

ST MARTIN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
HAWKSBURN

27 Cromwell Road
SOUTH YARRA
VICTORIA 3141

ANNUAL REPORTS 2015



PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD IN THE PARISH CRYPT

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2015

2015

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

29 NOVEMBER 2015

ST MARTIN'S HAWKSBURN
CHURCH CRYPT

PARISH PRAYER:

*Generous God,
We open ourselves to the abundance
of your Grace as we accept your divine will for us.
Look mercifully on this church of St. Martin's.
We want to uphold the values and mirror
the attitudes of your Son,
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
We want to speak clearly to the world
of love and compassion,
rather than rules and judgment.
We want to reach out and be relevant
to a changing society.
We want to practise equality and accept all.
We ask for the vision, the courage,
and the way to sustain such a church.
Bless us as we put our complete faith and trust in you.
We humbly offer you our hearts, our minds,
and the fruits of all our labours.
God of Grace; hear our prayer.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MINUTES OF THE 2014 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING	5
VICAR'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING	10
CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT	21
TREASURER'S REPORT	23
CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY COORDINATOR'S REPORT	34
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT	35
ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER SUB-COMMITTEE	35
ART AND ARUNDEL PRINTS	37
GROUNDS REPORT	37
CURSILLO AT ST MARTIN'S	37
MUSIC	38
SACRISTY REPORT	38
PASTORAL CARE	38
JULIAN MEETINGS	39
WIDER MISSION	40
EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF PROGRAM	40
OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2014-2015	41

AGENDA

The business of the **annual meeting** is to include after prayers—

- (a) The minutes of the previous annual meeting and of any subsequent statutory parish meeting;
- (b) The reception of the parish electoral roll;
- (c) The 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;
- (d) An annual report on the proceedings of the parish council and 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;
- (e) A report by the churchwardens on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the worship centre and the vicarage and other buildings of the parish;
- (f) The audited or independently examined accounts and financial statements of the parish and any accompanying papers required by the Act;
- (g) The budget approved by the parish council for the year in which the meeting is held;
- (h) Reports by other parish groups;
- (i) The election of churchwardens and members of the parish council;
- (j) The election of an auditor or independent examiner;
- (k) The election of lay representatives to the parish incumbency committee;
- (l) Any other matters of parochial or general church interest.

MINUTES OF THE 2014 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

23 November 2014

The Annual Parish Meeting of St Martin's Anglican Church Hawksburn was held at midday on Sunday 23 November 2014 in the parish crypt. The meeting was opened with prayer led by the Rev Sam Goodes.

1. Attendance

Present

Sister Audrey CSC	Barbara Hansen	Jack Rogers
Ann Baker	Diane Holdsworth	Meredith Rogers
John Baker	Peggy Huggett	Suzanne Peart
Meg Basset	Christian Lawless	Alison Salisbury
Kay Beaumont	June Jovic	Rosemary Shea
Jenny Blencowe	Julie Jones	Allen Soule
Margaret Bride	Ruth Mercer	Aldyth Tyler
Graham Bride	Jan Middleditch	Ewen Tyler
Jacqueline Boyce	Ann Miller	Rhyl Wade
Malcolm Boyce	Edward Miller	Rodney Wetherell
Ann Cutts	Doug Reid	Wu Lan
Clem Gruen	Gwen Rogers	

In Attendance

Rev Sam Goodes (Chair)
Margaret Hansford (Minutes)

Apologies

Kay Beaumont (after 12.30)	Kate Goodes	Martin Spencer-Hogbin
Sylvia Biggar	Liz Kelly	Lynne Sherwood
John Blair	Alex Legosi	Tim Sherwood
David Dickens	Olga Pole	Billie Swan
Merridy Gee	Laurie Pole	David Swan

2. Appointment of Minute Taker

It was agreed that Margaret Hansford, a/Office Manager, would take the minutes of the meeting.

3. Minutes of the 2013 Annual Parish Meeting of St Martin's Anglican Church Hawksburn

The minutes of the 2013 Annual Parish Meeting had been circulated with the Annual Reports and were tabled.

It was moved:

That the minutes of the 2013 Annual Parish Meeting be accepted.

Moved: Sam Goodes

Seconded: Clem Gruen

CARRIED

4. List of Lay Assistants at Holy Communion

The list of nominated lay assistants at St Martin's was tabled. The following parishioners were approved by a meeting of the Parish Council on 23 November 2013 for nomination for authorisation to minister as Lay Assistants at Holy Communion from 1 January 2015, such authorisation being in place for 12 months: Ann

Baker, Malcolm Boyce, Ann Cutts, Jackie Gleeson, Jenny Jordan, Janet Lea-West, Laurie Pole, Olga Pole, Meredith Rogers, Allen Soule, Ewen Tyler, Rodney Wetherell.

The nominations will be passed to the Bishop for authorisation. The Vicar invited anyone else interested in assisting at Communion to approach him.

5. Parish Electoral Roll

The electoral roll dated 5 November 2014 of St Martin's Anglican Church Hawksburn had been on display in the church for the previous 2 weeks. The Vicar tabled the roll and noted that the roll currently consists of 63 people. The reduction was in part due to the requirements under the new Parish Governance Act.

6. Annual Report of the Vicar

The Rev Sam Goodes presented his report.

The annual report by the Vicar had been circulated before the meeting and was tabled.

The Vicar's report included 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 and acts of communion.

Sam commented on the differences for St Martin's between now and the time of the meeting 12 months' ago. The financial situation is much more positive, there is an increased commitment to outreach, especially with playgroup and Messy church and ecumenical activities such as Food for Friends. The website is functional, attractive and informative. However, he noted that while we are a busy and committed faith community, we are all older, and there are no new people joining the Sunday morning worshipping community.

Sam said he was very pleased to accept the invitation to become incumbent priest of this parish during the past 12 months. The liturgical highlights of the year for him had been the Good Friday service, the ecumenical service at St Martin's and St Martin's day. He was disappointed in the attendance at Easter and in particular at the Maundy Thursday service.

A spirit of community had been shared through social events and the major "Christmas in July" fundraiser. Connections with the world external to St Martin's had been maintained in a number of ways as outlined in his written report.

Sam discussed the main changes to the Parish Governance Act. These matters relate to: establishing a parish and defining its boundaries, maintaining the electoral roll, including changes to eligibility, responsibilities in parish governance, parish cooperation, and special circumstances including a parish to be "under consideration". In particular for St Martin's it means that the electoral roll has been reduced due to more stringent eligibility requirements regarding attendance at services.

It was moved:

That this Annual Parish Meeting ratifies the modified parish rules, previously approved by Parish Council, as part of the Parish Governance Act, 2013.

Moved: Sam Goodes

Seconded: Ann Baker

CARRIED

Sam notified the meeting that the Parish Council had discussed opportunities for future partnerships and cooperation with Christ Church South Yarra, and a day had been set aside in February for the Parish Councils of the 2 churches to explore opportunities.

It was moved:

That this Annual Parish Meeting endorses the Parish Council elected by this meeting to begin preliminary discussions with the Parish Council of Christ Church South Yarra, with a view to possible future partnerships in ministry and resources.

Moved: Sam Goodes
Seconded: Ann Cutts
CARRIED

7. Churchwardens' Report

The Churchwardens' report was presented by Ann Baker, the Vicar's Warden. The report had been circulated before the meeting and was tabled. It included comments on:

1. pastoral care, evangelism, social and ecumenical programmes of the parish and on future plans for the parish – Outreach including Playgroup, Messy Church, Emergency Food Relief and Christmas Toy Give Away, Music, Parish Office, Website, Newslink, Special Events

and

2. the fabric, goods and ornaments of the worship centre and the vicarage and other buildings of the parish – the Church, the Vicarage and the parish hall leased by Polyglot.

Ann made the following comments.

The Church returned an operating profit of \$7,000 due to expenditure restraints and fundraising efforts. Messy Church was introduced and it is hoped that this will grow and lead to a new congregation at St Martin's.

A highlight of the year was when Sam Goodes accepted the Archbishop's invitation to become the incumbent of St Martin's.

Ann thanked the retiring members of the Executive, Ann Cutts and Meredith Rogers.

Ann commented that she believes that St Martin's is facing tough times with significant changes in the way people view Churches as many people do not see them as meeting their spiritual needs, along with the proliferation of activities on Sundays. The experience of belonging in society has changed and Australia is a multi-faith society. Ann commented that it is important to foster our relationship with Christ Church South Yarra and be proactive in our future choices.

It was moved:

That the Churchwarden's report be received.

Moved: Ann Baker
Seconded: Clem Gruen
CARRIED

8. Treasurer's Report

Meredith Rogers presented the Treasurer's Report.

The 2013 – 2014 Profit and Loss statement, balance sheet, 2015 budget, and provisional calculation of parish assessment had been circulated before the meeting. The audited financial accounts for 2014 were tabled.

Meredith emphasised 3 main points from her report to the meeting.

- The operating surplus of \$8,000 was largely due to fundraising, bequests and an anonymous donations;
- The working capital has increased by \$63,000, the first time there has been an increase in this figure for the 5 years she has been treasurer;
- The first draft of the 2015 budget indicates an operating loss of \$36,000, due mainly to static income and rising costs. The new Parish Council will consider the budget and it is anticipated that they will revise the budget in the new year.

Meredith commented that the bookkeeping system to date had presented challenges and that Parish Council had agreed that the bookkeeping service that the Diocese now offers should be explored with a view to using this service in future.

Messy Church in 2014 had been funded by donations. Meredith said that she believed that attendees at Messy Church should be encouraged to contribute to the cost and effort of running the service, just as attendees at the Sunday morning services support the Parish financially and in a host of volunteer roles. The dwindling number of parishioners who contribute both financially and as volunteers may not be able to sustain the current approach to Messy Church. Further, the present St Martin's congregation should not run the risk of creating a disenfranchised Messy Church congregation who do not share the sense of community and have the opportunity to contribute, which characterises current parishioners.

Meredith commented on the increased understanding of and engagement with the financial statements by the Parish Council and parishioners over recent years. Finally she thanked the auditor Edward Miller for his patience and diligence in auditing the accounts.

It was moved:

That the 2014 financial statements and audited accounts be accepted.

Moved: Meredith Rogers

Seconded: Ewen Tyler

CARRIED

9. Role of the Treasurer

The Vicar spoke to the role of the treasurer and said that it is a complex and detailed role, and recommended that there be a handover period to allow a new Treasurer to learn and understand the role. Further, the Executive believes that a change to the book-keeping processes are important to the ongoing financial management of the parish. For these reasons, it was suggested interim arrangements would be that Meredith Rogers to remain as a signatory to the parish accounts until 31st January, 2015, and that Meredith and the newly appointed Treasurer work with the Diocese to implement the change-over to the Diocesan Book-keeping services.

It was moved:

That this Parish meeting approves the suggested interim arrangements for financial management of the parish from Sunday 23rd November, 2014 until Saturday 31st January, 2015.

Moved: Sam Goodes

Seconded: Ewen Tyler

CARRIED

10. Other Reports

Reports on other activities of the Parish had been included in the Annual Reports which had been circulated before the meeting. These were: Children and Family Ministry Coordinator's Report, Children's Ministry Report, Cultural Events, Art and Arundel Prints, Grounds Report, Cursillo at St Martin's, Music, Sacristy Report, Pastoral Care Committee Report, Julian Meetings, Wider Mission and the Emergency Food Relief Program.

The energy and hard work of the Children and Family Ministry Coordinator on the Playgroups and Messy Church was complimented. Sam commented that Rachel Virsu's dedication goes beyond these activities and that she contributes in many ways to the life of the Church. The meeting asked that the Vicar pass on their heartfelt thanks and congratulations to Rachel.

Ann Miller pointed out the difference between the Emergency Food Relief program that is run by St Martin's and the Food for Friends ecumenical program that is run during the Christmas period.

11. The Election of Churchwardens and Members of the Parish Council

The Parish Council consists of the vicar, 3 churchwardens; and 6 other persons, one-third nominated by the vicar and two-thirds elected by the parishioners.

a) Churchwardens.

Two nominations were received for 2 positions. Clem Gruen and Liz Kelly were elected unopposed.

b) Vicar's Warden

The Vicar nominated Ann Baker as Vicar's warden.

c) Parish Council

Five nominations were received for 6 positions. Meg Basset, Ewen Tyler, Barbara Hansen, Suzanne Peart and Tim Sherwood were elected unopposed.

The Vicar nominated Christian Lawless as a member of Parish Council and as Treasurer.

12. The Election of Auditor

It was moved:

That Edward Miller be appointed as Auditor for 2015.

Moved: Rhyll Wade

Seconded: Meredith Rogers

CARRIED

13. The Election of Lay Representatives to the Incumbency Committee

One nomination had been received for the Incumbency Committee. Ewen Tyler was elected unopposed.

14. Any other Matters

a) Spring into Gardening

The Coordinator of Spring into Gardening, Lynne Sherwood, had asked for someone to assist next year as Co-coordinator, as she will be away for part of the period preceding the event.

b) Study and deepening of Faith

Ewen Tyler suggested that parishioners may like to consider deepening their faith through shared study and discussion activities. Sam commented that one way to do this would be to participate in the Education for Ministry program being run by Christ Church South Yarra.

c) Donations and Bequests

Rodney Wetherell noted with thanks the recent donations and bequests and suggested that parishioners consider these forms of giving.

The meeting closed at 1.15pm.

VICAR'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Introduction

It is hard to believe that this is the fifth report I have prepared for the Annual Parish Meeting. The saying that "time flies when you're having fun" certainly rings true to me! The vibrancy and multi-faceted nature of parish ministry continues to inspire me, and my prayer is that I might continue to serve this parish faithfully for some years to come, and to be a blessing to the parish community.

2015 has been, overall, a positive one for the parish. There are many things to which I could point that are positive. I will expand on these in the body of my report, but they include the positive financial position of the parish, the ongoing commitment to outreach, the development of the Messy Church congregation, and the deepening of the relationship between St. Martin's and Christ Church, South Yarra (CCSY).

Of course, the challenges remain large. Parishes such as ours – liberal, catholic, and family-sized – are (with some key exceptions) in decline throughout the Diocese. Our consistent failure to reach and minister to those in the 18-35yo demographic is a grave concern, and must surely impact on our ability in the future to function as we have in the past.

As has been my practice, I will frame my annual report around the 8 criteria which make up my Performance Development Agreement, followed by a general reflection on the parish and our priorities for the coming year(s).

Performance Development Agreement

Strategic Direction and Leadership

The parish has worked diligently to ensure its compliance with the Parish Governance Act, passed at Synod last year. Parish Council have ensured that we address the legislative changes, and the Wardens and Treasurer have made changes to the way in which they function, to ensure we are complying with the new requirements. Further changes to the Governance Act were considered and passed at this year's October Synod.

The year began very productively, with an initial Parish Council Planning Day between St. Martin's and CCSY Parish Councils. This time together set the scene for the establishment of the *Achieving More Together* (AMT) Committee, the outcomes of which are found elsewhere in the report (**see page 37-38**). Importantly, the relationship and goodwill which has existed for some years now at a clergy level is now extended to the Parish Council level and, I hope, will be disseminated further over the coming years.

The Regional Ministry Conference was held in June this year. It included input from the Keynote speaker, Ken Morgan, as well as the Archbishop and Registrar, as they sought further input and feedback around the theme of *Mission Shaped Diocese*. Although little of the information given was new, I found the conference to be a good opportunity for networking, including discussions with other Vicars who are involved in discussions of partnership and cooperation with neighbouring parishes.

Our Joint Mission Dinner, held with CCSY, was again a great opportunity for fellowship and conversation. Our guest for the night was the Rev. Helen Dwyer, who shared her experiences of growing up as an indigenous person, originally unaware of her heritage. The theme of reconciliation was key to the evening, and I hope will be an impetus to both our parishes as we embark on a shared journey towards recognition of the indigenous peoples of our community, and their rich heritage.

The leadership team within the parish has worked hard this year. Wardens have met at least monthly, and Parish Council members have always come to meetings prepared and willing to enter into a lively spirit of debate around the items on the agenda. Ann Baker and Clem Gruen have been Wardens in the parish since my arrival (and Clem for many years prior to that). I thank them for all their help and support of the parish and of me, and wish them well as they enjoy a sabbatical from their positions of responsibility in 2016. Liz Kelly commenced as Warden at last year's Annual Parish Meeting, and I have appreciated her fresh insights and experience, and her calm nature.

Each of the Parish Council members have contributed in different ways to the life of the parish. Whether it is taking on a particular ABM project to champion; whether it is providing a different and fresh voice to a debate; whether it is a healthy dose of reality when we get ahead of ourselves; Meg, Barbara, Christian, Suzanne, Tim, and Ewen have all been valuable to the leadership team of the parish. I thank them for their contribution, and look forward to working together again in the future.

I have enjoyed working with Rachel, as the *Children and Family Ministry Coordinator*. I have appreciated her energy, creativity, and care that is in evidence as she looks after the playgroup families, and the Messy Church congregation.

Ministry

My thanks, as ever, go to all parishioners who assist in so many ways toward the worshipping life of the parish. You may or may not be aware that the word *liturgy*, that worship in which we engage on an almost daily basis in this parish, comes from the Greek word for “the work of the people”. Although I would want to say that I hope the act of worship itself is not too much *hard* work, it is reliant on the participation of you, the congregation, in order to make it meaningful. I would hope that with this in mind, you might reflect on the ways in which the liturgy you are attending (be it a Sunday morning or mid-week Eucharist, or a service of Morning Prayer) reaches you and changes you, and how you are participating in it.

Quiet Days and times of reflection seem to be more and more popular, perhaps reflective of the hectic pace at which many of us lead our lives, and the need within each one of us to be fed and nourished, and find times of solace. Our Lenten Quiet Day this year was very well supported, including a number of attendees from CCSY. It is my desire that we open up more of these occasions for others to attend.

In line with this, a new format of parish retreat was provided this year. Rather than a residential retreat over 3 days, which has been restrictive for many people, a non-residential retreat over 2 days was offered. The feedback from those who attended was very encouraging, and it was positive again to note the presence of people (both from our parish, as well as CCSY and St. Oswald’s, Glen Iris) who were able to experience this time of retreat.

It has also been a pleasure to welcome Anne David to our parish, as she has commenced a weekly meditation session each Saturday morning, at 8.50am. A small, but committed group of parishioners has met faithfully, meditating in the Christian tradition, and have appreciated this opportunity. Any who are interested in exploring this practice should speak with me or Ann Baker for further information.

My ongoing thanks go to Rev. Graham Bride who has presided at the 8am service on the 2nd Sunday of each month this year, and who also acted as Locum during some of my periods of annual leave. I also thank Jenny Macpherson for her ongoing dedication to the parish as our organist. We continue to incorporate a sung Mass Setting and psalm during most 10am services on the 2nd - 4th Sundays of the month, and always try and find the balance between the older, more well-known hymns, and the number of newer, more contemporary ones in the hymn book.

Liturgically, the highlights of the year for me were the spirit of joy that was felt at the Ecumenical worship for All Saints’ Day, and the engagement of the local community on St. Francis’ Day. As you will see from the statistics in the following pages, our attendance is generally stable, although the increase in Messy Church congregation hides a slight down-turn in Sunday morning attendance. Similarly, the success of the Children’s Christmas service led to an increase in overall worshippers for Christmas, although those at the traditional services were similar to the last couple of years.

Pastoral Care

There has been a continuation this year of the relationship between the parish and the two Aged Care facilities, Estia Health, Prahran (formerly Armitage Manor), and Chomley House, that we visit regularly. Both of these facilities have undergone changes in management over the past 12 months, and there has been a sense of unease and anxiety amongst both residents and staff. Our regular, comforting presence in these facilities has been particularly important in the light of these changes. My thanks go to Jacqueline Boyce and John & Ann Baker, who have accompanied me on my visits for the regular Eucharistic services I perform at

these facilities. These are lovely occasions, and the staff comment often on how much the residents look forward to our presence there. The occasion of singing Christmas Carols in both of these facilities is a highlight of the year for them, and I thank those parishioners who were involved in this event last year.

This has been a year of some significant illness and injury amongst the worshipping community of St. Martin's. Although most are now back to full health (or at least well on the way!), it reinforced to me the fragile nature of health and well-being, and reminded me of how important it is for the whole community to be involved in the care of one another. For example, with those who were hospitalized for extended periods of time, it was simply not feasible or possible for me to be visiting regularly. I was heartened, then, to see how friends within the parish ensured that these people were well cared for at this time.

This year has seen the re-establishment of Gertie's Kitchen. The history behind this gathering is that after World War 2, there were a number of women who lived alone in the Armadale area. One of the parishioners (who was not named Gertie) of Holy Advent, Armadale, began a regular lunch for these women, helping them to establish community and fellowship together. This monthly lunch group, generally involving the older members of the community, has met (on and off) since then – beginning in the early 1950's! None of the original group are still around, but many of the former Holy Advent parishioners who now worship at St. Martin's have fond memories of the gathering, and sought to re-establish the tradition. I am grateful to Liz Kelly and Meg Basset who have done all of the organisation of this, and it has been a pleasure to welcome everybody and say Grace each month as this iteration of Gertie's Kitchen was begun at St. Martin's. A simple lunch is provided, and people have gathered on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 12.30pm. The only question I still seek an answer to is "who was Gertie"?

The Pastoral Care Committee continues to meet every 2 months, under the leadership of Terry Schlicht. The Prayer Chain is utilized as it is needed, to intentionally pray for those in particular need.

Outreach & Community

With the great enthusiasm and hard work of John Blain, the parish ran an election day sausage sizzle in December last year. Based at South Yarra Community Baptist Church (our local polling station), the interaction with members of the community and the opportunity to catch up with old friends was valuable, as we seek to be seen and known outside of the walls of our church.

2014 concluded on a most joyful note with the outstanding success of the Children's Christmas Service. Held at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve, over 100 children and family members came to hear the Christmas story (told imaginatively through the use of a puppet show), enjoy some Christmas craft activities, and share a light snack afterwards. Rachel put a lot of work into the event, and it was a great success, with many parents expressing their delight in being able to begin their Christmas celebrations in this way.

For many years now, the parish has been a member of the Stonnington West Emergency Relief Network (SWERNI). As foreshadowed in last year's report, we were awaiting the outcome of our regular Federal Government funding application. Unfortunately, amongst a number of major changes to this funding, SWERNI was not successful in obtaining further support. The total allocation of Commonwealth emergency relief funds for our locality was cut from over \$56000 per year to around \$26000. The sole distributor of those funds in our area is now the Prahran Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB). This is not because they bid against SWERNI in the application process, but because they are part of a larger consortium – Community Information & Support Victoria (CISVic) – who successfully bid to be a provider throughout the larger Inner Melbourne region.

Despite being part of the larger group, the local CAB determine their own policies for distribution, and it is their stated intention to continue to only offer relief in the forms of food parcels and supermarket vouchers. Some SWERNI agencies have been able to source other funding, and so continue virtually unchanged in their activities. For the remainder, St. Martin's included, it is now a requirement for us to find our own funds if we wish to continue this important ministry. We were blessed to receive a significant donation from the TRAK Opportunity Shop late last year, and this will continue to allow us to offer food relief into the future.

The closer relationship with CCSY has also paid dividends for us in this area, as parishioners there, along with the families from Christ Church Grammar School (CCGS) have committed to providing donations of food to

our service, and also to consider joining the team of volunteers who administer the service. I hope that this will continue to be a point of focus for our two parishes in the years ahead.

We have been blessed to have an increased number of wedding enquiries this year, due mainly to the new website. It is a great pleasure for me to journey with these couples as they commit their lives to each other, and the unanimous feedback of couples, their families, and their guests on the day, is that we have a beautiful and sacred space, in which people feel at peace.

Baptism numbers have been slightly increased from last year. Of particular note was the positive way that the inclusive nature of the parish was demonstrated in the support given to two same-sex couples who sought baptism for their children.

The annual Blessing of the Pets service on St. Francis' Day reached new heights this year. Helped partly by an increased advertising presence outside the church, a much larger number of people from our local community came along, with their animals, to join in this celebration.

Our visible outreach to the community continues to be evident in the Playgroup and the Emergency Food Relief Program (EFR). The parish is extremely generous in its support of these programs, both in a financial sense, as well as giving precious time to volunteer. It would be particularly good to have any new people volunteer for assistance with Playgroup, as some of the regulars have been unable to continue in this role. We currently have almost 20 families on our waiting list for Playgroup, and the role of the parish volunteer continues to be a very important one.

Working Together

The parish has hosted two significant Diocesan workshops this year, as we continue to take our place within the workings of the life of the wider diocese. Late last year we hosted the Archbishop's consultation for the Stonnington Deanery in regard to Mission Shaped structures. This was an important event, as the 30 lay and ordained people who attended were able to interact with the Archbishop as he sought input into the framing of the Diocesan Vision. In October 2015, the parish hosted a Professional Standards workshop – an important issue with which the Diocese seeks to maintain compliance.

I was heartened by the way in which the parish responded to the request for assistance with the *Food for Friends* program last December. We were able to take responsibility for 3 full days of collection shifts at Hawksburn Safeway, and I was responsible for many of the pick-up and delivery shifts also. As major recipients of this ecumenical venture, in the cartons of food we receive, I have long thought it important for us to be more involved in the collection process, and I was pleased that so many people came on board to help out in this venture. I hope that we will again be able to support this program again in 2015.

The Appeal to restore our beautiful East Window was launched in April this year. There is an opportunity to donate via the National Trust (which is tax deductible) or directly to the parish. So far, we have raised around \$12K. There have been a number of delays in the process, but I believe work to stabilize the east wall of the church will soon commence, after which the panes (or lights) of glass will need to be completely removed, taken off-site, and repaired, prior to their re-installation.

I was pleased to be asked to host the annual Keble Mass, this year. Organised by the Australian Church Union (ACU), the Eucharist is held in different parishes each year, and commemorates the life of John Keble who, along with others of the Oxford Movement, was important in the renewal of the catholic wing of the church in the 19th century. The Very Rev. Dr. Andreas Loewe, Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, preached, and a group of choristers from CCSY provided beautiful music for the large congregation.

Spring Into Gardening was, once again, an important focus for the parish. As well as being a major source of fundraising towards our ABM mission giving, it also gives the parish an opportunity to be known and seen in the wider community, and a chance for us to interact with others in a most positive way. I am deeply indebted to Lynne Sherwood for her incredibly hard work in preparation and on the day. She was most ably assisted this year by Olga Pole, who kept the momentum going whilst Lynne was away overseas beforehand. The total of around \$3,500 from this day is a remarkable effort. Thanks to all who baked and prepared, and who helped out on the stall on the day.

I thank you all for your care of our sacred space. I have regular dialogue with Dianne Holdsworth, as the Senior Sacristan. Along with Aldyth Tyler and Olga Pole, she is responsible for the ordering of liturgical supplies, and setting up for each service. They are often assisted by Laurie Pole as they tidy up and prepare for the next service. Their hard work, along with that of Ann Baker, Ann Cutts, and Janet Lea-West, means that the sanctuary area always looks inviting and beautiful.

The garden spaces around the church have also been transformed this year, with the ongoing work of Malcolm Boyce in the front garden beds on the south side of the church, and the incredible effort of Barbara Hansen. Barbara has taken it upon herself to dedicate many hours of care to the Resurrection Garden, the beds along the southern walkway, and now the garden at the western end of the church, near the Crypt entrance. She has reported her progress regularly to Parish Council, who have supported her in her plans. Thank-you, Barbara!

Financial Management / Administration

As mentioned in the Churchwarden's report, the parish has had a significant change in its financial management team in 2015. The (temporary) absence of Meredith Rogers this year, as she took a sabbatical from Parish Council (and therefore her role as Treasurer which she has held for around 6 years) coincided with the decision to replace our external book-keeper. This major upheaval left some big holes to fill, especially given the relative complexity of this parish's finances. Once the new people had found their feet, Christian Lawless (as honorary Treasurer) and David Sharrock (Book-keeper) have worked diligently to ensure that our finances are well contained and monitored.

The increased use of electronic banking has reduced the administrative burden on the Executive, especially with regard to approving any transactions. The monthly reports prepared by David are important, as they are scrutinized by the Executive, prior to discussion at Parish Council each month. A productive year in regard to property income, combined with a lower than expected outlay on maintenance has assisted the parish to produce a surplus in the 2014/15 budget. Although the bottom line figure looks extremely healthy (and is a good marker of our health), it does contain some donations and amounts for specific purposes (in particular, Emergency Food Relief and Crypt Flooring replacement) which have not been required in this current church financial year, and which are ear-marked for spending in the next financial year.

For the first time (in my incumbency, at least) the Parish Council is presenting a balanced budget to the Annual Parish Meeting for 2015/16 for approval. This has come as a result of much hard work and planning, and is another sign of our intention to be prudent in the use of our resources, to ensure the survival of the parish. Importantly, there is no reduction in our ministry and outreach efforts as a result of this budget.

The role of Office Manager has continued to be a focus of some attention this year. Margaret Hansford concluded her time in the role in February, and we were lucky that Ruth Newport was willing to take on the role (for 10hours/week) as she worked to build up her own business again after a 12 month sabbatical. Although this has been a mutually beneficial arrangement, Ruth has sensed the same frustrations as did Margaret before her. There is a tension between the expectation of the parish regarding the scope of the role of Office Manager, and the amount of hours that we are able to prudently finance in our budget. I am aware of this tension, and commit to working on a solution in the first half of 2016.

Contribution to the Church

This year, of course, marked the 100th anniversary of ANZAC Day. The parish was invited to be involved in the Stonnington celebrations of this occasion, and the decision was made to hold only one service in the parish on that day, so that we could march and attend the service along with other community groups. It was unfortunate that the day chosen was dreadful in terms of the weather, with strong winds, and teeming rain at times. Nonetheless, those of us who marched, under the splendid St. Martin's Banner (which gained a great deal of interest from those around us as we gathered) contributed to the overall success of the day. The ceremony which followed was moving, and I was glad that we were there to experience it, and contribute positively to it.

Other ways in which I have contributed to the life of the wider church include:

- Attending the Ordination service of 17 new Deacons in the Anglican Church, in February.
- Attending the induction of Rev. Dr. Nicholas White, as Priest in Charge of St. Paul's, East Kew.
- Attending (and being involved in the prayers) the World Day of Prayer service at CCSY, organized by Christ Church Grammar School (CCGS).
- Attending the Chrism Mass and renewal of Ordination Vows in the Cathedral during Holy Week.
- St. Martin's hosted one meeting of the Stonnington Deanery, which meets around 9-10 times each year, and brings together clergy from the 7 parishes and 2 schools in the local Deanery area. I find these meetings to be important in ensuring I keep up to date with local issues, as well as Diocesan information sharing.
- I have continued to enjoy singing regularly with the choir of Christ Church South Yarra. This is a marvelous experience, and I am pleased to be able to worship God in this way. The regular Choral Evensong services and ad-hoc services provide an opportunity for us all to worship with the full choral tradition that these occasions allow.
- I continue as a Priest Associate of the Community of the Holy Name, which is based in Cheltenham, at the Community House.
- I am continuing to enjoy my role as a member of the Alfred Hospital Human Research & Ethics Committee, as a minister of religion. As well as exercising my ethical thinking, the committee allows me to engage with others on issues of faith, and to ensure that Christian ethics is a consideration in important debates.

As well as these more particular activities, my contribution to the wider church also included attendance at every session of Diocesan Synod this year, along with Ann Baker & Meredith Rogers, our elected Lay Representatives.

Professional Development

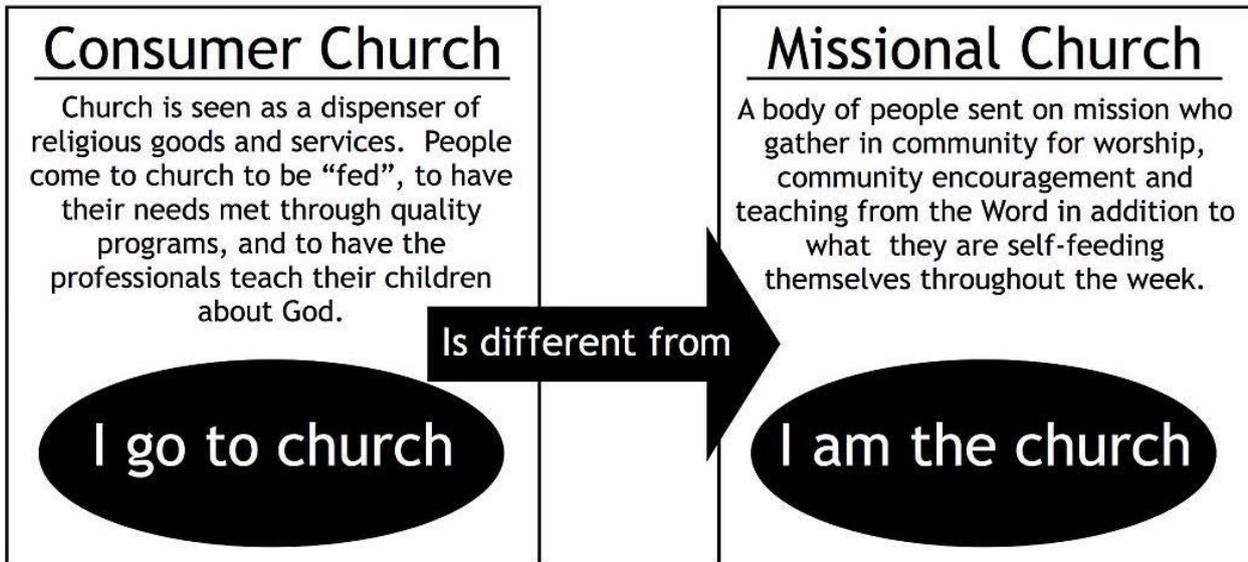
I was pleased to be advised, late last year, that I had been successful in completing an on-line Human Research and Ethics Module, as a part of my professional development for Alfred Ethics Committee. This module, accredited through Monash University, covered many aspects of ethical considerations, based on the National Statement, released by the National Human Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Working through a number of ethical scenarios, I successfully identified issues and how to resolve them.

I spent two days in August with Bishop Stephen Cottrell, the Bishop of the Diocese of Chelmsford, on the topic of Catholic Evangelism. The first day was held in Ballarat, whilst the second day was at St. Peter's, Eastern Hill. Bishop Stephen encouraged us to think about the ways in which we are fed and nourished, in order that we might be able to feed and nourish others. His emphasis on prayer as the basis for all ministry was most encouraging, and he introduced us to the Pilgrim Series, a course which he has designed (in the mold of Alpha) as an introduction to the Christian faith from a liberal, catholic perspective.

I continue to be guided and directed by my monthly sessions this year with my Spiritual Director (Rev. Kate Prowd) and my Supervisor (Rev. Jonathan Chambers). These sessions enable my ongoing ministry and health in ministry, as I wrestle with issues and questions that arise frequently amidst the complexities of parish life.

The Parish

I recently came across the following diagram which demonstrated to me a key difference in the way that we might approach our life as church.



It is fair to say, I think, that we have previously viewed ourselves very much in the “consumer church” way. This was the model of Christendom, where the church was at the centre (or at least important) of the life of a community. It can also be known as the “attractional model” of church. It is clear that this is no longer the case. And although I would want to argue that going to church is still important (of course – I am a Vicar, and love to see the church full on a Sunday morning!!), I would argue that it is at least as important for us to see ourselves as Christians 24/7. That means we take to heart what it is we proclaim every time we have a baptism here, or renew our own baptismal vows. At our baptism we were signed with the cross, “the cross of Christ” (to use the form of words we use here at St. Martin’s), and commanded to “be of good courage as your journey through God’s world”. Then, we were given a candle, as a symbol of the light shining in the darkness.

If we are to *be* the church, as opposed to simply *going* to church, then these baptismal promises and symbols must take root within us and become more than just symbolic. To put it another way – we gather, only so that we might be sent out. It is the sending out which remains the most important part of our commission. I challenge us to become a missional church, rather than a consumer church.

The parish calendar will be available soon. I would ask that you peruse it, and have dates marked in your own calendar well ahead of time, to ensure your full participation in the life of the parish. You will see that the following are broad guidelines to the worship planned for 2016:

1. There will be an 8am and 10am service on each Sunday of the year in 2016. There will be only 2 exceptions to this:
 - a. On Easter Day – Sunday 27th March. The Easter Vigil will occur at 6am, and will replace the 8am service on that day.
 - b. On St. Martin’s Day – 13th November. I believe that we must worship together as a faith community on our Feast Day. There will be no 8am service on this day.
2. Messy Church will shift back to the 1st Sunday of each month, beginning in February.
3. There will be a Eucharist each evening of the week prior to Easter Day (Holy Week), including the important Feast of Maundy Thursday, when the Eucharist will be at 8pm.

It is planned, in 2016, to update our Parish Profile, and develop a Mission Action Plan (MAP). This is in line with the expectation of the Archbishop for all parishes to have this in place. The important work around the *Mission Shaped Diocese*, which was the focus of the Synod this year, includes a specific emphasis on the role of the Archdeacon in relation to working with parishes on their MAP.

In the meantime, the outcomes from our Parish Vision and Dreaming Process (undertaken in 2013) must continue to serve as touchstones for us in the immediate future, as we consider possible new ministries and directions. To conclude, therefore, I will touch on the “next steps” of this vision process.

1. **We exist to extend God's kingdom.** We must continue to look for ways to expand our outreach activities, and to be relevant for the community around us. More opportunities for community members to participate in services (for example, around the remembrance of loved ones on the Feast of All Souls') here would be one idea.
2. **Families with children.** The parish has just received a significant grant via the Collier Charitable Fund to support our ministry of Playgroup and Messy Church. We must explore ways to use this funding in an imaginative way, to further this aspect of our mission. Importantly, more volunteers are still needed to assist in this venture, so that we support Rachel in her ministry.
3. **Worship.** We will continue to offer Anglican worship, expressed in creative and flexible ways. Our closer connection with CCSY will allow parishioners who enjoy a specific style of worship (more formal, choral worship) to attend services at CCSY at times.
4. **Spiritual development.** One member of the congregation accepted the opportunity to begin the Education for Ministry (EfM) course at CCSY this year. I am hopeful that others might also consider this. In the meantime, I am expecting that the parish will offer some form of education in 2016, based on the Pilgrim Course, a series of books which seek to answer key questions about our faith.
5. **Communication.** The upgraded website continues to address the success of this goal. We need to ensure that all parishioners are notified of important issues and upcoming events. We also need to find better ways of communicating with those who do not worship with us regularly, including a greater use of social media.
6. **Partnering.** I have emphasized our relationship with CCSY, and see the proposed covenant between our two parishes as important to our ongoing direction and future. Future ideas with regard to partnership might well include a focus on reconciliation and refugee assistance.

I pray that we be open to the guidance of God's Spirit. May we continue to work together to minister to our local community as we live out our baptismal calling to be people of light.

Rev. Sam Goodes

**STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30th SEPTEMBER, 2015**

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Total number of public services held:	350	354	356	360
<i>(excluding occasional services such as Weddings and Funerals)</i>				
Total Communion:	3793	3765	4081	4165
Total Christmas Eve/Day Communion:	120	103	111	115
Attendance:	247	157	139	176
Total Easter Eve/Day Communion:	88	72	89	85
Attendance	93	91	98	102
Number of Confirmees:	—	—	5	—
Number of Marriages:	4	2	2	1
Number of Funerals (including interments):	1	3	8	2
Number of Baptisms:	8	6	5	6
Number of Children Admitted to Communion:	—	—	—	—
Number of Persons received into the Anglican Church:	—	—	—	—
Number on Electoral Roll		63	82	93

**SUNDAY ATTENDANCE – 2014/15
(COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS TWO YEARS)**

	2014-2015		2013-2014		2012-2013	
<u>Month</u>	Tot Attend	Ave Attend	Tot Attend	Ave Attend	Tot Attend	Ave Attend
October	236	59	269	67.5	286	72
November	341	68.2	276	69	389	77.8
December	292	73	322	64.4	410	68.3
January	228	57	208	52	289	72.3
February	340	85	265	66.3	278	69.5
March	327	65.4	355	71	341	68.2
April	263	65.8	315	78.8	274	68.5
May	309	61.8	275	68.8	286	71.5
June	272	68	302	60.4	371	74.2
July	233	58.3	234	58.5	243	60.8
August	306	61.2	363	72.6	276	69
September	248	62	229	57.3	313	62.6
Total	3395	66.6	3413	65.6	3756	71.1

St Martin's Anglican Church, Hawksburn
OCCASIONS AND ATTENDANCE OF WORSHIP OCT 2014 – SEP 2015 (OCT 2013- SEP 2014)

	Total Occasions	Total Attendance	Total Communicants	Average Attendance	Increase/Decrease
Sundays 8 am Said Eucharist	48 (41)	601 (560)	586 (534)	12.5 (13.7)	Decrease
Sundays 10 am Sung Eucharist	47 (41)	2151 (1964)	1926 (1701)	47.9(45.8)	Decrease
Sunday 9.30am Joint Eucharist	4 (11)	214 (579)	188(510)	53.5 (52.6)	N/A –service ceased
Sunday 4pm Messy Church	10 (8)	429 (310)	N/A	42.9 (39)	Increase
Tuesday 9 am Morning Prayer	45 (48)	187 (208)	N/A	4.2 (4.3)	No change
Wednesday 10.30am Said Eucharist	49 (47)	394 (312)	394 (312)	8 (6.6)	Increase
Thursday 9 am Morning Prayer	46 (47)	139 (146)	N/A	3.0 (3.1)	No change
Friday 7 am Said Eucharist	46 (45)	380 (345)	380 (345)	8.3 (7.7)	No change
Saturday 9.30 am Morning Prayer	46 (46)	278 (307)	N/A	6 (6.7)	No change
Home and Hospital Communion	5 (5)	10 (10)	10 (10)	2.0 (2.0)	N/A
Aged Care Communion	16 (22)	346 (491)	226 (324)	21.6 (22.3)	No change
Special Eucharists	2 (5)	61 (97)	61 (97)	N/A	N/A
Special Non-Eucharist	0 (0)	0 (0)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Weddings	4 (2)	274 (192)	- (34)	N/A	N/A
Baptisms (not Sunday morning)	5 (0)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Funerals (including interments)	1 (3)	11 (108)	N/A	N/A	N/A

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

This has been a year of change and challenge for the Executive. All have worked hard to cope with the challenges and minimise the changes necessary to achieve a balanced budget for the year 2015/16.

There have been some new directions – in particular our closer cooperation with Christ Church, South Yarra (CCSY) through the Achieving More Together (AMT) initiative. Meditation on Saturday morning and restarting Gertie's Kitchen have provided new opportunities for spiritual growth and outreach in the parish.

There have been various maintenance issues in the past 12 months. A burst water pipe flooded the under-church area, resulting in significant damage, and requiring the repair of foundations which was thankfully, largely covered by insurance. There is cracking in the walls of the Vicarage which require monitoring, and we have yet to replace the flooring in the crypt. Our photocopier needs repairs which are not practical and we need to look at other options. However the East Window problem is yet to be resolved with differing opinions as to what is required. An appeal has been launched for its restoration, and donations via the National Trust are tax deductible. Modifications to the driveway were funded by the generosity of parishioners, and more parking spaces are now available for this busy church.

We have a new Treasurer, Christian Lawless, and a change to our financial processing, as we now employ a book-keeper who has responsibility for a number of other parishes around the Diocese. Margaret Hansford was a temporary Office Manager, and re-wrote the job description. Ruth Newport is now engaged for 10 hours/week on a casual basis, until the ongoing position is resolved. CCSY have offered clerical support and are currently printing our service booklets for 10am Sunday services.

Our core outreach activities are thriving. Playgroup is popular on Thursdays and Fridays. It is so well led by Rachel Virsu, who often attends to the emotional needs of the mothers as well as the activities of the children. Japanese Playgroup now functions independently on a Wednesday morning.

Food relief is busy, and provides an excellent service to the community. SWERNI funding ceased on 31st January, 2015, but a \$10K donation from the Toorak Opportunity Shop was timely and much appreciated. Significantly, CCSY have transferred their service and some volunteers to St. Martin's and Christ Church Grammar School provide extra gifts of food.

Messy Church continues to be offered faithfully once a month. Although a core group is not definitely established, families seem to enjoy this activity – especially the craft and the dinner! So far, we have not achieved our aim of establishing a new congregation, but realise these things take time.

Our special events have been wonderfully successful. The Joint Mission Dinner with CCSY, this year hosted by St. Martin's, was a meaningful occasion, with a great vibe in the crypt. The speaker, Rev. Helen Dwyer, spoke passionately on Indigenous Reconciliation. We hosted the Keble Mass for Australian Church Union (ACU) in July. CCSY choir sang in the Chancel and Rev. Dr. Andreas Loewe (Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral) preached to an almost full church.

We participated in the City of Stonnington ANZAC Day celebration, marching under St. Martin's banner on a cold, wet, and windy day, and to the interest of onlookers.

Our parish retreat was in-house this year, and shared with CCSY. Led so ably by our Vicar, Sam, and incorporating meditation, it was a spiritual highlight, and much appreciated by all who attended.

Spring Into Gardening was again a wonderful day, and a superb effort by Lynne Sherwood and her team. Not only important financially, it raises our profile in the community.

The *Road to Mandalay* Dinner was a new idea, and our main fundraiser for the missions this year. Several parishioners hosted a dinner in their home on a weekend in May. As a result, we have again given \$2000 to each of four Anglican Board of Missions (ABM) projects this year.

We have had two concerts in the church since our last Annual Parish Meeting; Plexus Trio, at the end of November, and the Alma String Quartet in March. Both were excellent occasions, and well attended.

We have negotiated a new Polyglot lease, and our tenant seems happy and content to stay put. We have made an application to the Collier Foundation for a grant to support Messy Church and Playgroup. Our Synod

representatives, Ann Baker and Meredith Rogers, attended both the Special Synod in June, and the normal Synod in October, so we are up to date with what is happening in the Diocese.

The Briggs Crypt has continued to be used often, and especially hired out for children's parties. Putting all this on paper reinforces that we are a busy and vibrant parish.

We have a beautiful church, which always looks cared for, thanks to the work of many dedicated people. Special thanks to our Sacristan, Diane Holdsworth, and her assistants, Aldyth Tyler and Olga Pole. The Walsingham Chapel is lovingly attended to by Janet Lea-West – with fresh flowers always in front of Our Lady. Jacqueline Boyce attends to the Narthex flowers, and Clem Gruen cleans out the drain outside the crypt.

Bizzi Beez continue to clean the church weekly, especially the kitchens and bathrooms which are much in use. Our garden is truly inspired. Barbara Hansen has a grand plan; Edward Miller mows the lawn, and Malcolm Boyce also attends the side garden. We do appreciate the care and generosity of so many people and give thanks for all they do in this place.

Jenny MacPherson plays our organ and grand piano most Sundays, and Rodney Wetherell ably stands in on other occasions.

We give heartfelt thanks to our Vicar, Sam, who is a hard-working, caring, and dedicated priest. We are so fortunate to have him and his delightful family, who worship with us week by week. Thanks also to Graham Bride, our honorary Associate Priest, who supports in so many ways.

We conclude our report on a positive note, and with strong hope for the future. By significantly paring back our expenses, we have managed to balance the 2015/16 budget. While these decisions are not pleasant to implement, or pleasing to everyone, they do ensure the ongoing stability of our parish. This, combined with the commitment to further explore our relationship with CCSY, will ensure a bright future. The best way to describe this relationship would be a covenant where we share our strengths and support our weaknesses, all in a spirit of cooperation. The integrity of the two parishes would be maintained. The Executive strongly believes that this is the way forward, and asks for your continuing prayers as they work to foster the relationship.

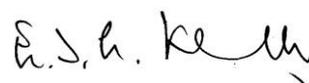
Ann Baker and Clem Gruen are taking a sabbatical from their positions, in accordance with the new Diocesan rules. They have greatly enjoyed their time of service, and will certainly continue to be part of the furniture of St. Martin's.



Ann Baker
Vicar's Warden



Clem Gruen
People's Warden



Liz Kelly
People's Warden

TREASURER'S REPORT

Introduction

This report provides a commentary on the financial results for 2015 and discusses the forthcoming financial year. Comprehensive results are included in the parish accounts which follow this report. I regret that due to my recent workload these are only draft accounts but I hope to have audited accounts by the date of the meeting.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to participate in the operating of the Church's finances throughout the last year and am very appreciative of the support to which I have been provided in that time. I would especially like to extend thanks to Revd Sam Goodes for his guidance and ability to cover any gap in knowledge or experience I had during the year. I would like to thank Edward Miller, our Auditor, and our Bookkeeper, David Sharrock, for their wonderful efforts to produce the financial statements included in this document. Thanks are also due to the Churchwardens and members of the Parish Council for their insightful questions and patience whilst I increased my understanding of how a Church's finances operate.

Lastly I would like to give thanks to St Martin's former Treasurer, Meredith Rogers, who prior to going on sabbatical developed the 2015 budget, introduced procedures and contributed along with Revd Goodes, the Wardens and Parish Council to put in place a financial system which was easier to administer and had greater potential to generate operating surpluses.

Results for 2015

The operating result for 2015 was a surplus of **\$16,073**. This result was an improvement on last year's surplus of **\$7,786** and it significantly exceeds the budgeted deficit of **\$11,150**.

The bottom line surplus of **\$20,497** (2014: \$65,300) was a very solid performance and reflects an improved performance from the previous year if we exclude the impact of bequests and a large donation which were both received in 2014 but not repeated in 2015.

Our primary responsibility is to spread the doctrine of Christ, and although we are not inherently seeking to churn out profits on a regular basis, to be able to continue to minister and engage the Anglican faith to the Community in Hawksburn, we must at the very least be conscious of the need for financial prudence to give us long-term stability.

We are very grateful for the generosity in both time and monetary contributions made by the parishioners of St Martin's, and without you we would not have been able to achieve the financial results reported in this report.

Results compared to budget

A donation to upgrade the Polygot Bathroom & Crypt was received, totalling \$7,081 which was unbudgeted, and the costs associated with the Office Manager were lower due to a reduction in hours and scope of this role – savings from budget of more than \$10,000.

Results compared to prior year

When looking at the decrease in fundraising which can be seen in the parish accounts it is important to note that we did not undertake Christmas in July in 2015, which was a significant contributor to the fundraising total in 2014. As noted above, there was a reduction in hours of the Office Manager, and this has also decreased Lay Salary costs in 2015.

Outreach

The Parish's main outreach activity is the Playgroup. As evident from note 6 to the accounts, the playgroup ran at a small loss this year. The entry fee increased during the year and this has assisted in bridging the gap between income and expenditure for this activity.

Midway through the year a collection plate was introduced into Messy Church which has provided an additional income stream to contribute to the costs of running that program. We are still very much reliant on the contribution by members of the parish to prepare a meal for each of the sessions. In October we trialled a bring-your-own-plate month which proved reasonably successful and something we look to emulate on occasion in the future.

Budget for 2016

We worked on a conservative basis when developing the budget and have produced a break-even budget or thereabouts. Following determination of the budget an opportunity has arisen to allow for a theological student to be based at St Martin's at a cost of \$3,000 p.a. In the first year due to the timing of when a student would commence only half of this would be payable. This is a great opportunity and one that the Wardens and Parish Council believe will benefit both the Church and the Reverend, as well as the greater Anglican Community. We therefore endorsed the budgeting of a deficit of **\$1,962**. The budget is attached as Appendix 1.

Balance Sheet Analysis

Total assets have increased by over **\$27,841** as a result of the operating surplus but without the benefit of any bequests this year. Liabilities have increased by **\$7,345** including the Emergency Food Relief funds received by the Toorak Opportunity Shop which is essentially held on trust for expenditure on the EFR in future years.

The best indicator of our financial health is the working capital, which is the sum of the assets we can access readily less the debts we would need to pay. It is encouraging to see that the **working capital has increased by \$25,076**, the second increase in as many years.

Conclusions

This year's operating surplus has been created by money raised by the fund-raising and reductions in expenditure. Working capital has increased for the first time in recent years. This result will provide some financial stability for next year and beyond.

Christian Lawless

Treasurer

APPENDIX 2 - PROVISIONAL CALCULATION OF PARISH ASSESSMENT (\$25,120 DOWN FROM \$25,293)

St Martin's Hawksburn Churchwardens' Declaration

The churchwardens have determined that the parish is not a reporting entity and this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note A to the financial statements.

The churchwardens declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes set out on the accompanying pages have been drawn up in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note A to the financial statements and present fairly the church's financial positions as at 30 September 2015 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. In the churchwardens' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the parish will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This resolution is made in accordance with a resolution of the Vestry.

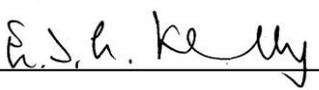
Name: Ann Baker

Signature: 

Name: Clem Gruen

Signature: 

Name: Elizabeth Kelly

Signature: 

Date: 15 November 2015

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY COORDINATOR'S REPORT

A BIG THANK YOU- I greatly appreciate all those who have supported this ministry by praying for us, helping us during the sessions, managing the administration and mentoring and guiding myself. This ministry is only possible because of your support!

AS A LOCAL PLAYGROUP- We continue to thrive as a local playgroup. We continue to receive enquiries about our playgroup on a regular basis. In order to manage the increasing number of people wanting to join us, we have introduced a cap number and a waiting list. The cap number is 20 children per session and one family can attend only one session per week. We now control the number of attendees with the waiting list. My HUGE THANKS to Ruth who is now managing the tedious waiting list and any enquiry. The benefits of having the waiting list are not only that we have better control of the numbers, but also the new attendees tend to value their given spots and attend more regularly. In order to run this playgroup beyond a regular local playgroup, but to run it as our church ministry, it is important for us to see them on regular basis so that we can get to know one another better.

AS A MINISTRY- It was very encouraging to see that some of the Playgroup attendees have become regular attenders at Messy Church. Messy Church is like a bridge between our playgroup and this church. Some of the Messy Church visitors have never heard the Gospel. Some of the non-Christian families recently told me that they want to bring their children to "church" to learn "good things", and they found that Messy Church is less daunting for them to come to at this stage.

For playgroup mums, I sometimes take time out during the week to go and visit some of the mums and listen to their stories and problems. Some of the problems have been far beyond my understanding such as drugs, sickness, alcohol addiction and been stalked by their estranged partners. In many of these cases, there was little I could do for them but to listen to them and pray for them. It is very nice to have them share their stories, as I feel very humble that they feel safe to share such personal issues with us. Many of the Playgroup attendees come from overseas and away from their parents and close friends. Sometimes they just need someone to listen to them without any judgement. Where it is necessary, I have provided practical help such as minding their children when the mother needed to go to hospital, helping with meals when they can't cook, helping with packing and cleaning when they needed to leave on short notice.

We usually ask them to pick a session to attend and allow them to come one session per week. In the case of two families, I have told them they can attend as much as they wish and stay as long as they need, as at the moment, our playgroup is one of only a few places they feel safe to be.

HOW WE CAN IMPROVE- To improve this playgroup as a church ministry, we continue to request your prayer support. Also, it would be wonderful if some more church members can help us during the sessions. If we want to reach out to them and want them to come to our church, I believe it is vital that there is someone from our church present during the session to have fellowship with them.

I was given the opportunity to attend Victorian Christian Playgroup Conference last year where we shared our ideas and learnt how others are improving and succeeding with their ministry. One of many things I learnt was "playgroup is one of vital ministries for many churches to bring young families to church". To achieve this, we need to build relationship with them during and outside playgroup time.

Victoria Playgroup Award 1 of 5 Finalist- Some of the mums took the time and effort to nominate us for the 2015 Playgroup Victoria Awards. This alone makes me feel very humble and honoured. To add more surprise to this, we have been selected for 1 of 5 finalist for this award! We will find out the result on 12 November (see <http://playgroupawards.com.au/Finalists.aspx>).

Once again, thank you to everyone in St Martin's. Many Blessings,

Rachel Virsu

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT

The main focus for our ministry to children is now on the provision of Messy Church, held on a monthly basis. It would seem clear that this is the preferred time for families with young children to attend church, and so rightly is given the major attention. However, I am pleased that we are still offering something for children in our main worship service of 10am each Sunday. We are using the *Seasons of the Spirit* material, provided by Mediacom Education, and this provides the basis for much of the craft and story ideas.

I continue to be grateful to those few people who are rostered to provide the talk and/or activities for those children who do come each week, and would welcome any new people to this ministry:

- Margaret Bride
- Kate Goodes
- Janet Lea-West
- Lynne Sherwood

As mentioned, the most significant activity that the parish now offers for families with young children is the service of *Messy Church* which continued monthly this year. To reiterate, there are 3 important components to the gathering. Firstly, children and their parents engage in a number of different craft activities. Secondly, there is a service, or 'celebration', where a Bible story or theme is explored through story and song. Finally, all are invited to sit down and eat dinner together, which is provided by the parish, as hosts. Each of the aspects are equally important, and come together to provide a fun, yet meaningful experience of fellowship and community.

Rachel Virsu and I have worked together to plan each of the gatherings that we have run this year, on the 2nd Sunday of every month (other than January). Rachel has planned the craft activities, I am responsible for the celebration, and a team of volunteers provide and serve the meal. The majority of those who attend are now families who are involved in the Playgroup. This means that, in most cases, they are families who have never had, or do not currently have, a connection with a church community. This is a heartening occurrence, and is in line with our hopes when we began this ministry.

I am grateful to the volunteers who have given their time each month to help with setting up, supervising craft activities, providing and serving food, and helping to tidy up. We have a core group of "teams" who form part of a regular roster. This year we also held one gathering where we asked Messy Church families to bring a plate of food to share. We will repeat that exercise at least once next year, and also discuss with a couple of the key families whether they would be willing to take on a month for catering and serving. This is another step in the process towards those who attend taking ownership for the gathering, rather than it being seen as "provided for them" by the parish. Please continue to keep this important ministry in your prayers.

Rev. Sam Goodes

ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER SUB-COMMITTEE

The Achieving More Together (AMT) Sub-Committee is a group commissioned and overseen by the Parish Councils of both St. Martin's, Hawksburn and Christ Church, South Yarra (CCSY). It was born out of the Planning Day held in January, 2015 between the two Parish Councils of these parishes. At that occasion, at which the various strengths and weaknesses, gifts and liabilities of the parishes were identified and discussed, there was a clear desire to work more closely together as neighbouring parishes for the good of the communities in which we are placed.

Expressed most simply, there was a strong sense that "together, we could achieve more in the communities of South Yarra and Hawksburn, than we might otherwise be able to do alone." The two Parish Councils sought volunteers from each parish to commit to meet regularly, to pray for one another, and to bring some tangible ideas back to the respective Parish Councils for their consideration. The group, expertly facilitated by Dr. Meredith Rogers, comprises the following members:

- Ms. Meg Basset, St. Martin's
- Mr. Glenn Bermingham, CCSY
- Ms. Ann Cutts, St. Martin's
- Ms. Tania Evans, CCSY
- Rev. Sam Goodes, Vicar, St. Martin's
- Mr. Jamie Miller, CCSY
- Mr. Tim Sherwood, St. Martin's
- Rev. Dr. Richard Treloar, Vicar, CCSY

Importantly, the integrity and identity of the two parishes was affirmed at the Joint Planning Day, and has been reiterated numerous times along the journey. At this point in time, this Sub-Committee is simply tasked with looking at ways in which the two parishes might cooperate more closely together.

In the past 3 or 4 years CCSY and St. Martin's have been working more closely with each other, mindful of their historical connection, geographical proximity, and shared approach to many aspects of worship, ministry, and mission.

Examples to date have included:

- A standing invitation to St Martin's clergy and people to attend CCSY monthly Choral Evensongs at which Rev. Sam has also preached and officiated, and now routinely sings with the CCSY Choir on these occasions;
- The consolidation of the local ecumenical cycle of worship, which includes St Martin's and CCSY, together with St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Parish and the South Yarra Community Baptist Church;
- An annual Joint Mission Dinner, hosted alternately by the two communities, and now in its fifth year; and
- A pattern of shared seasonal Quiet Days, with CCSY holding one in Advent, and St Martin's in Lent.

In many respects, then, the AMT task force is simply exploring more opportunities for closer collaboration in a number of areas, including:

- Music
- Ministry with and to children and families
- Administration and compliance issues
- The scheduling of events and activities

As a result of this ongoing dialogue, several desirable outcomes have already emerged:

- A regular and reciprocal invitation from each Parish to send an observer to its Parish Council meetings.
- The decision and subsequent action to consolidate the service provision of each Parish's food relief ministry to St Martin's.
- The streamlining of some administrative activities, in particular the printing of service booklets for St. Martin's through the CCSY office.
- A plan to share worship services, such as the Easter Vigil, between the 2 parishes, encouraging shared corporate worship.

This is an example of how we can work together to better serve the community. It represents the spirit of a partnership in which each community is prepared to 'let go' of some things and entrust them to the other, such that the overall mission of the Church is strengthened, and the whole offering is greater than the sum of its parts.

More recently, the AMT Sub-Committee has been exploring the notion of a Covenant. This deeply Scriptural notion reflects a partnership which is, at its heart, relational. A number of examples of covenants already in existence between parishes were examined, and their common themes discussed. These included the understanding that prayer and service were key to such documents; that a sense of review and renewal of the covenants was important, and that in many of these cases, parishes maintained their own integrity and identity even as they worked together. It is hoped that the next AMT meeting might consider a draft

covenant document, with the plan that such a covenant would be considered by each Parish Council in the early months of 2016.

Above all, the AMT gathering has affirmed that together we are stronger, and that we have so much to be grateful for; and so much to look forward to as we journey on together in the service of God who calls us, equips us, sends us, and journeys with us .

Rev. Sam Goodes, on behalf of the AMT Sub-Committee

ART AND ARUNDEL PRINTS

There have been no new Arundel Prints added to the collection this year. We have continued without fail to rotate six prints each month. It was good to have Alex Lugosi back on the team after his stay in hospital. Murray Little joined the team and has prepared a slide show with music "Putting on the Gloves", which we hoped to show this year at Spring into Gardening. Unfortunately we did not secure a power supply at our stall, so its Premiere is deferred until 2016!

We found a new home for the collection in the old Sunday school room and with some negotiation with the Flower Team, they are now well situated in their new quarters. It certainly makes a big difference not having to carry them up and down from the mezzanine each month.

My thanks to the team yet again.

Ewen Tyler

GROUNDS REPORT

Most parishioners are familiar with the grounds surrounding the main entrance, and, particularly if they arrive by car, they can appreciate the extended concrete paving and admire the restored adjoining garden bed.

An even greater reward goes to those who venture to the south and west of the church where they will marvel at the skill and energy of Barbara Hansen and the excellent results which she has achieved in what was previously a well overgrown wilderness. Thank you Barbara.

The south east corner is cared for by Jacqueline and Malcolm Boyce and I thank them for their ongoing work and the colorful results which they produce. Thanks too to all those who strive endlessly to control the fallen leaves as well as the cobwebs.

Edward Miller

CURSILLO AT ST MARTIN'S

There are a small group of Cursillistas at St Martin's who meet regularly for their 4th day Reunion. Our meeting is based on the tripod of Piety, Study and Action and the group concludes with a shared meal which is important for our fellowship.

Both friendship and prayers strengthen and support the group and we are certainly not exclusive. Also, it is not a pre-requisite to have done your Cursillo, although this may be the end result. Cursillo is certainly not a secret society and we are very open to any who would like to join us. We are about to commence a new study so 2016 would be a good time to consider if you are interested.

Cursillo celebrates the joy of Christian living by being a vibrant, inclusive contemporary movement within the Anglican Church. It faces the same challenges as the general Church – relevance in the 21st Century, falling numbers and aging people in this "post-Christian" age.

The purpose of Cursillo is to nourish and equip people so that they may embrace and enjoy the fullness of the Christian life.

Ann Baker

MUSIC

At 10 a.m. services on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays, and special occasions (such as Christmas and Easter), we have continued to sing hymns, the psalm and the mass, seasonally changing the mass setting, and often with a sung gospel acclamation (until the demise of the photocopier). The grand piano has seen plenty of use, and I have played a wide variety of organ and piano music during communion, sometimes classical or traditional, at other times modern. Likewise postludes, which are chosen to send people out with a spring in their step. Lynne Sherwood has sung solos during communion on several occasions: much appreciated, Lynne.

Great thanks to Sam as ever for his support and commitment to singing the psalm and ordinary of the mass. Appropriate music contributes enormously to a service, and it is always my intention to support and add beauty to our worship, and to help lift hearts heavenwards.

Jenny McPherson
Parish Organist

SACRISTY REPORT

This year I have performed my duties as Senior Sacristan, with help from Olga Pole and Aldyth Tyler.

Candles used for our services are of excellent quality, and are ordered from Wright Power. The first order lasted nearly 2 years. More were ordered in September 2014. Eucharistic altar breads come from Australian Church Resources (ACR) in Adelaide. Costs and delivery charges are reasonable.

The altar cloths are laundered by Elegance Dry Cleaners, in High Street. Any charges for all linen has been free to the parish for many years. Sacristy team members cover the costs, and also wash Eucharistic linen. Communion wine is generously supplied by a parishioner.

We would like to thank Kate Goodes for the lovely altar frontals she made for the Nave altar.

Thankyou to Sam for his wonderful pastoral care of us all.

Many thanks to Olga Pole and Aldyth Tyler for helping me in the Sacristy.

Diane Holdsworth
Senior Sacristan

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Committee has met this year on a two monthly basis. Each committee member has been allocated a small group of parishioners to oversee and this has continued on an ad-hoc basis.

The Pastoral Team and other volunteers assist in a wider variety of roles, and their contributions are acknowledged and appreciated. Their activities include telephone prayer ministry, emergency food relief, playgroup support, home visits, home and hospital communions, meals, transport to services and appointments, shopping and practical assistance in times of need. Committee members have been involved in other duties such as Sacristy, Parish Council, Sunday School, as well as rostered duties. The Wednesday service at 10.30am has been well supported, and provides an opportunity for fellowship.

In addition to the home and hospital communions, Rev. Sam Goodes and pastoral care volunteers have taken communion to two aged care facilities – Estia Health in Windsor and Chomley House in Prahran. As well as a number of regular volunteers, John and Ann Baker have joined this group visiting Chomley House.

This year has seen the expansion of the food relief programme, family support and play group programmes. Messy Church as a programme for children and their parents, has been held once a month on Sunday afternoons. The playgroup coordinator, Rachel Virsu, has overseen the development of these programmes.

The Sunday School activities are co-ordinated by a number of volunteers, and these presentations have been enjoyed by all parishioners and visitors alike.

Emergency Food Relief

The funding for the St Martin's Food Relief operates under the umbrella of the Stonnington West Emergency Relief Network (SWERNI). As a result of new funding arrangements, SWERNI no longer funds our food relief programme.

This year we agreed to co-ordinate the Emergency Food Relief programme run by Christ Church, South Yarra (CCSY). A few volunteers from Christ Church South Yarra have assisted us in the distribution of food relief. The food relief contribution from Christ Church South Yarra has fulfilled a vital need in supporting our relief programme. The contributions have been very generous this year without which we could not continue this very important ministry. I am delighted to welcome CCSY, and their assistance is greatly appreciated.

This year I have contributed to this program along with the assistance of Ruth Newport, who has ordered the food online each week, and at other times of need.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Rev Sam Goodes, the Wardens and Parish Council for their support. In particular, I would like to thank Diane Holdsworth, for her support, advice and encouragement. My sincere thanks also to all members of the Pastoral Care Team for their many hours of faithful voluntary service as they continue to make valuable contributions to this ministry within the parish.

Terry Schlicht
Pastoral Care Coordinator

JULIAN MEETINGS

Julian of Norwich Meetings are held fortnightly in our home. They consist of a reading from Julian's book "Revelations of Divine Love" (14th century), followed by a short meditation and discussion, closing prayers, and the Grace. A meal is provided for those who can stay.

Why read Julian today? Perhaps the following might encourage you.

Julian's teaching is not simply theological nicety. (She is considered world-wide to be one of the great Theologians). Julian wrote for the encouragement of her 'even-Christians' who long to know and love God better, but who through the frailty of our nature and the weakness of our wills fall frequently and need to be rescued many times by the compassionate love which is ever at hand to raise us up. God showed her that He did not blame us for our sin, but it is the nature and power of God to bring good out of evil. And "All shall be well" spoken by God to Julian are words of comfort to us now as we journey in this life.

Julian had no ladder to be mounted rung by rung. Her picture is of children learning to walk, who frequently fall and need to be helped up to the place where they would be. For Julian, 'whether we be clean or foul' there is no such thing as an angry God - always the fountain pours forth water pure and clean. The compassionate love of God is acting at all times.

The message of the 16 Showings (Revelations) is this - the endless continuing love of God, with His assurance of safekeeping and joyful salvation. Come and join us if you are looking for a deeper and more loving relationship with Our God.

Janet Lea West

WIDER MISSION

We know that here in our parish we are very well off compared with the majority of people in the Anglican church world wide and we recognize that we must express our love for our sister and brothers by giving generously to support them in their Christian mission, as well as pursuing our own mission here. Our regular prayers for them as well as our financial gifts are part of our response to the God's love and care for us.

The parish has chosen to fulfill its obligation to support the world mission of the church by giving to the Anglican Board of Mission – Australia. In the financial year 2014-2015 the Parish Council pledged to give \$8,000 to this work. Thanks to the fund raising efforts of the people of St Martin's through "Spring into Gardening", the dinners on 5th May, a concert and a few smaller events, this target has been achieved.

The Parish Council chose to support four ABM projects: Education in Myanmar; Gender and Governance in Zambia, Kerina Evangelists College in Papua New Guinea and the ministry development training for indigenous clergy in the Northern Territory.

Margaret Bride

EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF PROGRAM

At St Martin's we provide emergency food relief parcels on Wednesday and Friday, each week, between 12 – 2pm. It is not uncommon to find a queue of people at our doors by 11.30am.

We currently have twelve (12) volunteers from within the parish who give their time on a regular basis to this outreach activity. The personal contact volunteers have with our clients is significant to each of them, and we're sure it is also significant for our clients. Volunteers are often struck by the fact that 'we're offering such limited amounts of food to people, and yet (more often than not) we're greeted with such gratitude – it's quite humbling.'

Our standard offering to people is made up of essential pantry items, none of which are perishable or require immediate refrigeration. In the lead up to Christmas, our parishioners donated a number of items that we added to our usual package (a tinned ham or large tuna and something sweet – a Christmas pudding or cake, sweet biscuits or block of chocolate).

We were also very fortunate to receive a huge delivery of donated foods, biscuits, soups, pasta and sauces, toiletry items and tinned vegetables as well as lovely Christmas treats from the 'Food for Friends' group, an ecumenical venture between the Uniting, Anglican, and Catholic Churches in Toorak. Our clients were most appreciative! We have continued to provide food after the SWERNI funding was cut in March, due to a generous financial donation from our community and regular donations from Christ Church South Yarra school.

For the past 7 years there has been a steady increase (almost 5% each year) in our client numbers. This year we have seen a significant increase of new clients: 51 - up from 22 last year.

Most of the people attending our service are regular clients (78%) returning for assistance every 2 months. The profile of our clients has not changed significantly over the last 8 years. The majority of our clients are single (64%) or couples without children (24%). Our clients mainly come from homes where the main language spoken is either English (36%) or Russian (52%). In 2014 – 2015 the total number of clients assisted throughout the year was 623 with an average of 52 per month.

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2014-2015

Vicar

The Reverend Sam Goodes, M.Div., M.N.Sc., Dip.Min., Grad.Dip.Clin.Nurs

Honorary Assistant Priest

The Reverend Graham Bride

Organist

Jenny McPherson

Churchwardens

Ann Baker – Vicar's Warden

Clem Gruen

Liz Kelly

Parish Council

Meg Basset

Ewen Tyler

Barbara Hansen

Suzanne Peart

Tim Sherwood

Honorary Treasurer

Christian Lawless

Honorary Auditor

Edward Miller

Playgroup Coordinator

Rachel Virsu

Senior Sacristan

Diane Holdsworth

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Terry Schlicht

Synod Representative

Ann Baker

Meredith Rogers

Office Manager

Margaret Hansford (Oct 2014 – Feb 2015)

Ruth Newport (Feb 2015 – current)