

*St Mary's*



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



ST MARY'S ANGELICAN CHURCH  
NORTH MELBOURNE  
OCTOBER 2024



**ANNUAL REPORT 2024**  
**ST MARY’S ANGLICAN CHURCH NORTH MELBOURNE**

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Contents

NOTICE OF 2024 ANNUAL MEETING .....4

MINUTES FROM 2023 ANNUAL MEETING.....5

VICAR’S ANNUAL REPORT 2024 ..... 14

PARISH SECRETARY REPORT 2024..... 17

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT 2024..... 19

TREASURER’S REPORT 2024 ..... 22

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC REPORT 2024 ..... 33

CLIMATE ACTION GROUP REPORT 2024..... 35

ST MARY’S KIDS REPORT 2024 & SAFE MINISTRY REPORT 2024 ..... 38

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE REPORT 2024 ..... 40

SYNOD REPORT 2024 ..... 41

## NOTICE OF 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the parish will be held in the church at:  
11.30 am on Sunday 27 October 2024.

Nominations of Candidates for the offices of:

- 2 Churchwardens
- 4 Members of Parish Council

shall be given to the Vicar before 8.00 am on Sunday 20 October 2024.

After prayers, the order of business in accordance with the Parish Governance Act 2013 (the Act) 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 Vicar that includes 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 such other statistics from the registers as Archbishop in Council determines;
5. An annual report on the proceedings of the Parish Council by the Parish Council together with a report by the parish council on the pastoral care, evangelism, social and ecumenical programmes of the parish and on future plans for the parish;
6. 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;
7. The audited or independently examined accounts and financial statements of the parish and any accompanying papers required by the Act;
8. The budget approved by the Parish Council for the year in which the meeting is held;
9. Reports by other parish groups (such as the Climate Action Group and the Social Committee);
10. The election and appointment of churchwardens and members of the Parish Council;
11. The election of auditors;
12. Any other matters of parochial or general church interest.

By order of the Parish Council

*Alice Christofi (Parish Secretary)*

***Please note:*** Due to Diocesan regulations, the meeting must occur in person, although a live-broadcast will be made available for people who wish to observe. However, enrolled parishioners must attend in person to be able to participate and vote should they wish.

## MINUTES FROM 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

### ST MARY'S NORTH MELBOURNE – ANNUAL MEETING

#### Minutes – Annual Meeting 19 November 2023

Date: Sunday, 19 November 2023

Time: 11.35am

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 2023 Annual Meeting
2. Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting
3. Vicar's Annual Report 2023
4. Parish Secretary's Report 2023
5. Churchwardens' Report 2023
6. Treasurer's Report 2023
7. Parish Budget 2024
8. Parish Financial Accounts 2023 (together with confirmation of audit)
9. Director of Music Report 2023
10. Climate Action Group Report 2023
11. St Mary's Kids Report 2023
12. Hospitality Committee Report 2023
13. Synod 2023 – Lay Representatives Report

#### Minutes

	<b>Welcome and opening prayer.</b> The meeting was opened at 11.35am. Apologies: Ewan Ogilvy, Andrew Gador-Whyte, Lindy Golding, Katie Holmes, Tony Heath, John Poynter.	Chair
1.	<b>Reading of the Notice of the 2023 Annual Meeting</b> It was proposed that the Notice of the Meeting be taken as read. Moved: Andrew Murray Seconded: Sam Miller <b>CARRIED</b>	Chair

2.	<p><b>Approval of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting as a true and accurate record of that meeting.</b></p> <p>Motion: That the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting be approved as a true and accurate record of that meeting.</p> <p>Moved: Beverley Phillips</p> <p>Seconded: Sam Miller</p> <p>APPROVED</p> <p>No matters arising from minutes not otherwise addressed during the business of this meeting.</p>	Chair, Secretary
3.	<p><b>Reception of the electoral roll of the church of the Parish.</b></p> <p>The Vicar made the Electoral Roll available for inspection by laying it on the Secretary's table.</p> <p>It was proposed and carried that the Electoral Roll be received.</p> <p>Moved: Elizabeth Brooks</p> <p>Seconded: Adam Wing</p> <p>CARRIED</p>	
4.	<p><b>Annual Reports</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Vicar's Annual Report 2023</b></p> <p>The Vicar's Report 2023 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2023 prior to the meeting and was taken as read.</p> <p>The Vicar provided a brief verbal note on his report. The Vicar noted that the heritage architects have provided a new proposal for restoration works of the Church building and properties. The proposed works will include necessary repairs to the organ side of the transept crossing, as well as repairs to the aisle roof on the North side and the baptistry roof. There are also minor repairs to some of the flooring and the lady chapel cabinetry. There is money available from the Cutler Bequest, and applications will be made to various trusts and bodies to ensure there is sufficient funding for these works once dates and plans are in place.</p> <p>Feedback has been received in relation to the Edith Head Hall development, arising from the feasibility study for development undertaken by the Diocese. The Vicar noted that the study includes potential redevelopment of the kindergarten, and the Chetwynd Street houses and apartments, which are in need of major works and repairs. The Vicar also noted that taking out loans to undertake major repairs would not be sustainable or feasible for the</p>	Chair



parish. The potential redevelopment and lease of the land would provide a guaranteed income stream for the parish with limited liabilities. There is potential for the proposed redevelopment to include a new kindergarten built into the redeveloped infrastructure. The Vicar noted it would take courage to make the decision to proceed with the proposed infrastructure.

Christine Storey noted the timeliness of the Gospel reading, and there is danger of the parish burying its single talent. However, the opportunity presented by the redevelopment is a great one.

The Vicar confirmed that the property would continue to be owned by the church, and that it may present an opportunity to build stronger relations with the kindergarten.

Josephine Snowden raised a comment noting that the parish needed to ensure that accessibility requirements. Sam Miller noted that there would be accessibility requirements as mandated by government.

Chris Sowerwine noted that the parish needs to be mindful of the intentions of the developers, including buildings of excessive height. The Vicar noted that there is an overlay that would prevent buildings over four storeys in heights.

Andrew Barnard raised a query regarding the St Mary's Kindergarten and the church's involvement. The Vicar noted that the kindergarten is now run by ECMS, but continues to bear the parish name and pays the parish a licence fee. Although the kindergarten has been invited to participate in various parish events, it has declined the opportunity to do so.

Virginia Towsey raised a query regarding the availability of open space, and that the development did not go right to the boundary of the property. It was noted that green space is high on the priority of the parish and the diocese feasibility plan. The CAG reinforced the importance of green space and the importance of renewables in the proposed building.

Andrea O'Donoghue noted the importance of preserving some of heritage features within any proposed redevelopment signs

Andrew Barnard raised a query regarding the maintenance of any proposed redevelopment. It was noted in reply that

the developers would, as the lease would be of the ground on which any redevelopment is constructed

The Vicar noted his thanks to Michael Golding and Rhondda Fahey for their hard work and dedication to the parish over the past year (and years), including unpaid legal advice and presence. The parish noted their service with acclamation.

The Vicar noted the Treasurer, Paul Eikelboom, would be stepping down and the parish was thankful for all of his work on the parish finances.

The Vicar also noted his thanks to Andrew Murray, the parish Secretary, for his work.

The parish noted its thanks with acclamation.

The Vicar also noted his thanks to Mthr Dorothy Lee for her ministry in the Parish, and wished her all the best for her new ministry at the Cathedral.

The Vicar noted a confirmation was held last year with Bishop Alison Taylor, and that a confirmation service would be held in early 2024 with Bishop Genieve. The Vicar also noted that there had been a number of weddings in the parish recently.

The Vicar also gave thanks for those parishioners who had died in the last year, and a moment of silence for remembrance was kept.

Moved: Josephine Snowden

Seconded: Christine Storey

CARRIED

#### **4.2 Annual report on the proceedings of Parish Council (the Secretary's report) together with a report on pastoral care, evangelism, social and ecumenical programmes of the parish**

The Parish Secretary's Report 2023 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2023 prior to the meeting and was taken as read.

It was proposed that the Parish Secretary's Report 2023 be tabled and accepted.

Andrew Murray has also circulated Mission and Evangelism plan that has been approved by Parish Council. Response to question raised at last year's AGM relating to mission and evangelism. After consideration at planning day, now being proposed to the parish to provoke thought and action about how the parish might



serve the local community. Intention to grow the parish and continue to be a

Moved: Josephine Snowden

Seconded: Christine Storey

CARRIED

#### **4.3 Churchwardens' Report 2023 – 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 2023 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2023 prior to the meeting and was taken as read.

It was proposed that the Churchwardens' Report 2023 be tabled and accepted.

Moved: Josephine Snowden

Seconded: Christine Storey

CARRIED

The Vicar noted his thanks to the Churchwardens for all of their work over the church year.

#### **4.4 Treasurer's Report 2023 together with draft Financial Accounts of the Parish**

The Treasurer's Report 2023 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2023 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. The Treasurer noted the financial challenge that was faced by the parish in 2022, and the deficit was substantially reduced over the past year with good financial management, healthy stewardship from parishioners and the grace of God. The Treasurer noted his thanks to Darrell for his support and work in the parish office, and to Don – the parish bookkeeper. The Treasurer also noted the support of the previous Treasurer, Tim Pilbrow, for his support – particularly through the transition handover.

The Treasurer noted that audited Financial Accounts had not yet been received, and that these would be forthcoming shortly from the parish auditors.

The Treasurer had been contacted by the Diocese regarding insurance, given the value of the property has nearly doubled in the past year. The diocese has not yet provided an updated insurance premium amount. The increasing cost of insurance is not sustainable, and the Diocese is looking into alternatives.

Motion: That the Treasurer be thanked for his hard work in managing the parish finances

Moved: Sam Miller

Seconded: Christine Storey

CARRIED

It was proposed that the Treasurer's Report 2023 be tabled and accepted.

Moved: Josephine Snowden

Seconded: Christine Storey

CARRIED

#### **4.5 Parish Budget 2024**

The Parish Budget 2023 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2022 prior to the meeting and was taken as read.

It was proposed that the Parish Budget 2023 be accepted, noting that it is in draft form.

Moved: Paul Eikelboom

Seconded: Sam Miller

CARRIED

#### **4.6 Director of Music Report 2023**

The Director of Music Report 2023 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2023 prior to the meeting and was taken as read. The Director of Music provided a brief verbal clarification regarding the Advent Carols service.

It was proposed that the Director of Music Report 2023 be tabled and accepted.

Moved: Josephine Snowden

Seconded: Christine Storey

CARRIED

#### **4.7 Climate Action Group Report 2023**

The Climate Action Group Report 2023 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2023 prior to the meeting and was taken as read.

It was proposed that the Climate Action Group Report 2023 be tabled and accepted.

Moved: Josephine Snowden

Seconded: Christine Storey

CARRIED

#### **4.8 St Mary's Children's Ministry Report 2023**

	<p>The St Mary's children's ministry report 2023 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2023 prior to the meeting and was taken as read. Harriet Jenkins provided a brief verbal note on the changing and refreshing children's ministry in the parish, with an opportunity to refresh and update that ministry. Child Safe Officer also provided a verbal update on the parish's ongoing work to ensure necessary child safe training and compliance is up to date. It was proposed that the St Mary's children's ministry report be tabled and accepted.</p> <p>Moved: Josephine Snowden Seconded: Christine Storey CARRIED</p> <p><b>4.9 Hospitality Committee Report 2023</b>The The Hospitality Committee Report 2023 was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2023 prior to the meeting and was taken as read.</p> <p>It was proposed that the Hospitality Committee Report 2023 be tabled and accepted.</p> <p>Moved: Josephine Snowden Seconded: Christine Storey CARRIED</p> <p><b>4.10 Synod 2022 – Lay Representatives Report</b></p> <p>The The Report on Synod 2022 from Audrey Statham and Susan Brennan, SC, Lay Representatives of the Parish was circulated as part of the Annual Report 2023 prior to the meeting and was taken as read. The Synod Lay Representatives will provide a more detailed update to the parish in a separate session</p> <p>It was proposed that the Synod 2023 report be tabled and accepted.</p> <p>Moved: Josephine Snowden Seconded: Christine Storey CARRIED</p> <p>All reports were tabled and accepted by a singular motion following consideration of each in turn.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Elections</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Election and appointment of Churchwardens and members of Parish Council</b></p> <p>The Vicar declared all positions vacant.</p>	Chair (as Returning Officer), Secretary

	<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><b>Churchwardens elected by parishioners (2)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sam Miller</li> <li>2. Anne Sunderland</li> </ol> <p><b>Churchwarden appointed by the Vicar (1)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adam Wing</li> </ol> <p><b>Members of Parish Council elected by parishioners (6)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alice Christofi</li> <li>2. Andrew Gador-Whyte</li> <li>3. Andrew Barnard (Treasurer)</li> <li>4. John Blanch</li> <li>5. Roslyn (Rosie) Moloney</li> </ol> <p><b>Members of Parish Council appointed by the Vicar (3)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Helen McCallum</li> </ol> <p><b>5.2 The election of Auditors</b></p> <p>Paul Eikelboom nominated Andrew Fisher of the Banks Group, Melbourne, to be elected as Auditors. It was noted that the auditors are extremely thorough, and the parish has a good relationship with the auditors.</p> <p>Moved: Paul Eikelboom</p> <p>Seconded: Andrew Barnard</p> <p>CARRIED.</p> <p><b>5.3 The election of lay representatives to the parish Nominations Committee (2)</b></p> <p>The Vicar declared that as the nominations for lay representatives to the Parish Nominations Committee did not exceed the positions available, all were duly elected.</p> <p>The Vicar noted that he would be departing the parish before the next Annual Meeting.</p> <p>Lay Representatives to the parish Nominations Committee elected by parishioners.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sam Miller</li> <li>2. Alice Christofi</li> </ol>	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Any other matters of parochial or general church interest.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audrey Statham noted that in 2025 the Archbishop will reach retirement age, and the search for a new Archbishop will commence. Victorian Anglicans Together</li> </ul>	Chair

	<p>(VAT) is now seeking the views of Anglicans to consider the traits and qualities of any potential future Archbishop. VAT is holding a Eucharist with a meeting on the future Archbishop at St Bartholomew's Burnley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beverley Phillips noted that the University of Divinity is holding a conference on Indigenous Theology in February. There may be an opportunity for the parish to fund visiting remote students.</li> <li>• The parish recognised with thanks work and commitment of Geoffrey Jenkins for holding Morning Prayer throughout the week, as well as all of his work coordinating Delta Studies.</li> </ul>	
	The annual meeting concluded with the saying of the Grace.	
	<b>Actions Arising</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. None</li> </ul>	

## VICAR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2024

It is my pleasure to present my report for 2023-24

The past year has been a year of consolidation for St Mary's as we have largely returned to pre-Covid attendances with the addition of many people choosing to join us on-line locally and internationally. I should say that while the on-line service is of real benefit to many people, it does give some parishioners the option to stay home and watch the service rather than being part of a worshipping congregation and ultimately this is not great for the parish as a whole. This is a problem faced by many churches in the post-Covid era and I guess very much a reality for the future not only of St Mary's but the wider church. How do you remain as part of a worshipping Eucharistic community when you don't physically connect with that congregation?

There are, however, great benefits of being on-line as well, such as our thriving Morning Prayer Group of some 12 regular attendees. Many thanks to Geoff Jenkins and all who help to keep this centre of prayer an active and vibrant part of St Mary's.

St Mary's Climate Action Group continues to set an example to many other churches around the Diocese and has undertaken many activities in the past year, most notably the audit of power usage around the parish.

Over many years St Mary's has had representation and involvement with the Hotham Mission, a body founded by the Uniting Church, but drawing membership and support from various denominations. They do significant work in and around North Melbourne, particularly with residents of the tower blocks. For many years John Blanch was our representative and later joined by Andrew Murray. They have both stepped down from this ministry and Virginia Towsey now represents us.

Throughout the year, children's ministry has continued with a small but dedicated group. Thank you to Rosie and Harriet and others who assist with this. Thank you to Harriet for her continued work as our Safe Ministry Officer.

Music, as always continues to be important in St Mary's life. The choir has done an admirable job often struggling with low numbers for various reasons. Christmas last year saw a big change with the traditional carol service being replaced by a much more informal Carols on the Corner. This attracted many more people than usual and allowed us to connect with our local community. Thank you to Beverley for all her hard work and coordination of our musical life and her wonderful musicality.

Nothing would happen in the parish if it were not for the rosters and those who serve on them. To our flower arrangers, servers, readers, those leading the prayers, those welcoming people and those making morning refreshments a big thank you. Your ministry to the parish is significant and much appreciated. Also we thank Alice and Harriet for their hard work in preparing the rosters.

Also a special mention to our Garden Team, especially Margaret, Helen, Michael, and David, who quietly work away in the garden, keeping it tidy and beautiful for all to enjoy. Every week I heard appreciative comments about the Church gardens which are getting better year by year.

No parish can function if it were not for our Wardens and Parish Council. We have been blessed with committed and hard-working Wardens and Parish Council members and I extend my heartfelt thanks to them all especially our Wardens Anne, Sam and Adam.

This year saw another change in office staff as Darrell Pitt moved to another position which allowed him more time for his own writing. We welcomed Laura Tanata a few months ago and she has done a great job settling into this sometimes demanding position.

Before concluding this report with the statistics, I would like to add my thanks to you all for the last five years here at St Mary's. These were not the easiest of times to be the vicar of a parish, with Covid lockdowns beginning some 7 months after my arrival in the parish and lasting nearly 2 years. Perhaps my greatest disappointment of my time in the parish was not being able to get any of the refurbishment of the parish and gardens started. Even now the garden plan is with Heritage Victoria. Unfortunately, the wheels turn very slowly in the offices of Heritage Architects and the other bodies associated with these types of projects. My hope is that the Cutler Bequest will be used to restore the full beauty of this lovely church building.

Funerals 4

Baptisms 6

139 services were held, not including funerals and weddings.

Acts of Communion not including Christmas 2758

We remember former parishioners who have died in the past year.

Janet Horn

Patricia Storey

John Rickard

Tom Shearer

Rest Eternal Grant to them O Lord, and Let Light Perpetual Shine on Them.

This concludes my report,

***Jan Joustra***



## **Annual Worship Statistics**

- Over the course of this past year 139 services were held in the church, of which 98 were Sunday services (including 8am and 10am).
- Average weekly attendance (i.e. number of people through the doors each week) has been 63, with an average on a Sunday of 52 across both services.
- These figures are not inclusive of Christmas and Easter services.
- We welcomed 115 congregants across our Midnight Mass and Christmas morning services, with 91 communicants.
- Easter saw similar numbers, with 106 attending the Easter Vigil and/or Easter Sunday services, with 92 communicants.
- With the withdrawal of funding for chaplaincy services to many of our local hospitals, Fr Jan has also responded to a considerable number of calls to provide spiritual and pastoral care, including administration of last rites or communion.

## **Pastoral services**

- In the aftermath of COVID, interest in the church for weddings continues to grow slowly. In this liturgical year, two weddings have been conducted in the church.
- 4 funerals have taken place and 6 infant baptisms, the majority of whom have been from families with close or community connections to the parish.
- We have also celebrated one member of the congregation being received into the Anglican Communion by Bishop Genieve.

## **Livestream statistics**

- We continue to livestream the 10am Sunday service through the St Mary's Youtube Channel on a weekly basis. On average, we see 5 people log in for the livestream, however an average of 15-20 access the recording in the week following.
- A small but faithful following of parishioners who are unable to attend in person are able to maintain connection with the parish through this ministry.
- Particular thanks to Samuel Miller, Adam Wing, Paul Eikelboom and Geoffrey Jenkins who make this ministry possible through their expert operating of the computer!

*Alice Christofi*

## PARISH SECRETARY REPORT 2024

### Report of the Parish Secretary – October 2024

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

#### Annual Meeting 2023

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Parish of St Mary's Anglican Church, North Melbourne was held on Sunday, 20 November 2023.

The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting were duly prepared by the previous Parish Secretary and made available to members of the parish.

#### Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council met ten times during the 2023-24 year on the following dates:

- Thursday, 30th November (in person)  
*No January meeting held due to summer recess*
- Sunday, 19th February (in person, planning day)
- Thursday, 21th March (online)
- Thursday, 18th April (online)
- Thursday, 16th May (online)
- Wednesday, 19th June (online)
- Thursday, 18th July (online)
- Thursday, 22nd August (online)
- Thursday, 19th September (online)
- Sunday, 20th October (in person)

With the exception of the November and February meetings, Parish Council continued to meet virtually (via Zoom) throughout the 2023-24 year. Meeting virtually has proved convenient for parish council members.

No meetings which were required to be postponed due to an insufficient quorum of members being present.

Parish Council minutes were circulated to parish councillors following each Parish Council meeting enabling their review at the following meeting. Following their confirmation as a true and accurate record of business by Parish Council, minutes are available for parishioners to view and read on request to the Parish Office.

#### Planning Day 2024

On Sunday 19th February 2024, the Parish Council held their yearly planning meeting, which included preparation of the calendar for the year as well as discussion of two significant projects - namely the landscaping of the church gardens and possibility of developing the site of Edith Head Hall and residential properties on Chetwynd Street.

We look forward to meeting with the newly elected Parish Council on 24th November to plan the calendar for next year, and further down the track, in partnership with a new incumbent, visioning the next stage of our mission and ministry in North Melbourne.

### **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**

Statistics related to regular in-person worship continue to be recorded in the Register of Services and have been collated by the Parish Secretary to report to the Diocese.

Statistics of online worship attendance are tracked via the Youtube platform and have been reviewed periodically at Parish Council meetings.

### **Parish Roll**

The Electoral Committee comprising the Vicar and the Parish Secretary met on 6th October 2024 and considered the parish Electoral Roll.

Three applications were received of persons wishing to be enrolled with the parish. These applications were considered together with removal of persons not regularly and habitually attending public worship at the parish. In total fourteen names were removed from the roll in 2024. The updated roll includes 59 names.

The Electoral Roll was confirmed, certified and published by the Electoral Committee on 6th October and has been displayed at the entrance to the church.

### **Other business**

Details of parish office holders were provided to the Diocese in December 2023. All of Parish Council has been required to complete Safe Ministry Level 1 and Level 3 training in line with Diocesan requirements. My thanks to each of them for their commitment in completing this, and for their contributions to each meeting over their course of the year.

I would also like to thank Laura Tanata for her support in the office. Laura has been a really welcome addition to the team at St Mary's, taking on the role of parish administrator. I am particularly grateful for her support in preparing for today's meeting, and particularly her work on collating and producing our Annual Report.

*Alice Christofi*

## CHURCHWARDENS REPORT 2024

### 2024 Warden's Annual Report

This year has been bustling for our parish, marked by numerous events and projects aimed at improving our church grounds and community engagement. Repairs, upgrades, and a commitment to social justice and environmental stewardship have been at the forefront of our work.

### Staff Update

As we write this report, we are preparing for Father Jan's final service as Vicar of St Mary's. Over his tenure, Fr Jan has guided us through the challenges and triumphs of parish life, from navigating the impact of Covid to enhancing our church's beauty both inside and out. His leadership has been invaluable, overseeing numerous social and fundraising initiatives, coordinating with architects and engineers, and dedicating personal time to create new vestments and frontals for the church. In addition to regular Sunday services, Fr Jan has maintained a midweek service every Thursday and responded to an increasing number of pastoral care requests from local hospitals. This trend reflects the diocese's decision to suspend hospital chaplaincy funding, especially pertinent to us at St. Mary's parish, given our proximity to several major hospitals. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Fr Jan for his tireless dedication this past year and over the last five as we come to the end of his time with us.

Beverley has once again excelled in her role, managing our musical ministry with great passion and expertise. This year, we welcomed new choir members, and under her guidance, the choir has enriched our worship experience. Bev remains a licensed ASLM, affirming her contributions as a vital and valued part of our parish ministry. Thank you, Bev, for your continued efforts and to the choir for sharing your musical gifts with us.

In April, we welcomed Laura as our new administrator, following Darrell's resignation in February. Darrell left a lasting legacy with a comprehensive manual that has been instrumental for Laura in her role. Laura has quickly become an essential part of our team, handling everything from weekly pew sheets to liaising with hall hirers, tradespeople, and general parish inquiries. We are grateful for the dedication of both Darrell and Laura.

This year, Fr Jan has been supported by a number of Associate Clergy and several visiting preachers. Revs. Dorothy, Robyn, and Luke have contributed by preaching and presiding at services, helping to cover periods of leave and bringing fresh voices and ideas to our worship. Rev. Robert Gribben also preached on various occasions, while Andrew Gador-Whyte delivered his first sermon at St Mary's. Harriet and Rosie have continued their oversight of the Sunday school program. Their collective efforts have ensured that we continue to offer a Sunday school through term time, engaging children in a joyful church experience. Additionally, Delta studies have progressed intermittently throughout the year under the diligent guidance of Geoff Jenkins, who has also been facilitating morning prayer over zoom three days a week. The diversity of those who lead our services and teach within

our parish is a significant reason why so many enjoy coming to St Mary's, and we are grateful to all who have stepped up to contribute.

### **Financial Overview**

Discussing finances is never easy, but it's essential for our community. Last year's annual meeting forecast a concerning budget deficit, albeit smaller than the previous year.

Thanks to several fundraisers and an increase in hall rentals—driven by high demand—our financial situation has improved, thanks in part to a regular hall tenant, the Central Chinese Baptist Church which hosts their young adults and children's services in our hall. Our rental properties have also remained fully occupied. We must also thank the hospitality committee who have organized several successful fundraisers, including the Advent and Easter stalls, the Patronal Festival meal, and catering for the Mother's Day craft fair.

Our planned giving and service collections, however, have seen a decline this year. The contributions of our volunteers are crucial in helping us manage costs, as their efforts allow us to maintain our parish operations without additional hiring. We deeply appreciate everyone who has given their time and resources to support St Mary's, especially as we face another financially challenging year.

### **Cutler Bequest Update**

The landscaping project designs are currently in progress, but we must obtain heritage approval before moving forward. Additionally, several maintenance issues within the church and surrounding properties fall under the guidelines for utilizing the Cutler bequest. Just before Easter, we undertook roof repairs in hopes of addressing persistent leaks during heavy rain; however, these efforts were not successful, and further work is required.

### **Properties Overview**

St Mary's oversees the Church, Hall, Vicarage, and nine rental properties. This year, our rentals have remained fully tenanted, significantly benefiting our budget. While we continue to address the ongoing maintenance needs of our aging buildings, the hall has seen increased activity, and our kitchen is now up to commercial standards, broadening our appeal to potential hirers.

### **Edith Head Hall Update**

The ownership dispute between the Diocese and GFS regarding Edith Head Hall has been resolved, transferring all claims of ownership to the Diocese. In 2023, the wardens engaged in discussions about potential development on the EHH site, exploring the inclusion of some St Mary's properties in the development plan. With the resolution of the EHH dispute, we anticipate further communication from the Diocese regarding this project.

### **Final Remarks**

As we conclude another challenging year at St Mary's, we remain hopeful for 2025. The next year will see changes within our community, as we thank Fr. Jan for his tenure with us, we look forward to our future as we continue the process of looking for our next incumbent. While tough decisions are ahead, we look forward to a renewal and growth within our parish,

building on our cherished traditions and revitalizing our community. We extend our gratitude to every member of our parish—your contributions, however big or small, are valued and appreciated. Thank you for being part of our journey.

*Sam Miller, Anne Sunderland, Adam Wing*

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2024

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

### **Appointment of Auditors**

BG Private has been appointed to undertake the audit of the Parish Accounts for the church year ending September 2024. Our previous auditors, Banks Group Melbourne, have re-structured and become BG Private. The audit is still in progress and therefore this report is based upon unaudited financial statements.

### **Overview of Financial Position**

The parish Profit and Loss report is structured in two sections, one section reflecting the income and expenses associated with typical parish activities and another section reflecting income and expenses associated with the income producing parish properties. This structure helps us understand where income is sourced, and expenses arise. The parish Profit and Loss report is prepared on a cash-basis, consistent with the accounting basis used in previous years. A cash-basis which reflects the flow of cash received and cash expended during the year.

On a cash-basis, the profit and loss statement for the period ending Sept 2024 shows an overall surplus of \$99,000.87, including an unrealised income of \$46,092.70 representing growth in the invested Terrence Cutler Bequest funds. Removing the undistributed growth from the figures results in a more modest surplus of \$52,908.17. This result, whilst at first glance pleasing, is however no cause for joy, since we end the period with outstanding payments to the Diocese for insurance and assessment of \$84,587.81.

A closer review of the profit and loss statement shows a parish income from collections, donations, interest and investments of \$194,708.05. Removing the growth in the Terrence Cutler investment reduces our income to \$148,615.35. Our expenses associated with staffing, administration, liturgy, music and the upkeep of the church and vicarage total \$260,958.48. The shortfall between live giving and parish expenses in this year was \$112,343.

Turning our attention to the property related incomes and expenses, we see that income from rental of the hall and residential properties and the kindergarten license totals \$258,811.06. Our expenses associated with the properties totals \$93,559.76. This surplus of \$165,251.30 subsidises the shortfall arising from our parish activities.

The balance sheet, representing our assets and liabilities, shows a rather strong position, with total assets, mostly trusts and bequests, of around \$1,050,000. Our readily available funds are however much less at around \$120,000. Our current liabilities, excluding ADF loans for the Chetwynd Street Properties Improvements, but including arrears to the Diocese and long service leave liabilities, are around \$107,000.



### **Comments on Parish income and Expenditure**

Our Parish collections and pledged giving, including our fundraising income, is slightly lower than last year, and continues to fall substantially short of the income necessary to pay our staff and honour our Diocesan commitments.

We are fortunate to be blessed with distributions to the value of \$10,456.80 from the Lambrick Trust. These distributions help fund our activities. We are also fortunate to be blessed with the Terrence Cutler Bequest. The value of invested funds at the end of September is \$887,881.24, an increase of \$61,302.24 in the period. These additions are retained within and re-invested in the fund. During the year, the Parish also withdrew from the Bequest \$14,718 to fund repairs to the Bell Tower and other urgent repairs. The net increase, after redemptions, is reflected in the accounts as Other Comprehensive Income – Cutler Bequest of \$46,092.70.

### **Comments on Property Related Income and Expenditure**

Our property related income remains a much needed and reliable source of revenue. Our Hall income is up, compared to last year, reflecting both increased usage and timeliness in billing. The Kindergarten license was increased to \$11,000 per annum and was paid in full. Due to the terms of the license agreement, we are unable to increase the rate until end of 2025. Our residential rental properties have been actively managed by the appointed Real Estate Agents Woodards. The managing agent actively reviews the tenancy agreements, market rates and draws our attention to maintenance requirements. The income from the rental properties during the year is consistent with the budgeted expectations.

Two Chetwynd Street Properties were brought up to contemporary standards a few years back, funded by ADF loans. The outstanding balance of the loan is \$135,720.33. The revenue from these properties exceeds the monthly repayments of the loan.

### **Comments on Diocesan Fees and Charges**

The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne is the employer of all staff at St Mary's North Melbourne. In this period, all costs associated with payroll have been met when they fall due. Melbourne Anglican Trust Corporation holds all St Mary's North Melbourne property in trust. Insurance on buildings is arranged by the Diocese and costs allocated to the respective parishes. During the year, the Parish was unable to meet insurance charges when due. As at the end of the period, the parish owes the Diocese \$57,174.81 for insurance. Our monthly insurance fee in the period was \$5,547.78.

The income and expenses of parishes in the Diocese are subject to assessment. The assessment forms the basis of parish contributions to the Diocese. During the year, the Parish was unable to meet assessment charges when due. As at the end of the period, the parish owes the Diocese \$27,413.00 for assessment. Our monthly assessment in this reporting period was \$3,046.00.

The amounts in the profit and loss reports reflect amounts actually paid, not the arrears owing.

## **Comments on Mission Giving and Charitable Projects**

During the year, the parish did not make any donations to other Christian missions.

The Anglican Benevolent Society has a fund described as St Mary's North Melbourne Material Aid Project. Donations to the Anglican Benevolent Society for this purpose are tax deductible. During the year, \$1,615.00 were disbursed to the Parish for the specific purpose of this project. This sum, plus some funds held in by the parish from prior years, was disbursed to St Mark's Fitzroy's homeless outreach program. In total \$4,300.00 of the Anglican Benevolent Society funds were disbursed through St Mary's to St Mark's Fitzroy. Contributions to the Anglican Benevolent Society and funds disbursed by the Society to St Mary's are restricted to benevolent purposes only. I thank Tim Pilbrow for his stewardship of the Material Aid project.

## **Comments of National Trust of Australia - Victoria**

The National Trust of Australia – Victoria has a fund described as St Mary's North Melbourne Project 725. Donations to the National Trust of Australia – Victoria are directed towards repairs and restoration of the fabric of the church building and are tax deductible. The funds are controlled by the National Trust of Australia – Victoria. Contributions to the National Trust of Australia – Victoria Project 725 are restricted to the upkeep of the fabric of St Mary's through projects under the supervision of the National Trust and a heritage architect.

The parish did not undertake any projects during the year with the involvement of the National Trust of Australia - Victoria. The balance at the end of Sept 2024 remains the same as last year, \$16,151.33.

## **Comments on Budget for year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2025**

Without a doubt, the parish continues to be in a difficult financial situation. In line with the broader economy, we face significant increases in cost, not matched by increases in income. We also face significant arrears to the Diocese, which the surplus/shortfall of our current income and current expenditures cannot cover.

The budget for the year ending 30th of September, 2025, approved by the Parish Council, has been developed with the following objectives:

- payment all liabilities as and when they fall due
- bring the parish back into good standing, by paying all Diocesan charges when they are due
- bring the parish back into good standing, by paying all Diocesan arrears
- ensure our rental properties meet the new residential residency standards
- address major maintenance issues arising with our rental properties
- no other significant changes to income or expenditure from prior years

To achieve these objectives, the payment of all outstanding and current insurance charges are funded by drawing down on the Terrence Cutler Bequest funds. The Parish Council has received advice that indicates the usage of the funds for this purpose is permitted. The Parish

Council makes this decision reluctantly. To meet all other expenses, the Parish Council intends to utilise cash reserves and incomes.

The expected outcome of this approach results in a deficit of approximately \$32,000.

### **Acknowledgments and Thanks**

I wish to acknowledge and thank the Parish Council for their support in this year. It has been a challenging period and without their humour and support the task would have been more onerous. I also wish to acknowledge and thank those who have helped me settle into the Treasurer role. Both Tim Pilbrow and Paul Eikelboom have been generous and consistently supportive, answering a myriad of questions as they have arising. For their support, I am grateful.

### **How can I support St Mary's?**

Tax deductible contributions to the Anglican Benevolent Society can be made at the following web site: <https://www.melbourneanglicanfoundation.au/donate-melbourne-anglican-benevolent-society/> or contact the Melbourne Anglican Foundation on 03 9653 4220.

Tax deductible contributions to the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) – St Mary's North Melbourne Project 725 can be made at the following web site: <https://vic.nationaltrust.org.au/donate/q/national-trust> or contact the Senior Accountant at National Trust of Australia (Victoria) on 03 9656 9810. Please be sure to request the Senior Accountant Madri Silva [Madri.Silva@nattrust.com.au](mailto:Madri.Silva@nattrust.com.au) to direct your donation to Project 725.

Contributions for the unencumbered use of the parish are not tax deductible. However, your support is greatly valued. Please direct such funds to the parish giving account with the Anglican Development Fund BSB 703-122 Account 05004687 St Mary's Anglican Church, North Melbourne.

# Balance Sheet

## St Mary's Anglican Church North Melbourne As at 30 September 2024

	30 SEPT 2024	30 SEPT 2023
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Bank</b>		
ADF - Lambrick Trust	36,028.88	-
ADF Access Cash	33,673.15	43,224.95
Anglican Funds TF8877 St Mary's Anglican Church North Melbourne- Terrence Cutler Est	887,881.24	856,506.54
Closed - AF - TF8854 Lambrick	-	24,367.01
Westpac - Corporate Credit Card	560.40	-
Westpac Benevolence Fund	2,492.28	5,177.28
Westpac General Account	91,978.48	18,243.87
Westpac Projects Account	1,972.75	4,996.17
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>1,054,587.18</b>	<b>952,515.82</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Accounts Receivable	440.00	-
Square Balance Adjustments	0.20	0.20
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>440.20</b>	<b>0.20</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,055,027.38</b>	<b>952,516.02</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	92,246.61	16,520.00
ADF - Consolidated Chetwynd Loans (0640 + 0762)	135,720.33	144,603.19
GST	(3,656.25)	(3,158.86)
Rounding	0.01	-
Square Balance	250.00	-
Wages Payable - Payroll	14,562.35	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>239,123.05</b>	<b>157,964.33</b>
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>		
St Mary's Material Aid Project	2,492.28	5,177.28
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>2,492.28</b>	<b>5,177.28</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>241,615.33</b>	<b>163,141.61</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>813,412.05</b>	<b>789,374.41</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Current Year Earnings	24,037.64	(18,055.19)
Retained Earnings	789,374.41	807,429.60
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>813,412.05</b>	<b>789,374.41</b>

# Profit and Loss - Grouped

St Mary's Anglican Church North Melbourne

For the year ended 30 September 2024

Cash Basis

	2024	2023
<b>Parish Income</b>		
<b>1. Parish Collections</b>		
Income - Parish Collections - Cash	16,534.85	30,971.45
Income - Parish Collections - Pledge Giving	109,665.97	114,170.88
<b>Total 1. Parish Collections</b>	<b>126,200.82</b>	<b>145,142.33</b>
<b>2. Fundraising</b>		
Income - Fundraising	4,598.10	8,471.36
<b>Total 2. Fundraising</b>	<b>4,598.10</b>	<b>8,471.36</b>
<b>3. Weddings and Funerals</b>		
Income - Weddings	5,927.28	-
Income - Funerals	1,000.00	861.82
<b>Total 3. Weddings and Funerals</b>	<b>6,927.28</b>	<b>861.82</b>
<b>4. Donations and Bequests</b>		
Donations and Bequests	1,245.00	30,815.10
<b>5. Investments and Interest</b>		
Interest Income	1,653.27	3,697.45
Trust Distributions - Lambrick Trust	10,456.80	11,256.16
Other Comprehensive Income (OCI) - Cutler Bequest	46,092.70	-
<b>Total 5. Investments and Interest</b>	<b>58,202.77</b>	<b>14,953.61</b>
<b>6. Auxiliary Payment Methods (Square)</b>		
Square Sales	200.45	100.00
<b>Total 6. Auxiliary Payment Methods (Square)</b>	<b>200.45</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Total Parish Income</b>	<b>197,374.42</b>	<b>200,344.22</b>
<b>Less Cost of Sales</b>		
Direct Costs - Fundraising	2,200.00	190.56
Direct Costs - Funerals	275.46	-
Direct Costs - Weddings	190.91	-
<b>Total Less Cost of Sales</b>	<b>2,666.37</b>	<b>190.56</b>
<b>Parish Net Income</b>	<b>194,708.05</b>	<b>200,153.66</b>
<b>Less Parish Expenses</b>		
<b>1. General Administration</b>		
Admin - Advertising	345.00	-
Admin - Audit Fees	2,700.00	-
Admin - Bank Fees	29.14	480.55
Admin - Consulting Fees	2,207.09	4,916.00
Admin - Diocesan Assessment	26,157.00	35,787.00

	2024	2023
Admin - Insurance	-	1,858.42
Admin - Vehicle Expenses	-	771.85
<b>Total 1. General Administration</b>	<b>31,438.23</b>	<b>43,813.82</b>
<b>2. Office Administration</b>		
Admin - Computer Expenses	362.73	-
Admin - Office Expenses	1,719.79	2,162.56
Admin - Printing & Stationery	36,729.86	29,508.89
Admin - Subscriptions	722.73	1,811.56
Admin - Telephone & Internet	4,934.62	4,616.58
Admin - Training	-	18.18
<b>Total 2. Office Administration</b>	<b>44,469.73</b>	<b>38,117.77</b>
<b>3. Liturgical Expenses</b>		
Liturgical - Books & Music	(1,713.54)	(621.20)
Liturgical - Flowers	(385.00)	(245.60)
Liturgical - Supplies	(4,051.75)	(3,063.78)
<b>Total 3. Liturgical Expenses</b>	<b>(6,150.29)</b>	<b>(3,930.58)</b>
<b>4. Church and Vicarage</b>		
CV - building projects	-	2,022.73
CV - Church Loan Interest	-	22.08
CV - Cleaning	7,260.00	4,451.50
CV - Gas & Electricity	12,087.13	8,677.54
CV - Insurance	7,104.92	52,411.13
CV - Maintenance - Buildings	9,226.12	8,504.22
CV - Maintenance - Grounds	1,400.00	1,862.73
CV - Residential Rates	1,167.19	949.77
CV - Security	2,054.07	1,910.88
CV - Water	4,278.62	3,391.50
<b>Total 4. Church and Vicarage</b>	<b>44,578.05</b>	<b>84,204.08</b>
<b>5. Staffing Expenses</b>		
Staffing - Salaries & Wages	111,417.91	115,400.27
Staffing - Superannuation	17,814.35	22,552.11
Staffing - Vehicle Expenses	3,069.92	-
<b>Total 5. Staffing Expenses</b>	<b>132,302.18</b>	<b>137,952.38</b>
<b>7. Auxiliary Payment Expenses</b>		
Square Fees	(170.00)	(52.43)
<b>Total 7. Auxiliary Payment Expenses</b>	<b>(170.00)</b>	<b>(52.43)</b>
<b>8. Special Projects</b>		
Garden Project	1,850.00	-
<b>Total 8. Special Projects</b>	<b>1,850.00</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Less Parish Expenses</b>	<b>260,958.48</b>	<b>308,071.06</b>
<b>Parish Surplus excluding Properties</b>	<b>(66,250.43)</b>	<b>(107,917.40)</b>

2024

2023

**Properties - Hall, Kindergarten and Rentals****Property Income**

Hall Rental	17,888.06	9,836.33
Kindergarten License	11,000.00	10,000.00
Residential Rentals	229,923.00	230,417.16
<b>Total Property Income</b>	<b>258,811.06</b>	<b>250,253.49</b>

**Property Expenses****1. Staffing Costs ( Rental and Hall Hire)**

Rental - Wages	8,078.15	8,511.99
Rental - Superannuation	2,101.94	934.12
<b>Total 1. Staffing Costs ( Rental and Hall Hire)</b>	<b>10,180.09</b>	<b>9,446.11</b>

**2. Hall Expenses**

Hall - Cleaning	3,772.55	4,589.72
Hall - Gas & Electricity	994.11	2,552.06
Hall - Insurance	338.28	5,448.37
Hall - Maintenance	1,376.26	1,971.96
Hall - Water	872.33	1,011.47
<b>Total 2. Hall Expenses</b>	<b>7,353.53</b>	<b>15,573.58</b>

**3. Rental Property Expenses**

Rental - Agent & Letting Fees	12,133.12	12,893.99
Rental - Building Maintenance	18,173.45	41,907.04
Rental - Amortisation of Improvements	-	15,178.19
Rental - Gas & Electricity	337.30	394.65
Rental - Grounds Maintenance	5,170.00	1,788.18
Rental - Insurance	671.76	10,819.32
Rental - Interest on Loans	10,377.14	9,873.56
Rental - Rates and Land Tax	23,838.70	19,807.92
Rental - Water	5,324.67	6,188.74
<b>Total 3. Rental Property Expenses</b>	<b>76,026.14</b>	<b>118,851.59</b>

**Total Property Expenses**

93,559.76 143,871.28

**Property Surplus**

165,251.30 106,382.21

**Summary of Income and Expenses**

Parish Surplus	(66,250.43)	(107,917.40)
Property Surplus	165,251.30	106,382.21
<b>Total Summary of Income and Expenses</b>	<b>99,000.87</b>	<b>(1,535.19)</b>



**Budget 2024-2025****Income**

<b>1. Parish Collections</b>			
Income - Parish Collections - Cash	\$	12,000.00	
Income - Parish Collections - Pledge Giving	\$	120,000.00	
<b>Total 1. Parish Collections</b>			\$ 132,000.00
<b>2. Fundraising</b>			
Income - Fundraising	\$	6,000.00	
Income - Fundraising - Specific Mission			
<b>Total 2. Fundraising</b>			\$ 6,000.00
<b>3. Weddings and Funerals</b>			
Income - Funerals	\$	1,000.00	
Income - Weddings	\$	2,500.00	
<b>Total 3. Weddings and Funerals</b>			\$ 3,500.00
<b>4. Donations and Bequests</b>			
Donations and Bequests, including Cutler Drawdown	\$	135,000.00	
<b>Total 4. Donations and Bequests</b>			\$ 135,000.00
<b>5. Investments and Interest</b>			
Interest Income	\$	1,600.00	
Trust Distributions - Lambrick Trust	\$	11,000.00	
<b>Total 5. Investments and Interest</b>			\$ 12,600.00
<b>6. Auxiliary Payment Methods (Square)</b>			
Square Sales	\$	-	
<b>Total 6. Auxiliary Payment Methods (Square)</b>			\$ -
<b>Total Income</b>	\$	-	\$ 289,100.00
<b>Less Cost of Sales</b>			
Direct Costs - Fundraising	\$	2,000.00	
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>			-\$ 2,000.00
<b>Gross Profit</b>			<b>\$ 287,100.00</b>

**Less Operating Expenses****1. General Administration**

Admin - Advertising	\$	250.00
Admin - Audit Fees	\$	3,000.00
Admin - Bank Fees	\$	50.00
Admin - Consulting Fees	\$	2,400.00
Admin - Diocesan Assessment	\$	68,413.00
Admin - Insurance	\$	-
Admin - Interest Expense	\$	-
Admin - Police & Working with Children Checks	\$	150.00
Square Fees	\$	200.00

<b>Total 1. General Administration</b>		<b>-\$ 74,463.00</b>
<b>2. Office Administration</b>		
Admin - Computer Expenses	\$ 2,500.00	
Admin - Office Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	
Admin - Printing & Stationery	\$ 36,000.00	
Admin - Subscriptions	\$ 840.00	
Admin - Telephone & Internet	\$ 5,000.00	
Admin - Training	\$ -	
<b>Total 2. Office Administration</b>		<b>-\$ 46,340.00</b>
<b>3. Liturgical Expenses</b>		
Liturgical - Books & Music	\$ 1,500.00	
Liturgical - Childrens Ministry Resourcing	\$ -	
Liturgical - Flowers	\$ 400.00	
Liturgical - Supplies	\$ 4,100.00	
<b>Total 3. Liturgical Expenses</b>		<b>-\$ 6,000.00</b>
<b>4. Church and Vicarage Expenses</b>		
CV - building projects	\$ 1.00	
CV - Church Loan Interest	\$ -	
CV - Cleaning	\$ 7,000.00	
CV - Gas & Electricity	\$ 12,000.00	
CV - Insurance	\$ 95,000.00	
CV - Maintenance - Buildings	\$ 5,000.00	
CV - Maintenance - Grounds	\$ 1,400.00	
CV - Residential Rates	\$ 1,200.00	
CV - Security	\$ 2,000.00	
CV - Water	\$ 4,000.00	
<b>Total 4. Church and Vicarage Expenses</b>		<b>-\$ 131,601.00</b>
<b>5. Staffing Expenses</b>		
Admin - Vehicle Expenses	\$ 1,500.00	
Staffing - Salaries & Wages	\$ 126,500.00	
Staffing - Superannuation	\$ 17,500.00	
Staffing - Workcover	\$ -	
<b>Total 5. Staffing Expenses</b>		<b>-\$ 145,500.00</b>
<b>6. Charitable Donations</b>		
Donations - Anglican Missions	\$ -	
Expenses - Donations - Specific Mission	\$ -	
<b>Total 6. Charitable Donations</b>		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		<b>-\$ 403,904.00</b>
<b>Operating Profit (loss)</b>		<b>-\$ 116,804.00</b>

**Property Related Income**

Hall Rental	\$ 14,000.00	
Kindergarten License	\$ 11,000.00	
Residential Rentals	\$ 213,000.00	
<b>Property Related Income</b>		<b>\$ 238,000.00</b>

**Property Related Expenses****1. Staffing costs (rental and hall hire)**

Rental - Superannuation	\$ -	
Rental - Wages	\$ -	
<b>Total 1. Staffing costs (rental and hall hire)</b>		<b>\$ -</b>

**2. Hall Expenses**

Hall - Cleaning	\$ 4,000.00	
Hall - Gas & Electricity	\$ 3,000.00	
Hall - Insurance	\$ 10,000.00	
Hall - Maintenance	\$ 1,200.00	
Hall - Water	\$ 1,000.00	
<b>Total 2. Hall Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 19,200.00</b>

**3. Rental property expenses**

Rental - Agent & Letting Fees	\$ 13,000.00	
Rental - Building Maintenance	\$ 55,000.00	
Rental - Gas & Electricity	\$ 500.00	
Rental - Grounds Maintenance	\$ 4,000.00	
Rental - Insurance	\$ 20,000.00	
Rental - Interest on Loans	\$ 11,000.00	
Rental - Rates and Land Tax	\$ 25,000.00	
Rental - Water	\$ 5,500.00	

**Rental - Amortisation**

Rental - Amortisation of Improvements	\$ -	
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**Total Rental - Amortisation**

<b>Total 3. Rental property expenses</b>		<b>\$ 134,000.00</b>
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<b>Total Property Related Expenses</b>	<b>-\$ 153,200.00</b>	
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<b>Net Property Related Profit</b>	<b>\$ 84,800.00</b>	
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<b>Overall Total (Shortfall)</b>	<b>-\$ 32,004.00</b>	
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## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC REPORT 2024

I expect most eyes just gloss over the weekly Choir notice in the Pew sheet inviting people to think about joining the Choir. I don't, I look to see that it is there, and keep thinking if I had a way with words, maybe if I changed it each week, it may have more impact. So I report to you all that there has been no change, since last year, except that, following the death of her mother Barbara and forthcoming future changes, Andrea Sherko has taken leave. We are always delighted to have her back on some occasions.

That leads me to noting my sincerest appreciation and thanks at the week on week faithful attendance of Choristers for rehearsals and liturgies. Let alone their support and encouragement for other activities apart from the 10am Sunday. A volunteer Choir is a rarity in the Anglican Parish scene these days. Our Choir provides the possibility for people of various, and no choral experience, to participate in this part of the worship in our Parish. Whilst numbers, voice part and skill can restrict the music selected for each liturgy, the Choir continue to aim high, with care and pride to add their finest to the liturgy. We don't always succeed, and that needs to land at the feet of the Director.

I truly hope we might be able to encourage some younger voices to contemplate participating in the music ministry of the Parish.

We began the Liturgical year with a liturgy of Advent Carols and Readings. This allowed for a sunset picnic of Christmas Carols, barbeque (thanks Sam) on the lawn which the Vicar ably MC'd.

During Lent we added three para liturgies to the Season, one with Helen Duggan on flute accompanied by myself with poetry readings and music of women. The Choir provided the music from the RSCM liturgy "Last words of Love", and we had the simpler RSCM Tenebrae. Whilst attendance numbers were very modest in all cases, those that were expressed appreciation of these opportunities to reflect on Lent in another way.

It is appropriate that I note with thanks that Andrew Gador White took on the role of Cantoring the Exultet at the Easter Vigil. We have been so fortunate over the years to have someone in the Parish able to proclaim this wonderful text, so much a part of that Liturgy. I also note the joy of playing with Libby and Michael, something I hope will continue to grow in the future.

The opportunity to host a visiting group of young women singers from Denmark on their way home from the World Choir Games arose. Little did we realise at first what a fabulous experience we were to enjoy. That has been followed by a very fine performance of part of the Messiah led by the voices of the regionally notable group 'Vox' accompanied by choristers and orchestra directed by Michael Fulcher. I am delighted to note they will be presenting the Nativity segment at St Marys on the afternoon of the 8th December. In September we hosted Astra Choir back at St Marys after some 30 odd years, and we are hopeful of seeing them again in the not too distant future. Other performances are already in negotiation so please keep an eye out for the dates. In all instances, I can report how delighted the performers were with the space and wonderful acoustic we are privileged to

enjoy, and I would add there is a warm and welcoming feel to our building. For me that is the accumulated sense of prayer and worship over the ages that is just 'there'. The building itself and its appearance can be a wonderful witness to the presence of God.

There were other occasions that involved us all, most notably within this past year the launch of Marions' book, the final farewell of two treasured members of the Parish of Pat Storey and John Rickard where the Choir sang, as well as to be present for Barbara Sherko where almost all choristers were able to attend.

So, in conclusion, far from being in static holding pattern it seems that music in St Marys has been growing this year in a broader scope, much encouraged and supported by the Wardens to whom I note my sincere thanks.

My 2024 quote that reflects so much of St Mary's for me and the extraordinary talent we have in our midst comes from the Australian poet James McAuley, found at TIS 166:

*'The human eye, the shaping hand, the mind  
with number and with symbol and design,  
in work and play and artistry and prayer,  
praise and reflect the wisdom of Christ.'*

***Beverley Phillips***

## CLIMATE ACTION GROUP REPORT 2024

In 2024, St Mary's CAG welcomed two new members, Darwin Guachi and Valeria. Continuing members comprise Helen McCallum, Michael Noble, Marion Poynter, Tim Pilbrow and Audrey Statham. We also farewelled Darwin and Valeria; Valeria moved to another part of Melbourne and Darwin relocated to Adelaide for his environmental studies – they will be missed and we thank Darwin and Valeria for their contribution. We are always looking for new members of CAG, which meets every 5 weeks usually on Mondays at 7:00PM, all are welcome!

The Committee has met up regularly on Zoom since the last parish Annual Meeting (18 Dec 2023, and in 2024 on 12 Feb, 18 March, 22 April, 27 May, 8 July, 19 August, 7 October). CAG's main event for 2024 was the 'Climate Fresk' held on Sat 21st September during this year's Season of Creation at St Paul's Cathedral. This was co-facilitated by CAG member, Tim Pilbrow, and attended by many St Mary's parishioners. A reflection by Tim is included at the end of this report (you can read Andrea O'Donoghue's reflection on taking part in Climate Fresk in the Advent edition of AVE). Another Climate Fresk will be run at St Mary's North Melbourne on Mon 2 Dec, 6pm, please save the date!

### CAG actions

- Two 'Interparish and interfaith Climate Care' meetings held on Zoom on Tues 30th April and Fri 9th August. Organized by Audrey and members of environment sub-committee on diocesan Social Responsibilities Committee. Attended by members of St Mary's CAG and parishioners from several parishes and interfaith groups around the diocese.
- In the Pentecost edition of Ave, Helen and Audrey wrote a report on the 30th April meeting of Interparish Climate Care group.
- Marion published an article about CAG's activities in North & West Melbourne News, Winter/June 2024.
- Season of Creation:
  - Multifaith service Tues 17th September, Paul's Cathedral, 10:00AM (Australian Religious Response to Climate Change). During the service led by Dean Andreas Loewe, Islamic, Jewish and Christian faith leaders spoke together about the need to truly care for our planet and all that has been given to us. Michael Noble, David Keuneman and Audrey Statham attended. The St Mary's climate banner was displayed on the bell tower during the Season of Creation.
  - Climate Fresk, St Paul's Cathedral, Sat 21st September, 9:00AM.
  - Sun 22nd September, week 4 service of Season of Creation Audrey co-presented with Reverend Prashant Bhonsle at St. Peter's Church Craigieburn (Part of Hume Anglican Parish). Reverend Prashant preached on reflection on Acting wisely and Audrey spoke about Practical implementation in preserving the Creation in the context of parish and home.

## Future events

- Open Garden at Marion & John Poynter's place, Sat 2 Nov, 10-2pm. Please get in touch with Marion if you would like to contribute.
- Climate Fresk at St Mary's, Mon 2 Dec, 6pm.
- Plans for a CAG collaboration in 2025 with Delta Studies and Dr Geoff Jenkins are underway. Watch this space!
- An activity on methane generation in landfill from organic matter might be run as a joint community event.

## Climate Fresk – an insider's perspective by Tim Pilbrow

I saw an intriguing social media post in late 2023 about a climate education workshop built around a collaborative card game based on the latest climate science from the IPCC\*. It was described as a viral phenomenon. I was intrigued. It seemed to tick a lot of the right boxes for me: an action-oriented, collaborative learning exercise with a complex systems focus, and grounded in validated science. I had been looking for ways to harness my skills in social and behavioural change to the challenges of the climate crisis. But was this just another gimmick or was it a serious climate education tool? I was puzzled by the name, too: Climate Fresk? What did that mean? Okay, so the workshop was designed by an engineer from France, where 'Fresque' means 'fresco'; and the end point of the card game is a complex fresco of inter-weaving cause-effect relations and feedback loops. (I still find the English version of the name a bit jarring). I also read some critical reviews of the workshop, which left me in two minds about it. Still, I saw there was a workshop scheduled soon in Melbourne, and managed to convince Audrey to sign up, too. We both found it a powerful collaborative learning experience. So much so that I signed up to become a workshop facilitator, enthused that I could find use for it in my work and also to engage our parish community and the wider local community in finding common ground for collaborating on climate action.

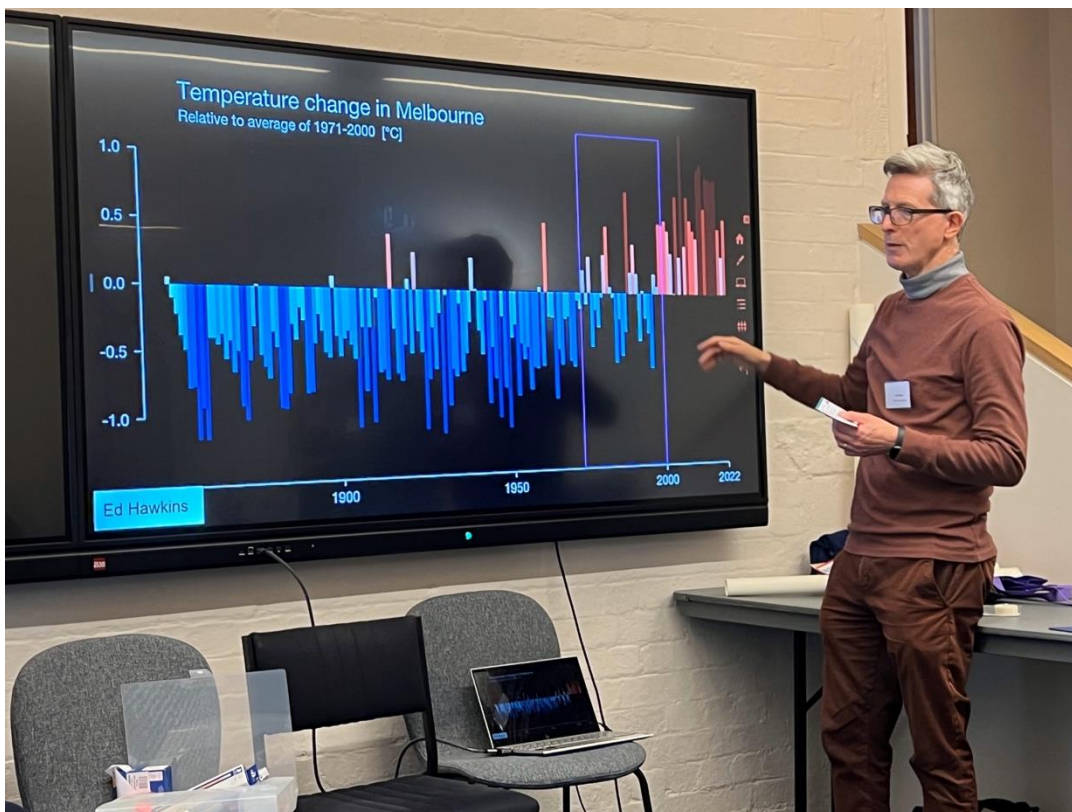
\*The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

What inspires me about Climate Fresk is that it caters to complete novices as well as people with prior knowledge of climate science. Through working collaboratively to build understanding together, participants move beyond feeling overwhelmed and paralysed by the complexity and enormity of our current climate challenges. Together we can do more!

The St Mary's Climate Action Group together with the Social Responsibilities Committee of the Melbourne Anglican Diocese organised a highly successful Climate Fresk workshop at St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 21 September 2024. We had three facilitators (myself, and fellow Freskers Erica Rabelo and Bruce MacDonald) and eighteen participants, mostly from St Mary's.

We'll be running another Climate Fresk workshop on Monday 2 December, 6:00PM at St Mary's. I encourage you to join us. In just three hours, this workshop will teach you the fundamental science behind climate change and empower you to take action.





*Audrey Statham*

## ST MARY'S KIDS REPORT 2024 & SAFE MINISTRY REPORT 2024

### Kids Report 2024

This year we have continued to provide children's ministry during the 10am Sunday morning service. Our Sunday School program continues to follow a similar structure as in previous years 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.

This year we attempted to introduce a toddler program to cater for our growing number of 5 years olds. The aim for this is to be a hands-on sensory experience, offered on select Sundays during the school term. We will aim to continue this into the 2025 school year and hope to grow the attendance as well.

Attendance this year continues to reflect 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 (5-12years), however there has been an increase of families in the pews who choose to keep their children in the church during the 10am service.

In 2024 Sunday School was run one the last and first Sunday's of the month to allow for more consistent attendance and to reduce the number of volunteers required. Our goal for 2025 would be to return to offering Sunday School every Sunday during the school terms, however this needs to be realistic for both families and volunteers.

A big thank you to Rosie Moloney for stepping up whilst I've been on "maternity leave". If you would like to join our small but mighty Sunday School team for next year, please get in touch and we can have a chat!

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

### Safe Ministry Report 2024

This year we have worked hard to ensure that our parish is up to date with the Diocesan requirements for Safe ministry. Safe Ministry training assists all church workers, both employed and voluntary, to understand their pastoral and organisational responsibilities as

well as legal obligations. Safe Ministry is about ensuring that all people feel safe and welcome in our community. It is as way to reduce instances of ministry misconduct, abuse and duty of care and/or safety failures.

This is a lengthy and continuous process. We ran in person training sessions in the first half of 2024 to ensure that all members of the Choir, Serving Team and Elected Representatives were up to date with their obligations. Thank you to those who attended these sessions. As this is a continuous process we are constantly updating our register and we appreciate the congregation's willingness to complete the necessary administrative when required.

***Harriet Jenkins***

## HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE REPORT 2024

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, Ivana Csar, Susan Gribben, and our vicar, Father Jan Joustra.

We began the liturgical year with our usual Christmas Stall on the first Sunday in Advent. Thanks to everyone who made a wonderful array of goodies and especially to Marion for organising, assisting and encouraging us all. It raised \$1500.

Late on a lovely afternoon on Saturday 16 December we supported Beverley, Sam and friends with a BBQ accompanying Christmas Carols on the Lawn, which was a very happy and well attended occasion.

We decided not to celebrate Shrove Tuesday on the actual day with a picnic and pancakes, but did have pancakes on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday and tried unsuccessfully to persuade some of the children to compete in a pancake race.

We had our usual feast following the Easter Vigil with many contributing food making it a very festive celebration.

On Saturday 4 May Father Jan held a garage sale and we organised a produce stall and served morning teas. Many parishioners assisted and it was a happy and successful occasion, raising \$2,500.

As has become our custom, we celebrated our Patronal Festival on 18 August with a Celebratory Brunch following the Eucharist with food contributed by many parishioners. We also provided a meal for the Danish Choir who entertained us so marvellously on 23 July.

As I write we are preparing to farewell Father Jan on Sunday 13 October. This Committee will miss him greatly. He has supported our fundraising and hospitality activities in many ways, not least with regular delicious offerings for morning tea.

We have been pleased and encouraged that many have responded to calls for help with morning tea and special celebrations. We believe strongly that the hospitality we provide at St Mary's is an important contribution to the welcome and support the parish gives to those who attend.

We will soon be planning our program for the coming year and would like to hear from parishioners their views as to what we should keep doing and any new ideas for social and fundraising activities for the Parish, and for outreach to the community.

*Susan Gribben*



## SYNOD REPORT 2024

### **Synod Report 2024 – second session of the 54th Synod**

Synod was held on 9, 11 and 12 October 2024 at St Paul's Cathedral and on line. Audrey Statham, Susan Brennan and Father Jan attended on behalf of St Marys.

It was significant as the final Synod meeting presided over by our Archbishop for the last 17 years, the Most Revd Dr Philip Freier. The opening service at the Cathedral was enhanced by an insightful sermon by Rev Elizabeth Murray on questioning and humility and beautiful choral contributions from the Cathedral choir. The President's final charge to the Synod focused on the challenges and opportunities of his time in office, delivered with characteristic good humour, grace and purpose.

A deficit budget was presented again to the Synod, highlighting the ongoing sustainability challenges of resourcing the core work of the Diocese, responding to the multiple aspirations for new initiatives, meeting redress payments and growing the church's presence.

Two very important conversations were held: about the process, criteria and expectations of the Synod for the appointment of a new Archbishop (led by the Diocesan Board of Nominators); and about the early work of the Diocesan Sustainability Strategy working group (SSWG). The Sustainability Strategy working group is proposing to bring an ambitious, long-term strategy to Synod 2025 to address immediate concerns about sustainability, having regard to the following:

- in the last few decades the Diocese has not invested in new properties to support new ministry locations and, as a result, many populous locations have little or no Anglican presence;
- the Diocese (including the parishes) holds significant property assets, many of which have not been adequately maintained or no longer meet the ministry needs of the Diocese,
- Diocesan operational and historical obligations, such as for redress payments, are being met partially through the sale of property and that is ultimately unsustainable, and
- the Diocese has not consistently assessed the viability of existing parishes and how their properties are best used to support ongoing ministry

A notable first for Melbourne Synod was the introduction of small group discussion (around 30-45 mins) as part of Synod proceedings following the presentations by the SSWG and the Board of Nominators. This provided a welcome opportunity for Synod members to speak with other Anglicans from across the breadth and depth of the Diocese about matters affecting the life and future of the church, with notes taken by groups that were relayed back

to the Diocesan leadership via QR code. We hope this signals the beginning of a sustained and intentional effort to create a more collaborative and dialogical culture at Synod and to establish ways for clergy and lay representatives and the congregations they represent to communicate from the grassroots with the Diocesan centre. This is vital at this critical juncture for the growth – not just institutional survival – of our church in this place.

Amongst the resolutions passed at Synod were:

- Unanimous support for a resolution on reconciliation, in which the Synod: gave thanks for the courage, resilience and ministry of First Peoples within the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne and Anglican Province of Victoria and the gifts they bring to all Anglicans; urged all parts of our Diocese—leaders, parishes, colleges, agencies and schools—to walk with First Peoples ‘on the costly pilgrimage of truth-telling, repentance, reparation and justice’ (SPL Aspiration 13-14) including by engaging with the forthcoming recommendations of the Yoorrook Justice Commission in 2025, and encouraged Provincial and Diocesan leadership to work with First Peoples representatives to progress self-determination for First Nations People in our Province through our support of treaty-making, leading to ‘the signing of a makarrata or covenant that inaugurates a more just settlement and relationship between us’
- Overwhelming commitment to participate in Hope 25 in 2025
- Strong support for Audrey’s motion on people seeking asylum;
- Endorsement of the release of the Disability Access Plan for parishes and the Diocese prepared in partnership with Brotherhood of St Laurence,
- Commitment to representative equality within leadership and governance at all levels (Bishops, clergy, laity) with input targets of 50% women nominated for election and 40% elected at Synod; and for advice on systems, processes and reporting to increase the proportion of clergy from diverse backgrounds (including female clergy).

Multiple ovations accompanied the motion of grateful thanks for the leadership, service and ministry of the Archbishop and for the contribution of Joy Freier to the Diocese and the Anglican Church of Australia.

A motion seeking review of a component of the Code of Conduct for Child Safety and Wellbeing which prohibits conduct to change or suppress a child’s gender identity or sexual orientation was removed by the Archbishop from the agenda, following the unwillingness of the mover to amend the motion and receipt of legal advice.

Parishioners may be interested in the following information, provided in response to a request for data about church attendance:

<b>Parish Year Ending</b>	<b>Total Sunday Attendance Reported</b>	<b>Median Reported Sunday Attendance</b>	<b>Total Parishes</b>	<b>Total % Parishes Reporting</b>
2003	23149	83	213	88%
2013	12914	36	211	53%
2018	17046	35	219	69%
2023	15765	48	209	95%

Other motions and bills were passed, which aren't presented in this report due to space constraints. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to one or both of us at morning-tea!

Once again Audrey showed tremendous leadership, first in hosting the Signal chat function during Synod and second for in organising Victorian Anglicans Together, which hosted a pre-Synod breakfast at St Peter's Eastern Hill to learn more about the work of Anglicare and the Brotherhood of St Laurence.

*Susan Brennan and Audrey Statham*

## CONTACT ST MARYS

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Director of Music: Beverley Phillips [bphillips@melbourneanglican.org.au](mailto:bphillips@melbourneanglican.org.au)

Parish Administrator: Laura Tanata [office@stmarys.org.au](mailto:office@stmarys.org.au)

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 9.30 am to 5.30 pm

### KOOYOORA

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS  
DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

The Anglican Diocese in conjunction with St Mary's Anglican Church North Melbourne does not tolerate abuse, harassment or other misconduct within our communities. If any person has concerns about behaviour of a church worker, past or present. The Diocese of Melbourne is committed to doing all that is possible to ensure that abuse does not occur. All complaints of abuse are taken very seriously, and we do all we can to lessen harm. We offer respect, pastoral care and ongoing long-term support to anyone who makes a complaint. St Mary's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety is on our noticeboard and can be downloaded from our website [www.stmarys.org.au](http://www.stmarys.org.au).

**PLEASE REPORT ABUSE CALL 1800 135 246**