$995.00	\$0.00	\$995.00	
Total 6. Auxiliary Payment Methods (Square)	\$995.00	\$0.00	\$995.00	
Total Income	\$703,784.83	\$570,704.00	\$133,080.83	23.3%
Less Cost of Sales				
Direct Costs - Fundraising	\$1,659.00	\$0.00	\$1,659.00	
Total Cost of Sales	\$1,659.00	\$0.00	\$1,659.00	
Gross Profit	\$702,125.83	\$570,704.00	\$131,421.83	23.0%
Less Operating Expenses				
1. General Administration				
Admin - Advertising	\$220.00	\$204.00	\$16.00	7.8%
Admin - Audit Fees	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Admin - Bank Fees	\$224.33	\$0.00	\$224.33	
Admin - Consulting Fees	\$1,854.11	\$1,800.00	\$54.11	3.0%
Admin - Diocesan Assessment	\$22,968.00	\$33,996.00	-\$11,028.00	-32.4%
Admin - Insurance	\$1,613.57	\$0.00	\$1,613.57	
Admin - Interest Expense	\$0.06	\$0.00	\$0.06	

Admin - Police & Working with Children Checks	\$0.00	\$204.00	-\$204.00	-
Square Fees	\$52.78	\$0.00	\$52.78	100.0%
Total 1. General Administration	\$29,632.85	\$38,904.00	-\$9,271.15	-23.8%

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var AUD	Var %
2. Office Administration				
Admin - Computer Expenses	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	-\$1,200.00	-
Admin - Office Expenses	\$3,311.37	\$2,400.00	\$911.37	38.0%
Admin - Printing & Stationery	\$31,646.71	\$24,996.00	\$6,650.71	26.6%
Admin - Subscriptions	\$2,023.15	\$1,200.00	\$823.15	68.6%
Admin - Telephone & Internet	\$6,494.48	\$3,996.00	\$2,498.48	62.5%
Admin - Training	\$18.18	\$252.00	-\$233.82	-92.8%
Total 2. Office Administration	\$43,493.89	\$34,044.00	\$9,449.89	27.8%

3. Liturgical Expenses				
Liturgical - Books & Music	\$150.00	\$2,004.00	-\$1,854.00	-92.5%
Liturgical – Childrens' Ministry Resourcing	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	-\$1,200.00	-
Liturgical - Flowers	\$838.10	\$0.00	\$838.10	100.0%
Liturgical - Supplies	\$2,131.22	\$2,400.00	-\$268.78	-11.2%
Total 3. Liturgical Expenses	\$3,119.32	\$5,604.00	-\$2,484.68	-44.3%

4. Church and Vicarage Expenses				
CV - building projects	\$12,450.00	\$0.00	\$12,450.00	-
CV - Church Loan Interest	\$2,162.14	\$2,040.00	\$122.14	6.0%
CV - Cleaning	\$5,655.21	\$3,996.00	\$1,659.21	41.5%
CV - Gas & Electricity	\$6,920.94	\$3,996.00	\$2,924.94	73.2%
CV - Insurance	\$24,168.10	\$27,408.00	-\$3,239.90	-11.8%
CV - Maintenance - Buildings	\$4,684.49	\$7,500.00	-\$2,815.51	-37.5%
CV - Maintenance - Grounds	\$1,880.00	\$2,496.00	-\$616.00	-24.7%
CV - Residential Rates	\$947.50	\$852.00	\$95.50	11.2%
CV - Security	\$1,187.24	\$2,400.00	-\$1,212.76	-50.5%
CV - Water	\$3,414.97	\$3,000.00	\$414.97	13.8%
Total 4. Church and Vicarage Expenses	\$63,470.59	\$53,688.00	\$9,782.59	18.2%

5. Staffing Expenses				
Admin - Vehicle Expenses	\$729.92	\$0.00	\$729.92	-
Staffing - Salaries & Wages	\$119,451.66	\$106,050.00	\$13,401.66	12.6%
Staffing - Superannuation	\$14,256.69	\$10,605.00	\$3,651.69	34.4%
Staffing - Workcover	\$876.64	\$1,137.00	-\$260.36	-22.9%
Total 5. Staffing Expenses	\$135,314.91	\$117,792.00	\$17,522.91	14.9%

6. Charitable Donations				
Donations - Anglican Missions	-\$310.00	\$5,000.00	-\$5,310.00	-
Donations - Other Christian Missions	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	-\$3,000.00	106.2%
Expenses - Donations - Specific Mission	\$1,290.00	\$0.00	\$1,290.00	-
Total 6. Charitable Donations	\$980.00	\$8,000.00	-\$7,020.00	-87.8%

Total Operating Expenses	\$276,011.56	\$258,032.00	\$17,979.56	7.0%
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Operating Profit	\$426,114.27	\$312,672.00	\$113,442.27	36.3%
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Non-operating Income

Hall Rental	\$9,100.03	\$8,004.00	\$1,096.03	13.7%
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Kindergarten License	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	0.0%
Residential Rentals	\$181,770.74	\$210,000.00	-\$28,229.26	-13.4%
Total Non-operating Income	\$200,870.77	\$228,004.00	-\$27,133.23	-11.9%

(continued next page)

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Var AUD	Var %
Non-operating Expenses				
1. Staffing costs (rental and hall hire)				
Rental - Superannuation	\$839.41	\$816.00	\$23.41	2.9%
Rental - Wages	\$8,197.52	\$8,196.00	\$1.52	0.0%
Total 1. Staffing costs (rental and hall hire)	\$9,036.93	\$9,012.00	\$24.93	0.3%
2. Hall Expenses				
Hall - Cleaning	\$2,777.48	\$3,996.00	-\$1,218.52	-30.5%
Hall - Gas & Electricity	\$4,723.46	\$3,504.00	\$1,219.46	34.8%
Hall - Insurance	\$2,512.40	\$3,600.00	-\$1,087.60	-30.2%
Hall - Maintenance	\$5,736.77	\$1,200.00	\$4,536.77	378.1%
Hall - Water	\$0.00	\$420.00	-\$420.00	-100.0%
Total 2. Hall Expenses	\$15,750.11	\$12,720.00	\$3,030.11	23.8%
3. Rental property expenses				
Rental - Agent & Letting Fees	\$11,110.01	\$12,000.00	-\$889.99	-7.4%
Rental - Building Maintenance	\$20,592.22	\$15,000.00	\$5,592.22	37.3%
Rental - Gas & Electricity	\$1,681.21	\$1,404.00	\$277.21	19.7%
Rental - Grounds Maintenance	\$1,520.00	\$1,800.00	-\$280.00	-15.6%
Rental - Insurance	\$4,989.07	\$7,296.00	-\$2,306.93	-31.6%
Rental - Interest on Loans	\$6,942.77	\$6,720.00	\$222.77	3.3%
Rental - Rates and Land Tax	\$11,808.56	\$20,500.00	-\$8,691.44	-42.4%
Rental - Water	\$6,066.82	\$6,504.00	-\$437.18	-6.7%
Rental - Amortisation				
Rental - Amortisation of Improvements	\$32,275.44	\$32,280.00	-\$4.56	0.0%
Total Rental - Amortisation	\$32,275.44	\$32,280.00	-\$4.56	0.0%
Total 3. Rental property expenses	\$96,986.10	\$103,504.00	-\$6,517.90	-6.3%
Total Non-operating Expenses	\$121,773.14	\$125,236.00	-\$3,462.86	-2.8%
Net Profit	\$505,211.90	\$415,440.00	\$89,771.90	21.6%

Draft Budget 2022-2023

Income**1. Parish Collections**

Income - Parish Collections - Cash \$ 17,000.00

Income - Parish Collections - Pledge Giving \$ 128,000.00

Total 1. Parish Collections \$ 145,000.00**2. Fundraising**

Income - Fundraising \$ 10,000.00

Income - Fundraising - Specific Mission

Total 2. Fundraising \$ 10,000.00**3. Weddings and Funerals**

Income - Funerals \$ 1,200.00

Income - Weddings \$ 2,000.00

Total 3. Weddings and Funerals \$ 3,200.00**4. Donations and Bequests**

Donations and Bequests

Total 4. Donations and Bequests**5. Investments and Interest**

Interest Income \$ 120.00

Trust Distributions - Lambrick Trust \$ 12,000.00

Total 5. Investments and Interest \$ 12,120.00**6. Auxiliary Payment Methods (Square)**

Square Sales \$ 720.00

Total 6. Auxiliary Payment Methods (Square) \$ 720.00**Total Income** \$ - \$ 171,040.00 \$ 171,040.00**Less Cost of Sales**

Direct Costs - Fundraising \$ -

Total Cost of Sales \$ - \$ -**Gross Profit** \$ 171,040.00**Less Operating Expenses****1. General Administration**

Admin - Advertising \$ 240.00

Admin - Audit Fees \$ 2,700.00

Admin - Bank Fees \$ -

Admin - Consulting Fees \$ 2,400.00

Admin - Diocesan Assessment \$ 22,824.00

Admin - Insurance \$ 2,304.00

Admin - Interest Expense \$ -

Admin - Police & Working with Children

Checks \$ 240.00

Square Fees \$ 40.00

Total 1. General Administration			- \$ 30,748.00
2. Office Administration			
Admin - Computer Expenses	\$	1,200.00	
Admin - Office Expenses	\$	2,400.00	
Admin - Printing & Stationery	\$	30,000.00	
Admin - Subscriptions	\$	2,160.00	
Admin - Telephone & Internet	\$	5,500.00	
Admin - Training	\$	250.00	
Total 2. Office Administration			- \$ 41,510.00
3. Liturgical Expenses			
Liturgical - Books & Music	\$	2,000.00	
Liturgical - Childrens Ministry Resourcing	\$	1,000.00	
Liturgical - Flowers	\$	200.00	
Liturgical - Supplies	\$	2,400.00	
Total 3. Liturgical Expenses			- \$ 5,600.00
4. Church and Vicarage Expenses			
CV - building projects	\$	-	
CV - Church Loan Interest	\$	2,040.00	
CV - Cleaning	\$	6,829.68	
CV - Gas & Electricity	\$	6,240.00	
CV - Insurance	\$	33,240.00	
CV - Maintenance - Buildings	\$	7,500.00	
CV - Maintenance - Grounds	\$	2,520.00	
CV - Residential Rates	\$	900.00	
CV - Security	\$	2,400.00	
CV - Water	\$	3,600.00	
Total 4. Church and Vicarage Expenses			- \$ 65,269.68
5. Staffing Expenses	\$	-	
Admin - Vehicle Expenses	\$	876.00	
Staffing - Salaries & Wages	\$	131,000.00	
Staffing - Superannuation	\$	16,750.00	
Staffing - Workcover	\$	1,080.00	
Total 5. Staffing Expenses			- \$ 149,706.00
6. Charitable Donations			
Donations - Anglican Missions	\$	-	
Expenses - Donations - Specific Mission	\$	-	
Total 6. Charitable Donations		\$ -	
Total Operating Expenses			- \$ 292,833.68
Operating Profit (loss)			- \$ 121,793.68
Non-operating Income			
Hall Rental	\$	8,010.00	
Kindergarten License	\$	10,000.00	
Residential Rentals	\$	195,000.00	

Total Non-operating Income	\$	-	\$ 213,010.00	\$	213,010.00
Non-operating Expenses					
1. Staffing costs (rental and hall hire)					
Rental - Superannuation	\$	816.00			
Rental - Wages	\$	8,160.00			
Total 1. Staffing costs (rental and hall hire)	\$	-	\$	8,976.00	
2. Hall Expenses					
Hall - Cleaning	\$	6,829.68			
Hall - Gas & Electricity	\$	5,400.00			
Hall - Insurance	\$	4,143.84			
Hall - Maintenance	\$	1,800.00			
Hall - Water	\$	420.00			
Total 2. Hall Expenses			\$	18,593.52	
3. Rental property expenses					
Rental - Agent & Letting Fees	\$	12,000.00			
Rental - Building Maintenance	\$	40,000.00			
Rental - Gas & Electricity	\$	1,800.00			
Rental - Grounds Maintenance	\$	1,440.00			
Rental - Insurance	\$	8,230.20			
Rental - Interest on Loans	\$	6,720.00			
Rental - Rates and Land Tax	\$	21,000.00			
Rental - Water	\$	5,400.00			
Rental - Amortisation					
Rental - Amortisation of Improvements	\$	17,900.00			
Total Rental - Amortisation					
Total 3. Rental property expenses			\$	114,490.20	
Total Non-operating Expenses			-\$	142,059.72	-\$ 142,059.72
Net Profit				\$	70,950.28
Grand Total (Shortfall)				-\$	50,843.40

Projected Change in Equity

	Including Cutler Bequest	Excluding Cutler Bequest
Initial Equity on 1/10/2022	\$ 916,420.40	-\$ 148,167.79
Projected net profit (loss) on 30/09/2023	-\$ 50,843.40	-\$ 50,843.40
Projected Equity on 30/09/2023	\$ 865,577.00	-\$ 199,011.19

Impact on Cash Reserves

Total cash on 1/10/2022	\$ 76,563.18
Net Profit (loss)	-\$ 50,843.40
Loan principal payments (approx)	-\$ 27,700.00
Arrears Payments (Diocesan Payments carried over)	-\$ 40,177.00
Total on-hand cash projected for 30/09/2023	-\$ 42,157.22

BUDGET NOTES

1. This budget is a deficit budget. Meeting our budgeted targets will still mean a drop in parish finances to the point where we will have no cash reserve at the end of the year.
2. Expenses and income is based on averaging last year's figures and multiplying by 12 to find this year's potential.
3. In cases where an increase to an expense has been signalled, this change is reflected in the budgeted amount.
4. Parish collections amount is aspirational but is based on expected giving before the Covid-19 pandemic.
5. Investment income is based on the previous budget, not actuals, but unpredictable.
6. Church/Vicarage (CV) building and grounds maintenance is still included in case funding from the Cutler Bequest cannot be used to assist with the work required.
7. Rental building maintenance increased considerably in response to urgent works required in August, September, and October, and expected works to be completed during 2022-2023.
8. Rental income is based on full-time occupancy for 11 of the 12 months in the year.
9. Paying down our loan obligations does not affect our equity, it does impact our cash reserves.
10. This budget does not include current arrears to the diocese. Including these arrears brings our total anticipated deficit to \$102,000.
11. It would be far preferable for us to exceed our income expectations this year.

PARISH AUDIT 2022

14 November 2022

Mr Andrew Fisher
Banks Group Assurance Pty Ltd
801 Glenferrie Road
HAWTHORN VIC 3122

Dear Mr Fisher

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial report of St Mary's Anglican Church for the year ended 30 September 2022 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial report and accompanying assessment are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

We make the following confirmations to the best of our knowledge and belief:

Financial Report

- We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement letter, for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne; in particular the financial report is fairly presented in accordance therewith;
- Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable;
- All events subsequent to the date of the financial report and which are required to be adjusted or disclosed have been recorded;
- We confirm that we have no knowledge of any events or conditions that would cast significant doubt on the parish's ability to continue as a going concern;
- The effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial report as a whole;
- The parish has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial report in the event of non-compliance; and
- The parish has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the assets, except as disclosed in the financial report.

Information Provided

- We have provided you with:
 - (a) Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial report such as records, documentation and other matters;
 - (b) Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
 - (c) Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence;
- All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial report;
- We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial report may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;

- We have disclosed to you all information in relation to fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the entity and involves churchwardens, employees and others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial report;
- We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial report; and
- We have provided you with all requested information, explanations and assistance for the purposes of the audit.

Yours faithfully

.....
Paul Eikelboom (Treasurer)

14 November 2022

The Churchwardens
St Mary's Anglican Church
430 Queensberry Street
NORTH MELBOURNE VIC 3051

Dear Churchwardens,

Audit for the year ended 30 September 2022

Further to the completion of our audit fieldwork for the year, we set out below the issues identified which we feel are specifically relevant in terms of your internal controls, and other issues arising from our fieldwork.

Our examination of internal controls was carried out for financial audit purposes, and cannot be expected to disclose every weakness. Consequently, matters disclosed in this letter may not be the only issues within the present systems. However, our audit did not reveal any other matter upon which we feel it necessary to comment.

Overview

For the 2022 financial year, income has increased further from \$831k to \$902k, mainly due to a significant increase in Donation and Bequest Income of about \$134k. Similarly, the church has also seen an increase in Parish collection in the form of cash and pledge giving by \$17k and \$30k respectively, perhaps influenced by the cessation of lockdowns in October 2021. This increase has helped to offset a decrease in Residential Rental income as well as the ending of JobKeeper grants.

Notwithstanding the above, there was a decrease in expenses over the past year with the most significant fall being that of staff salaries and wages by approximately \$40k.

Overall, the result was a net surplus of \$505,212 which clearly exceeds the surplus of \$376,137 disclosed in the prior year. As a result, the parish is in a net asset position.

Ratio analysis and going concern

We note that the church's current ratio (i.e. current assets divided by current liabilities) stands at 4.96 at the year end. This is well above the recommended minimum benchmark of 1, and it appears the parish will be able settle its liabilities. In light of the ongoing support of the diocese, the church is unlikely to face going concern difficulties.

Conclusion

We have no further comments and wish to express our appreciation to you and your advisers for the courtesy and co-operation received during our audit.

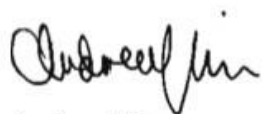
Please do not hesitate to contact the writer if there are any matters which you wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely

BANKS GROUP ASSURANCE PTY LTD

ABN 75 115 749 598

Chartered Accountants



Andrew Fisher

Partner

E-mail: a.fisher@banksgroup.com.au

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the churchwardens of the parish of St Mary's Anglican Church, North Melbourne

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of St Mary's Anglican Church for the year ended 30 September 2022 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we advise that the financial report has been prepared to assist St Mary's Anglican Church with the financial reporting requirements of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne and may not be suitable for another purpose.

We have audited the accompanying financial report of St Mary's Anglican Church, which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2022 and the Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended on that date. The financial report has been prepared by the churchwardens in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

Churchwardens' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The churchwardens are responsible for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with the requirements of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

801 Glenferrie Road Hawthorn Vic (Locked Bag 50 Hawthorn Vic 3122) Australia T +61 3 9810 0700 F +61 3 9815 1899 www.banksgroup.com.au

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- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the churchwardens regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Banks Group Assurance Pty Ltd

Banks Group Assurance Pty Ltd, Chartered Accountants
Authorised audit company number 294178 (ACN 115 749 598)

Andrew Fisher

Andrew Fisher FCA, Partner
Registration number 306364

Melbourne, Australia
Date: 14 November 2022

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC REPORT 2022

It is with gratitude that I record that members of the Choir have supported and enhanced our liturgy with their contribution throughout this past year. That has entailed turning up for practice on Tuesdays when possible, early on Sundays and for all the other special liturgical occasions such as the Easter and Christmas. I personally record my thanks, and offer the opportunity for the Parish to do so likewise.

The year has not been without its challenges with health issues, not the least recently with Covid. It is no longer a requirement that choristers must wear masks, but out of a concern for each other and those around us, the choir are continuing to wear masks. We have not been a Covid spreading event, but that has been through care.

Whilst we have been able to support the liturgy each week, it will not have gone unnoticed that it has been a small group carrying a big load. In all my years at St Mary's recruitment has been a constant with up and down times. We have, and do try to be, as accommodating as possible in respect to rehearsals etc, whilst not compromising our expectations and repertoire. It is impossible for a Director of Music who is also the Organist to be aware of the Parish as a whole, often most, if not all congregants have left by the time the organ and music are packed up, so I throw the challenge out that recruiting for the Choir is a Parish task.

An issue 'on hold' because of the Diocese, is the participation of children or juniors in the Choir due to the requirements of Working with Children updates. Whilst I am fully up to date, it has not been possible to get all choristers certification current, not due to any carelessness at St Mary's. I am hoping the Diocese might soon resolve this for everyone.

I wish to record my sincerest thanks to the Darrell in the office and for his care in preparation of various materials including the pew sheet. I also wish to record my appreciation of the support from the Wardens and the AV recording team.

In closing I would like to throw out a couple of challenges. In my early days at St Mary's (a very different era I admit), there were many and various opportunities for music events at the Parish (a lot dependent on the then annual Organ and Harpsichord festival). Maybe a subject for an interested group of persons to munch over a lunch or two as to what possibilities, opportunities we might be able to make/offer.

My second challenge generates from my participation in the inaugural unit offered by the University of Divinity Indigenous Studies faculty. It has made me acutely aware of how confronting and redolent of colonialism some of our text language can be for the Indigenous population of our community. As a place that openly publicly is affirming and trying to be aware of our need to listen, I am now casting a careful eye over some of our 'favourite' hymns and perhaps noting that they can be problematic. It is hoped that RSCM (Royal School of Church Music Vic, of which I am the Western region rep) will be able to host a workshop on this very subject, possibly with the participation of Canon Glenn Loughrey.

To the Vicar and all the ministry team at St Mary's, and in this past little while, especially Mother Dorothy, I record my sincerest thanks and gratitude for your encouragement, enthusiasm, teaching, guidance, support and wisdom.

Beverley Phillips
Director of Music

CLIMATE ACTION GROUP REPORT 2022

The past year has been an eventful one for people of faith and no faith who are united in our concern about the threat that climate change is posing to the health of the planet, its creatures and human wellbeing.

Following the Federal election in May, the new Labor government passed in September two pieces of legislation governing Australia's approach to action on climate change, the Climate Change Act 2022 and the Climate Change (Consequential Amendments) Act 2022. Australia now has for the first time minimum climate targets to which it is accountable.

For the country to meet these targets, the support of all levels of society is necessary, including the Anglican church. Experts like Climate Council CEO, Amanda McKenzie, emphasise that the 2020s are the make-or-break decade for keeping global warming to survivable limits.

St Mary's CAG committee members, Helen McCallum, Ewan Ogilvy, Michael Noble, Paul Eikelboom and Audrey Statham, have been busy since the last Annual Meeting. In line with our 'CAG Framework and Purpose' document, the committee's activities have addressed the following 3 areas of focus.

Individual and Parish level actions:

- 3 in person CAG meetings held on Sun 5 Dec 2021, Sun 3 April 2022 and Sun 22 May 2022
- Ewan and Paul undertook extensive research into options for the parish to change its electricity supplier and requested that Parish Council explore transferring from Origin to Diamond Energy. Parish Council passed a motion agreeing to this. An inquiry to Diamond Energy was made by Paul by phone and email about the parish becoming a customer, with a response from Diamond Energy still pending.

Education and Public Commitment actions:

- The CAG meeting on Sun 5 Dec 2021 was a session entitled, 'Climate in the Kitchen' where speakers, Michelle Honey and Marion Poynter, shared ideas about how people can make changes in the kitchen and kitchen garden to reduce their impact on the environment.
- On 4 June 2022, Audrey made a video interview with Revd Shane Huebner reflecting on the 2 climate action motions passed at General Synod, which was made available to the parish.
- On Sun 4 Sep, Michael presented a Delta session on 'Wisdom and Ecology'. Michael reflected on how the wisdom explored by the book of Job seems to be encouraging us to a more inclusive view of creation and earth – a wider perspective embracing humanity alongside all other living creatures.
- July-October, Audrey and Helen provided support (attended meetings, undertook research, coordinated speeches in support) for the drafting and successful

passing at Melbourne Synod 2022 of a motion which established the diocesan role of a Climate Mitigation Project Officer.

Political and Community level actions:

- On 1 March, a letter was sent to the then Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, from the Parish drafted by the CAG committee, expressing our concern at the lack of a firm national plan and schedule for phasing out fossil fuel use and reducing methane emissions (a response was received on 3 March).
- On Fri 6 May, Helen, Michael and David Keuneman attended ahead of the Federal Election a climate action vigil at Chisholm (see photo).
- On Fri 13 May, Helen, Michael, David and Audrey attended a climate action vigil at Kooyong.

Next steps:

We are keen to welcome more of St Mary's parishioners on to the CAG committee! In particular, we want to hear your ideas about what you think should be our key areas for focus, given that Anglican parishes including St Mary's have an important role to play in carrying out actions that can contribute to the swift cutting of emissions that is so urgently needed this decade.

To find out more about the formation of CAG, its Purpose and Framework and who CAG members are, you can read the article by Helen called, 'The Climate Action Group of St Mary's' in the 2021 [Season of Creation issue](#) of Ave.

Audrey Statham

CHILD SAFETY REPORT 2022

2022 has been a year of rebuilding for the Children's Ministry Program after 2 years of COVID interruptions. This year we have continued to provide children's ministry during the 10:00 Sunday morning service. Our Sunday School has remained largely the same as it did before COVID 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.

The content for all these programs is based on the Creative Ideas for Children's Worship books. This year we have 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 continued to work 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 and participating throughout the 10am service has been and will continue to be a long-term goal for the Children's Ministry Program.

Attendance this year has largely reflected the realities of a post COVID society. We have a few consistent families attending 3 out of 4 weeks a month. The majority of the children participating in Sunday School are currently Primary School age (5-12 years), however there has been an increase of families in the pews who choose to keep their children in the church during the 10am service.

A big thank you to Rosie Moloney for stepping up and taking a couple of Sunday Schools a month so I can have a break!

I would also like to thank the parents, grandparents, and other important people who make the continued effort to bring their children every week, it is very much appreciated.

Harriet Jenkins

St Marys KIDS REPORT 2022

2022 has been a year of rebuilding for the Children's Ministry Program after 2 years of COVID interruptions. This year we have continued to provide children's ministry during the 10:00 Sunday morning service. Our Sunday School has remained largely the same as it did before COVID 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.

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Harriet Jenkins

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE REPORT 2022

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, Helen McCallum, Denise Archer, Susan Gribben, our vicar, Father Jan Joustra and our recent new member, Ivana Csar. We very reluctantly accepted the resignation of Rhondda Fahey at the beginning of the year after 10 years' invaluable service. She always came up with great ideas for enriching our community life and generously contributed in many ways to our hospitality. We miss her greatly.

This year we were able to return to having morning tea after the 10.00 am service and it was wonderful to socialize face to face again as a community, and also to have our traditional Easter feast following the Vigil.

We did not have a Fair in early May, mainly because the Kindergarten were not able to participate and we really need them as a partner to make it worthwhile.

Instead, we put all our energies into a fabulous celebratory dinner for 100 in our large hall on the Eve of our patronal Festival. Father Jan cooked all the magnificent food and provided the superb dinner sets, table ware, and innumerable candelabras, candlesticks, etc. The Hall looked stunning. We were entertained with music beautifully played by Richard, Clara, and Calvin and we had a raffle with lots of great prizes. Everybody had fun and altogether we cleared \$5000. It was a huge amount of work in preparation, serving, and clearing up on the night and the following day, after the Eucharist, when seven teams of dishwashers cleaned up all glasses, dishes, and cutlery by hand. Grateful thanks to all who helped. Father Jan is already planning next year's dinner, but the rest of the Committee are still recovering!

We are holding a Christmas Stall on the first Sunday in Advent and looking forward to the Carol Service on 18 December and celebrating Christmas.

Susan Gribben
Convenor

SYNOD 2022 REPORT – LAY REPS

The final session of the 53rd Synod of the Diocese of Melbourne took place this year in a ‘blended’ format over 4 days (the first 3 nights were conducted online, and the Saturday session was held in-person at St Paul’s Cathedral) beginning on the evening of Wednesday 12 October and closing on Saturday 15 October with both of us, Mthr Dorothy and Fr Mark attending all 4 days (Fr Jan was on leave).

A key issue of concern at Synod this year for members across the board was the **diocesan Budget deficit of \$1.48 million**. Specifically, there was dissatisfaction about the lack of detail provided to members as to why a deficit was required and the lack of an explicit plan in the 2023 budget for returning the budget to surplus. In the end, Synod voted to accept the budget but also voted in support of an amended version of **Motion 30, ‘Balancing the Diocesan Budget’**, which asked Archbishop in Council to reconsider the budget.

A motion on human sexuality, **‘Upholding Biblical Marriage’ (Motion 21)** moved by a member of Synod affiliated with Gafcon was withdrawn on the floor of Synod by the mover on the second evening of Synod (Thurs 13 Oct). Victorian Anglicans Together (VAT) had prepared actions to oppose the motion; VAT also prepared actions to oppose another human sexuality motion which we were advised might be brought on the Diocese of the Southern Cross similar in form to that which in 2019 ‘welcomed’ the congregations that broke away from the NZ Anglican Church, however, the second motion didn’t make it into the Business Papers.

Other motions of note that were passed include the **‘Environment motion’ (Motion 20)**, which established the paid diocesan position of a Climate Resilience Officer, **‘Accessibility and Inclusion’ (Motion 25)** which noted that the 2023 budget includes provision for a full-time Accessibility and Inclusion Officer and requested that a progress report be provided at Synod 2023.

‘Property Strategy’ (Motion 24) directed Archbishop in Council “to form a strategy – including engagement with First Nations concerns – for better allocating the asset of the church to ensure that the word of God is preached and the sacraments duly administered in compelling, outward-looking congregations throughout this diocese.” We supported this motion and, in particular, welcomed the amendments to engage with First Nations and to link to the Aboriginal Council’s 2018 statement to provincial leadership. We also agreed with Fr Mark’s assessment at the time that the language around strategic direction in favour of ‘compelling and outward-looking congregations’ issues a challenge to us all towards genuinely community-facing mission.

Two important pieces of legislation, the **Clergy Bill** (provides a review and update of church law governing clergy) and the **Archbishop Election Bill** (relates to the processes of how future archbishops are appointed) were debated on the final day of Synod at the in-person session in the Cathedral.

Numerous amendments were proposed to both pieces of legislation the day before they were to be debated, many of which would have adversely affected the parishes that VAT members and allies represent (the worrying amendments were proposed by another member of Synod affiliated with Gafcon). An amendment to the Clergy Bill would have made it easier to close smaller parishes, and two amendments to the Archbishop Election bill proposed significant changes to the composition of the Board of Electors and the majority required of an election by the Board of Electors of a new Archbishop.

As a collective, VAT members on the VAT Signal platform undertook analysis of the proposed amendments, prepared points for speeches and spoke on the floor of Synod against the amendments (the movers of the legislation also, for the most part, spoke against the problematic amendments). Consequently, the Clergy Bill and Archbishop Election Bill were passed on the last day of Synod in a form that we were happy with, which meant that the diocese didn't have to pay for an expensive additional session in December to deal with these bills.

A third piece of legislation, the **Synod Amendment Bill 2022**, passed through giving greater representation to authorized Anglican congregations (there are 11 AACs). We want to emphasise that we continue to support and value the work by AACs that are growing a diversity of new churches including small parishes with new missions in all sorts of places, with all sorts of backgrounds and demographics. However, we opposed this bill and are disappointed that it passed. The presentation of this bill as supporting greater representation of cultural diversity obscured the central issue that representation (e.g. the right to vote at Synod) normally carries with it the obligation to pay an assessment.

Finally, next year is a year that sees elections taking place for all the major diocesan committees and related entities (**2023 will be an 'election synod'**). It's vital that parishes like St Mary's which represent and stand for the broad Anglican tradition in Melbourne, are ready with nominees for Lay Reps who will be engaged at Synod and connected with VAT. This needs to be part of a broader conversation about what kind of change we would like to see happen, as a network of parishes and as a diocese, and what we want to be spending our energies on to make such change happen.

Audrey Statham and Angelica Del Hierro

