

ST MARTIN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
HAWKSBURN

27 Cromwell Road
SOUTH YARRA
VICTORIA 3141

ANNUAL REPORTS 2017



PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE ST MARTIN'S STUDIO
SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2017

2017

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

26 NOVEMBER 2017

ST MARTIN'S HAWKSBURN
STUDIO

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.*

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

MINUTES OF THE 2016 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

27 November 2016

The Annual Parish Meeting of St Martin's Anglican Church Hawksburn was held at midday on Sunday 27 November 2016 in the parish crypt.

The meeting was opened with prayer led by the Rev Sam Goodes.

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Rhyl Wade	Murray Little	Ruth Mercer
Janet Lea West	Doug Reid	Jenny Jordan
Allen Soule	Liz Kelly	Jacqueline Boyce
Margaret Bride	Christian Lawless	Ann Baker
Ann Cutts	Graham Bride	Jan Middleditch
Edward Miller	Rosemary Shea	Rodney Wetherell
Kathryn Watt	Meredith Rogers	Aldyth Tyler
Terry Schlicht	Diane Holdsworth	Ewen Tyler
Sam Goodes	Margaret Hansford (minutes)	

Apologies:

Tim Sherwood	Margaret O'Donnell	Maddy Goodes
Lynne Sherwood	Kate Goodes	Martin Spencer-Hogbin
Laurie Pole	Jenny Blencowe	Suzanne Peart
Olga Pole	Barbara Hanson	Gwen Rogers
John Blain	Marge Hender	Jack Rogers
Hacy Tobias	Roger Kenna	Clem Gruen
David Swan	Billie Swan	Meg Basset

The meeting opened with a prayer led by the Rev Sam Goodes.

MINUTES OF THE 2015 PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the previous annual meeting held on Sunday 29 November 2015 in the parish crypt had been circulated prior to the meeting and were accepted as a true record.

Moved: Liz Kelly
Seconded: Ann Cutts

CARRIED

PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL

The parish electoral roll 5 November 2016 had been on display in the church for the previous 2 weeks and was presented to the meeting and noted as received. The roll currently consists of 60 people, with Robert Lea-West's name being noted as omitted when first displayed.

ANNUAL REPORTS

VICAR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016 CHURCH YEAR

The Rev Sam Goodes presented his annual report.

Sam's comments are summarised below.

Sam noted that the goals identified by the parish three years ago have largely been met. Sam proposed that St Martin's sets a primary goal for the parish in 2017 be to form a Mission Action Plan.

In the past year there has been a strong focus on our Covenant relationship with Christ Church, South Yarra (CCSY) which is beginning to bear real fruit. Future decisions and directions will be made considering this relationship, and while considering local issues, major initiatives like refugee outreach, reconciliation, and perhaps adult faith formation courses, will be done in partnership.

It has been a pleasure to have Kathryn in the parish, as Theological Student. And Sam wished her every blessing for her Ordination and your ministry placement at Mount Waverley.

The role of Vicar is multi-faceted. Professional Standards, Occupational Health and Safety, Parish Governance are all expected and required of us, as Vicars, by the Diocese. Much is being achieved by what is a relatively small parish, at least if you just look at it numerically.

Sam thanked a number of individuals and groups. The leadership team. Wardens, - Meredith, Liz, and Ann – who meet at least monthly with our Treasurer, Christian. Parish Council has functioned well. Each of the Parish Council members have contributed in different ways to the life of the parish. I thank Meg, Christian, Tim, Ewen, Suzanne, and Barbara for their willingness to serve in this important position. I especially thank Suzanne and Barbara, who have now served the maximum six continuous terms allowable under the Parish Governance Act, and will therefore enjoy a sabbatical period over the next year.

Rev. Graham Bride continues to offer me encouragement in my ministry, even as he has struggled with health issues, and I welcome also Fr. Matthew Dowsey to the parish. Matthew has recently retired from active ministry, and is now living in Gardiner Lodge, Glen Iris. He has been worshipping with us (at the 8am service) for a couple of months now. Jenny Macpherson and Rodney Wetherell continue to provide the music at our Sunday morning services, and I thank them for that. And of course, so many of you serve in various roles around the parish, from committees, to sacristy work, to gardening, to playgroup and emergency food relief volunteers, spring into gardening volunteers, Refugee Committee members, those who support me at Aged Care services, those involved in Messy Church and meditation, and others. He expressed his gratitude for all that parish members do.

Ewan questioned the lack of an office manager and noted the extent and volume of the work that falls to the Vicar. Sam noted that ways are still being explored with CCSY to increase the admin support to St Martin's. It was noted that the decision to discontinue the position of office manager was both a financial one and also taken in the spirit of the covenant with a wish to use limited resources wisely.

In response to a further question Sam noted that there has been no discussion with CCSY about ultimately amalgamating as a consequence of the covenant.

A comment was made of the importance of balancing the spiritual needs of our own parishioners with our outreach activities.

The annual report also 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, acts of communion and such other statistics from the registers as Archbishop in Council determines. In terms of services and attendances the overall numbers are stable.

It was moved: That the Vicar's report be received.

Moved: Ann Baker
Seconded: Margaret Bride

CARRIED

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Minutes of the Parish Council are published and displayed every month in the Church. As matters considered by the Parish Council are covered in the other reports there is no separate report from the Parish Council.

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Liz Kelly presented the wardens' report.

Liz outlined the outreach activities, including playgroup, messy church, Sunday school, emergency food relief and Gertie's Kitchen. In addition, the Refugee Outreach Committee has been formed of parishioners from St Martin's and Christ Church South Yarra to reach out to refugees and asylum seekers.

St Martin's allocates 10% of our offertory to mission, generally to the Anglican Board of Mission (ABM). This year other recipients are being considered. One opportunity is the organisation SisterWorks, an organisation that develops the working and business skills of refugees and asylum seekers. This opportunities and others will be considered in the coming year.

Heartfelt thanks were offered to Sam and Kate Goodes. Sam is now our Area Dean, supporting the Parishes of Christ Church South Yarra, St Matthew's Prahran, St James' Glen Iris, St George's Malvern, St John's Toorak, St John's East Malvern with All Saints' Kooyong and St Agnes' Glenhuntly.

St Martin's has been very fortunate to have Theological Student Kathryn Watt with us this year. Kathryn is to be ordained as a deacon next February and we wish her all the best for her future. Thanks to all the volunteers at St Martin's who assist with a wide variety of tasks.

A question was asked about the future renewal of vestments. It was agreed to consider this matter in next year's budget once our commitment to mission is met. The repainting of the interior of the church was also mentioned as an item to consider in the budget.

It was moved: That the Churchwarden's report be received.

Moved: Meredith Rogers
Seconded: Liz Kelly

CARRIED

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Treasurer, Christian Lawless, presented the annual accounts.

The profit and loss statement, balance sheet and notes were included with the agenda papers. Also attached was the provisional circulation of the calculation of the parish assessment.

The operating result for 2015-16 was a surplus of \$2,839. This was in line with budget expectations. The bottom line surplus of \$3,031 (2015: \$11,526) was also well in line with expectations. Savings were made in the area of Lay Employee salaries (with no Office Manager since April), and in maintenance, and offertory was above budget for the year.

It was moved:

That the Treasurer's report be received.

Moved: Christian Lawless

Seconded: Meredith Rogers

CARRIED

2016 / 2017 BUDGET

The draft budget for 2016/2017 had been circulated with the agenda papers. It was prepared using a conservative outlook, and was approved by the Parish Council meeting in October. The meeting was asked, therefore, to adopt the circulated budget which projects a \$1,600 surplus.

It was moved:

That the budget for 2016/2017 be accepted.

Moved: Christian Lawless

Seconded: Ewan Tyler

CARRIED

Sam expressed the formal thanks of the parish to Edward Miller who has audited the accounts for many years. Ann and Edward are moving away and as the role of auditor, and Ann is Emergency Food Relief, in particular, they both have made a substantial contribution to the parish. Sam thanked them for their generous contributions. This was passed with acclamation.

REPORTS FROM OTHER PARISH GROUPS

Written reports were received about the Children and Family Ministry, Achieving More Together, Children's Ministry, Art and Arundel Prints, the grounds, music, sacristy, pastoral care, Julian meetings, wider mission, emergency food relief, the Refugee Outreach Committee, and the meditation group.

Sam thanked all the contributors to the range of parish activities and those who the reports.

It was moved:

That the reports be received.

Moved: Ewen Tylor
Seconded: Rosemary Shea

CARRIED

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.

The elected Churchwardens for 2016/2017 are Ann Cutts and Liz Kelly. Meredith Rogers was appointed as the Vicar's warden.

The elected members of Parish Council are Christian Lawless, Ann Baker, Ann Tyler, Robert Lea-West, and Meg Bassett. Tim Sherwood has accepted the Vicar's nomination.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The meeting noted that Terry Vale has been appointed as auditor.

INCUMBENCY COMMITTEE

Ewen Tyler and Ann Baker were appointed to the Incumbency Committee, being the only two nominations for the two available positions.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mission Giving

The Vicar moderated a discussion regarding mission giving, as the Parish Council had discussed this issue and wished for the parish to give its direction and opinion so that they could make a decision. Currently, the parish commits to giving at least 10% of its offertory to mission activities. This is the budgeted figure for the next financial year. The meeting was asked its view on this figure and agreed that it is important to continue to raise money for these activities and that 10% is a reasonable figure to agree on.

The recipient of these funds has historically been ABM. It was noted that as well as the ongoing needs overseas, especially in the face of the withdrawal of Australian Government funds for overseas aid, there are also many worthy local recipients of funds. It was suggested by Margaret Bride that we adopt the principles of: a) giving a percentage of funds to overseas aid as well as a local group, b) that a substantial amount of money be contributed to fewer projects, and c) it is acceptable to support a non-Anglican agency (noting that this would affect our assessment). It was noted that "SisterWorks" which works with refugee women has been identified as a possible recipient of funds and volunteer hours from St Martin's.

This issue will be further considered by Parish Council, in light of the discussion. It was agreed to publicise the funded projects in the pew slip and invite additional individual contributions from parishioners.

Same Sex Attracted Community Members

An advert will be placed in the LGBTI press to alert members of the local community that this parish is welcoming of LGBTI people.

Memorial for Orlando

Murray Little raised the issue of the tragedy earlier this year of Orlando and asked that Parish Council consider holding a specific memorial service for the victims. This will be included on a Parish Council agenda early in 2017.

The meeting closed with the saying of the Parish Prayer by those in attendance.

VICAR'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Introduction

This is my seventh and final report as Vicar of St. Martin's, Hawksburn. Rather than focus so much on the events of the past 12 months, although I will cover the important issues, I would like to reflect on my overall ministry here, and to offer you some thoughts into what I believe might be the way forward for the church, broadly, and for this parish.

Strategic Direction and Leadership

The covenant relationship between St. Martin's and Christ Church, South Yarra (CCSY) remains a key part of this aspect of my role, and I believe is an important legacy of my time here in the parish. I am pleased that the level of commitment to the Covenant is evident at least at the level of Parish Council, and I hope and pray that the parish will continue to embrace this relationship in the future. It has been exciting for me to be involved in the Achieving More Together (AMT) Committee, and to experience the goodwill and the vibrancy of this group.

There are numerous examples of the way in which relationships have been strengthened and deepened through the process of forming the Covenant. Both parishes have paid respect to the Covenant as a living document, as plans and mission directions have always included the consideration as to whether the spirit of the Covenant is honored: the promise that we will not do separately what we might do together, and that we might do together what we are less able to do separately.

The leadership team within the parish has been another area of change since I came. We have reduced the size of the Parish Council, making it more efficient, and ensuring that everybody feels as though they have an opportunity to have their voice heard. The role of the Wardens and Treasurer has also changed somewhat, with the majority of what I would call "operational" decisions being made at this level, freeing up the Parish Council to become the visionary and imaginative group that I think the parish needs it to be. Nowhere has this been more obvious than the process that the Parish Council have engaged in over the past 6 months, where the Mission Action Plan of the parish has been refined. Early in 2018, this plan will be presented to the parish for their input, but it has been driven by the Parish Council and is, I think, reflective of the future direction of the parish.

I have been well supported by all those who have served as Wardens throughout my time here, and I am grateful to all who have volunteered to service on Parish Council. As well as my current Executive team of Meredith Rogers (Vicar's Warden), Liz Kelly and Ann Cutts (People's Wardens), and Christian Lawless (Treasurer), I want to particularly thank Ann Baker, who was my Vicar's Warden for 5 years, and has been an enormous support to me (and to Kate) from even before I officially began as the Vicar in 2011.

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. I have been pleased, also, to welcome Farrah Dunn to the ministry team over the past 10 months. Farrah has been invaluable in assisting Rachel with the care of these families, as well as providing additional support for Rachel, who has done much of her work in some isolation over the past 6 years. I encourage the parish to look for ways to offer additional support and encouragement to Rachel and Farrah in the future.

Ministry

Our identity as an Anglo-Catholic parish has been strengthened over the past 7 years, even if some of our services (I think here particularly of the Easter Vigil, Our Lady of Walsingham, and even our Patronal Festival) are less "busy" than they previously were. This is reflective of the ageing of our congregation, meaning that we have less people available and able to fulfil liturgical roles, but is also indicative of my desire for cleaner and simpler expressions of liturgy, whilst in no way compromising our identity.

As well as our distinctively *Contemporary Catholic* identity displayed through our worship, the Messy Church congregation continues to be our major area of growth (at least numerically) in the parish. Averaging around 45 attendees each month during 2017, our core group of families has grown, so that there are usually more “regular” attendees present each month than “occasionals”. It was disappointing that our initial attempts at setting up some form of faith formation course for the parents met with little interest. We need to keep in mind the purpose of beginning this congregation was to help people in their journey to discipleship.

As I meet with some of my colleagues in ministry from other parishes around Melbourne, what strikes me is the level of activity within this parish. Although we may only be considered a “family-sized” church in terms of attendees, we function more as a “program-sized” community, which is usually found only in parishes with a larger group of regular attenders. Nowhere is this more evident than in the mid-week activity, including Morning Prayer, Eucharist, and meditation services offered and attended in healthy numbers. I thank all parishioners who assist in so many ways toward the worshipping life of the parish.

One of the most treasured aspects of my time here at St. Martin’s has been our shared journey towards the cross each year, as Lent, Holy Week, Passiontide, and Easter are marked by specific events and times of worship, all of which are incredibly meaningful. It has been a privilege for me to make this journey with you all.

Pastoral Care

As Vicar, I am charged with the *cure of souls* of the congregation – that is where the term **Curate** comes from, and this is officially what I am – the Curate of the Parish. One aspect of this, along with faith formation, teaching, and worship, is pastoral care. It encompasses care of people at particular times of illness or difficulty, but in no ways confined to this. My time at St. Martin’s has seen more of the general aspect of pastoral care, although I hope that I have been there for people in their times of need.

One of the drawbacks of parish life as it is lived out at this time is that attendance on a Sunday morning is seen as one of the myriad of options amongst the competing demands of life. In that context, then, it is possible for someone to be absent for several weeks just because there have been other things going on. My fear is always, however, that such absences are due to something like illness or an accident, and unless we as a community are vigilant to this, it is possible for people to “slip through the cracks”. Our formal pastoral care needs to be better, I think – and this is in no way a reflection on those who are engaged in the committee. Rather, it does as they say, take a whole village to care, and we must all be alert to who is missing, and take the initiative to follow them up.

As well as the pastoral care of the parish, I have been pleased to provide ongoing care for the residents of the two Aged Care facilities, Estia Health, Prahran and Chomley House, that we visit regularly. A regular monthly Eucharist (with accompanying hymn singing) is offered; I have officiated at several services of memory for the residents and their families (especially based around those who have died in the past year). I also offered specific care to the community following a particularly devastating outbreak of a virus, leading to the deaths of five residents over the period of two weeks. My thanks go to Jacqueline Boyce, Allen Soule, and John & Ann Baker, who have accompanied me on my visits for the regular services at these facilities. The occasion of singing Christmas Carols in both of these facilities is also a highlight for them, and I thank all those parishioners who were involved in this event last year.

Gertie’s Kitchen has continued to meet this year, on the 1st Wednesday of each month. A now widening group of parishioners and friends meet and enjoy a simple lunch and conversation, following the Wednesday morning Eucharist, which has shifted to 11am this year to make the specific link between hospitality offered around the altar and the hospitality of the lunch gathering. I thank Liz Kelly, Meg Basset, Lesley Schnelle, and their team, who have arranged this, and it has been a pleasure to see everybody enjoying this hospitality.

Outreach & Community

There remains much to do in this area – and I believe that as our Mission Action Plan begins to take shape over the next 12 months there will be greater opportunity for us to offer even more outreach into the community around us, as well as to engage those in the surrounding streets who wish to be involved in voluntary activities but are not connected with our worshipping community.

Until such time as that might happen, we can be rightly proud of what we offer now. Our Emergency Food Relief ministry is important. It is clear that some who access it are not as much “in need” (at least financially anyway) as others, and this remains a frustration – could we be doing more for those who are truly needy – however those who volunteer in this ministry would all have stories of great appreciation and thankfulness for what we offer from the clients.

Likewise, our Playgroup ministry could surely be doing more to offer fellowship and support for those young families who are struggling, but we are here, extending a welcome to those who will come, for 4 sessions each week, plus a playgroup specifically for Japanese Mums, specifically gathering them across some distances. Rachel and Farrah provide an engaging and fun environment, help children and carers learn how to engage with each other, and provide a shoulder to cry on in times of need.

With less than 20% of all weddings being conducted in a church these days (and only around 30% of these being conducted in an Anglican Church), our opportunities here are limited. I would hope that one day the church might be empowered to offer wedding services to same-sex couples, which I believe would be supported by the majority of people in this parish – perhaps we will yet again experience the joy of more marriages being celebrated in this beautiful church.

The ways in which we support those in need in the community around us (and further afield) has also changed somewhat in nature over my time here. Whilst there remains a desire to send monies overseas or to rural or indigenous communities through an agency such as the Anglican Board of Missions (ABM), there is a (legitimate, I believe) concern regarding the utilization of these funds, especially in scenarios where the issue involves potentially corrupt governments in power. With this in mind, a more local emphasis has been suggested. The work of the Refugee Outreach Committee suggested some different options for us, and resulted in the support of *Friends of Refugees* and the Refugee Support Network run by the Brigandine Community. Then, a personal connection with the work of *SisterWorks* resulted in a cooperative support arrangement with CCSY which has been successful this year.

I am pleased, also, that we have finally begun to look at our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). This important social justice issue is one which I feel has been lacking from our focus as a parish. Please see the RAP Committee report on page 45 for initial details.

Working Together

Within the life of the parish, this has been one area which has not required too much prompting or goading from me. Often energized by the work of a key two or three people, the rest of the community comes on board, and things happen. I look back at the Christmas in July event as an example of a major event that was hugely successful, but there are so many more seemingly smaller things which hold the same truth. Although it is true that there are a number of parishioners who are relied upon for a great deal, it is also the case that most people who attend a Sunday morning service are involved in some part of our parish life, whether that be on the duty roster, as a Playgroup or EFR volunteer, in assisting with working bees or on a committee.

I have been heartened by the way in which the parish responded to the request for assistance with the *Food for Friends* program over the last couple of years. Spring Into Gardening has been an important focus for the parish in the past, and may well be again in the future, perhaps in conjunction with *SisterWorks*.

I thank you all for your care of our sacred space. The hard work of the Sacristy team, along with other volunteers, means that the sanctuary area always looks inviting and beautiful. So, too, our grounds, with

many people working hard in various ways to ensure that the natural beauty of our grounds is highlighted and enhanced.

Working together also has a wider aspect, as our parish sits within the life of the Diocese as a whole. Our ability to comply with legislation and legal issues required by the Diocese and other external agencies is important. The Parish Council and Executive take this very seriously. We work hard to continue our compliance with safety issues to do with emergency exit signs, food safety and hygiene, child protection legislation, and privacy, just to mention a few. I have been intentional in being more open and collaborative with the Diocese, as I see the employees at the Anglican Centre as a great source of information, advice, and support.

I meet regularly with Lance Caughlin (Office Manager at CCSY), as we streamline the ways in which CCSY can support us administratively. As I finish in the parish his role will become more critical, and I am pleased that Meredith will take ongoing responsibility for ensuring our shared practices become as efficient as possible.

Financial Management / Administration

I have been intentional in my focus on this aspect of our life together during my time in the parish. I have said in the past that I believe part of our calling as Christians is to live within our means, in both our personal lives as well as our corporate life. I have been pleased by the way in which our financial position has improved over the last seven years. Our current team of Treasurer (Christian) and Book-keeper (David) have worked well together, aided by the Wardens. I acknowledge Christian's work, in particular, as he is taking a sabbatical from the Parish Council. As the first of the Messy Church congregation to be involved in the leadership of the parish he has blazed the trail for others to follow!

Much has been achieved in terms of financial efficiencies also. Gone are the days of cheque books, and the need for Wardens to come into the office and have two signatories. Now, logging on to the ANZ website and the use of an electronic toggle is the way to go, something that can be done from the comfort of home or, as our intrepid Wardens have done at times, from a ship in the middle of the ocean!

The parish has applied for, and been successful in obtaining a number of grants over the years. Some smaller community grants have supported Playgroup, a Diocesan ministry grant enabled us to subsidize the costs of setting up Messy Church, and a significant philanthropic grant is currently funding Farrah's position. I encourage the parish to continue to look for further opportunities in this regard.

Contribution to the Church

I have always sought, in my time here, to be fully involved in Deanery and Diocesan activities. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, as a Priest of the Diocese I believe I will benefit from some, if not all of these activities, training days, conferences, and gathering times. Secondly, as I am seen at these events I represent the parish, and show that it, too, is engaged in the life of the Diocese and is a healthy and outward-looking parish. I am grateful that the Wardens and Parish Council have always been supportive of this, and encourage you to continue this support to the next Vicar.

This year that support has been particularly important as I have taken on the role of Archdeacon of Stonnington. Yes, it has stretched my time and my energies. Yes, it has been an additional level of stress. However, amongst the busy-ness of the role I have found reward, also. I have been heartened, as I work with other parishes and Vicars in the Archdeaconry, by the energy and imaginative ministry that is taking place in the churches around us. I have been (mostly) impressed with the level of enthusiasm and expertise of people in Diocesan positions, and I have enjoyed most of all working with the Vicars of the parishes in the Archdeaconry as they seek to find new ways to reach out and do mission.

I am grateful for the encouragement that I receive from the parish to be involved in these activities. I do try and exercise self-care, so that I am not burning out, and I am also conscious to ensure that such extra

activities do not impact negatively on my important parish ministry. It is a balance which I have not always got right, but there have been far more ups than downs in this area.

Professional Development

One of the challenges in ministry is being intentional about the time required for ongoing education and professional development. I am reminded of the advice of former Archbishop of Melbourne (and, indeed, of Adelaide). Keith Rayner, who was reported to have said that a Priest should always have three books at least on their reading table. One should be a serious scholarly theological work; one should be a lighter, but related work, perhaps on Spirituality, or a biography of one of the mystics; the third should be a novel – an escape – something to read for fun. Other than the fact that I do some of my reading on an electronic tablet, I agree wholeheartedly with him! It is imperative that we are always learning and growing, and when one is responsible for the care of others in their journey of faith this is even more important.

As well as reading, ongoing training is important. After I completed the Diocesan requirements of training for Priest in Charge, I have sought to find other training opportunities each year, such as Supervisor Training, seminars on Catholic Evangelism, an on-line Human Research and Ethics Module, as a part of my professional development for Alfred Ethics Committee, and the Trinity College Anglican Summer School.

As well as these opportunities for education, I have always tried to undertake a form of retreat each year. For the past two years I have been pleased to attend a silent retreat facilitated by a team of senior Clergy from the Diocese. These are times of refreshment and a deep and profound sense of God's presence and goodness. I have maintained my discipline of meeting with my Spiritual Director (Rev. Kate Prowd) and my Supervisor (Rev. Jonathan Chambers) each month. 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 moving forward

In the 20 years between 1990 and 2010, English priest Canon Robert Warren, spent a lot of time exploring the internal dynamics of congregations and helping congregations, parishes and dioceses in England, trying to discover what sort of Church was beginning to emerge from the decaying parochial system. In his work, he came up with seven markers for an emerging Church that takes mission seriously. As I leave this parish, I encourage you to ponder with me how St. Martin's currently fares in this regard, and how it might change and adapt for its future growth.

Warren says that an emerging missionary church:

1. Addresses the future The past is acknowledged, respected and valued, but the future needs to be the focus for each unit in the church. This is important for us, as we celebrate 134 years, yet not get caught up in the structures and limitations of the past. For example, how would you feel if the church pews were replaced with moveable chairs if that made our space more flexible and allowed greater community engagement and outreach? How much time in our parish goes into celebrating the past and how much focuses on future directions and possibilities?
2. Has collaborative leadership This is a great challenge for a largely volunteer organisation. I know that on occasions over my tie here I fell into the trap of thinking I had to do things and make decisions because I was the paid person! The parish is a far more healthy unit when others are sharing in the decision making and direction setting process. This parish is blessed with capable and functional and brilliant people – everybody has gifts to offer and use. Yes, collaboration takes time, but it is worth it, so that lay people are empowered and involved in the parish to the fullest extent.
3. Travels light and flexible. There is no doubt that the church of the past was anything but light and flexible. And, unfortunately, we still have structures and requirements and demands which make this new goal a great challenge. The reality of our ageing church property and increasing compliance demands mean that we must be intentional in order to be light and flexible. The encouragement that

I take in this is that the Diocese is far more open and supportive of new ventures than ever before, as they themselves grapple with what ministry will look like in the future. I encourage you to work closely with the excellent resources in the Diocese as the parish seeks new directions and new partnerships in the future.

4. **Equips people for life** The shape of our Eucharistic worship is very intentional, and has much to teach us about this aspect. As we gather, we acknowledge God, in whose presence we meet. We remember our brokenness, we hear God's Word, we profess our faith and pray for the world. Then, as we remember the story of Salvation, we share around the altar as we are fed and nourished. The final act of the service, after being blessed, is that we are sent – "Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord" – we are sent into the world. It is in this context – our daily lives – that we are called to be salt and light. Parish life is partly about living together and supporting one another. But all of this is done so that we might be able to take this into the world.
5. **Has a whole of life orientation** This relates to the previous point, and speaks to me of integrity. Our faith requires us as individuals, as social, ethical people, and as members of various communities to, as St. Paul says, "...give an account of the hope within us". An emerging, missionary church, therefore, will be one where we are proud of our faith and are encouraged to help faith perspectives shape all that we do and say in the various aspects of our lives. This is why it is so important to offer ongoing educational opportunities for individuals and for the parish as a whole. I hope this aspect of parish life will continue to grow.
6. **Encourages a variety of ways of being Church.** I have mentioned earlier the strength of our contemporary catholic identity. Whilst this is undoubtedly true, and important to celebrate, we cannot become so tied into this so as to be closed off to other options. The formation of Messy Church was an example of one new way of being church. It continues to struggle to some extent under the weight of expectations that it will conform to the old ideals – and whilst of course we would encourage Messy Church attendees to become involved in the wider life of the parish that is simply not realistic for many of those who come. Can we think of other ways of being church – smaller groups of people meeting and "worshipping" not within the church building? What value would we place on this sort of new congregation? What support would we offer?
7. **Highlights the quality of relationships** We understand intuitively the reality that rich relationships create strong communities. It is also true that in a post-modern secular environment, loneliness is a common experience. The emphasis and energy that we place on this aspect of our life together in the future will say much of what we value. Perhaps this is a way to reinvigorate our Pastoral Care ministry – a ministry based around relationships and mutual care would look and feel very different, I think. But we must think more broadly than "friendships". This is a different notion. I encourage you to grapple with different ways to foster and encourage high quality, deep life-giving relationships.

The Executive and Parish Council are committed, in 2017, to finalise the Mission Action Plan (MAP) of the parish. This will be done in conjunction with the new Vicar, and with consultation amongst the congregation. I thank the current council for their initial work in this area. May I encourage everyone to pray deeply about this, and for the Incumbency Committee. Prayer is the most important thing we can do. If we did nothing more than pray faithfully, I am sure God would bring growth. Prayer is our acknowledgement that it is God who prepares, motivates, equips, convicts and allows the scales to fall from our eyes.

I offer you my thanks for working with me in God's mission in this parish over the past 7 years, and pray that you may continue be open to the guidance of God's Spirit. May Christ, whose insistent call disturbs our settled lives, give us all grace to hear his call, to relinquish our tasks and follow empty-handed, wherever he may lead. Amen.

Rev. Sam Goodes

**STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30th SEPTEMBER, 2017**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Total number of public services held:	362	352	350	354
<i>(excluding occasional services such as Weddings and Funerals)</i>				
Total Communions:	3949	3757	3793	3765
Total Christmas Eve/Day Communions:	129	112	120	103
Attendance:	218	194	247	157
Total Easter Eve/Day Communions:	83	88	88	72
Attendance	92	99	93	91
Number of Confirmees:	—	—	—	—
Number of Marriages:	4	3	4	2
Number of Funerals (including interments):	8	—	1	3
Number of Baptisms:	3	3	8	6
Number of Children Admitted to Communion:	—	—	—	—
Number of Persons received into the Anglican Church:	—	—	—	—
Number on Electoral Roll	57	60	61	63

**SUNDAY ATTENDANCE – 2016/17
(COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS TWO YEARS)**

	2016-2017		2015-2016		2014-2015	
<u>Month</u>	Tot Attend	Ave Attend	Tot Attend	Ave Attend	Tot Attend	Ave Attend
October	315	63	259	65	236	59
November	280	70	347	69	341	68.2
December	317	79	255	64	292	73
January	253	51	240	48	228	57
February	288	72	284	71	340	85
March	242	61	315	79	327	65.4
April	387	78	273	68	263	65.8
May	256	64	328	66	309	61.8
June	283	71	267	67	272	68
July	295	59	284	57	233	58.3
August	251	63	258	65	306	61.2
September	296	74	268	67	248	62
Total	3463	67	3413	66	3395	67

St Martin's Anglican Church, Hawksburn

OCCASIONS AND ATTENDANCE OF WORSHIP OCT 2016 – SEP 2017 (OCT 2015- SEP 2016)

	Total Occasions	Total Attendance	Total Communicants	Average Attendance	Increase/Decrease
Sundays 8 am Said Eucharist	50 (50)	568 (622)	555 (607)	11.4 (12.4)	Decrease
Sundays 10 am Sung Eucharist	52 (52)	2406 (2321)	2141 (2057)	46.3(44.6)	Increase
Sunday 9.30am Joint Eucharist	0 (0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	N/A –service ceased
Sunday 4pm Messy Church	11 (10)	489 (470)	N/A	45 (47)	Decrease
Tuesday 9 am Morning Prayer	44 (45)	192 (234)	N/A	4.4 (5.2)	Decrease
Wednesday 11am Said Eucharist	47 (47)	530 (468)	530 (468)	11.3 (10)	Increase
Thursday 9 am Morning Prayer	47 (48)	128 (145)	N/A	2.7 (3.0)	No change
Friday 7 am Said Eucharist	46 (46)	413 (399)	413 (399)	9 (8.7)	No change
Saturday 9.30 am Morning Prayer	46 (46)	245 (283)	N/A	5.3 (6.3)	Decrease
Home and Hospital Communions	8 (8)	18 (20)	18 (20)	2.0 (2.0)	N/A
Aged Care Communions	17 (18)	332 (401)	210 (225)	19.5 (22.3)	Decrease
Special Eucharists	10 (5)	212 (127)	212 (127)	N/A	N/A
Special Non-Eucharist	1 (2)	80 (79)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Weddings	4 (3)	384 (386)	- (-)	N/A	N/A
Baptisms (not Sunday morning)	0 (0)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Funerals (including interments)	8 (0)	718 (0)	N/A	N/A	N/A

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Mission Action Plan

This year we have set out to refresh our previous strategic plans by adopting the format and process recommended by the Diocese for a Mission Action Plan. Our planning was delayed by external factors, but by the end of September, Parish Council had agreed a framework for the plan and a prayerful process to complete the plan. We look forward to explaining the high level plan to the Parish in December, and to completing the action plans with the help of our new Vicar in early 2018.

Mission Action Plan

Activities that bring the Parish in contact with the external community are very important to St Martin's. We are blessed to have parishioners who support the outreach activities with their time and money, support that has allowed us to continue the following outreach activities, which are described more fully elsewhere:

- Playgroup (see Children and Family Ministry Report, on page 37)
- Messy Church (see Children's Ministry Report, on page 39)
- Emergency Food Relief (see EFR Report, on page 44)

We would like comment on the following activities, which are not mentioned elsewhere.

Refugee Outreach, through partnership with Sisterworks

SisterWorks is an independent agency which focuses on supporting women who are refugees or asylum seekers to start their own businesses. There are now more than 80 'sisters', women who are actively engaged in producing items for sale at SisterWorks' Richmond shop or at markets around the city.

Our relationship to SisterWorks is built around support for projects. Their latest project is the creation of a range of preserves, all based on family recipes from the sisters' countries of origin. This venture has been supported by money donated by our parish and by Christ Church South Yarra (CCSY), which has helped the sisters buy jars and ingredients and has provided them with a labelling machine to facilitate the production of the bottled preserves, which look very smart and professional. SisterWorks has also been given access to a commercial kitchen one day per week and a professional chef has donated her services to perfect the recipes. The resulting preserves are selling very well and are creating strong brand recognition for SisterWorks.

Several parishioners have also been working directly with SisterWorks; Ifrin Fittock has been sharing her IT expertise to help SisterWorks develop their web presence and Ann Cutts has worked with SisterWorks board members and parishioners of CCSY to identify additional expertise that could be useful.

Gertie's Kitchen

This year invitations to Gertie's Kitchen have been extended to men and women of both St Martin's and CCSY, in recognition that loneliness is common in all communities. Liz Kelly and Meg Bassett, who continue to organise and cater for Gertie's, have now extended the monthly event to include the Wednesday morning Eucharist, which was the successful format pioneered at Holy Advent.

People

Our Vicar

Sam has continued to offer his very special ministry to the Parish this year. Each service he leads - Eucharist, Morning Prayer or Messy Church - is touched by his prayerful preparation and centred presence. His sermons are sometimes provocative and often tinged with humour, but each sermon leaves us with new ideas on the development and practice of our faith. Sam is also a warm presence for those in need, providing practical advice and support as well as an open heart. As Wardens, we have also been very grateful for Sam's administrative expertise, which has meant that the Parish has operated smoothly without an Office Manager.

In December 2016, Sam was collated as the Archdeacon of Stonnington. We were thrilled that Bishop Genevieve recognised his talents and were impressed by the skill with which Sam took on his new duties. He has undoubtedly left his mark on the parishes in his care and the Diocesan committees with which he has been involved.

On 17th September, we were saddened to announce that Sam will soon be leaving us to take up his new position as Rector of St Andrew’s Walkerville in Adelaide. We will greatly miss Sam and send him our blessings for his work at St Andrew’s which, with CCSY, is one of the two Anglican parishes which is associated with a grammar school. We will also sorely miss Kate’s skills in managing our website, the food supply for Emergency Food Relief and countless other tasks that she has performed quietly and competently. We also thank God for the love that radiates from the family and has illuminated our Sunday services.

The members of the Incumbency Committee – Ann Baker, Liz Kelly and Ewen Tyler – are preparing for the selection process which will commence with a Parish Consultation on 19th November. We ask you to keep them in your prayers as they undertake this challenging assignment.

Organist

Jenny McPherson has again supported our 10am services from the organ. We are pleased that Jenny allows us to sing the hymns we love with gusto and that she provides a soothing musical accompaniment to our services.

Sacristans

This year has been challenging for the Sacristy team, Diane Holdsworth, Ann Baker, Olga Pole and Aldyth Tyler, due to Diane’s broken hip and long convalescence in Tasmania, Olga’s involvement in supporting family in Sydney and Aldyth’s cracked pelvis and convalescence in Melbourne and Woodend. Ann and Olga ensured that the altar was dressed, the candles were ready to be lit and the Eucharistic vessels were prepared. We offer our heartfelt thanks to the sacristans for their work.

Cleaner

Rachel and her son, Shaun, have been expertly cleaning the church and studio. We are grateful for their attention to detail and reliable presence.

Volunteers

Finally, the hallmark of St Martin’s unique character is the large number of people who volunteer to provide our outreach services, assist at the Eucharist, maintain the building and the garden and perform countless other tasks. We rejoice in being part of such an active community, and pray for God’s blessings on our endeavours in his name.

Buildings

East Window Repair

The repair of the east window was completed this year, thanks to Sam and Laurie who managed all the tradespeople. It is a joy to see the cleaned windows safely reinstalled in their stone frames. The costs for the project were:

Item	Provider	Cost
Structural engineering advice	Trevor Huggard	\$825
Supply and installation of bars to stabilise the walls	Praxis (Ashely Norris)	\$3,362
Removal, repair and installation of the windows	Almond Glass	\$17,270
Patching and tuck-pointing of the brickwork (finished in October 2017)	Ron Dalton	\$9,200
Total		\$30, 657

These costs were covered by donations of \$15,000 raised by the East Window Appeal and a generous bequest that was also allocated to the National Trust fund.

Studio (formerly called Crypt)

Parish Council agreed to a proposal to upgrade the Studio, following a request from Mel Campbell who has taught yoga in the Studio for several years and intends to continue in coming years. The items to be completed, and actual or expected costs, are tabulated below.

Item	Vendor	Status	Cost or budget (incl GST)
Supply of ceiling fans with lights	Beacon Lighting	Complete	\$2,094
Installation of ceiling fans and circuit for air-conditioner	Swap Electrics	Complete	\$2,101
Supply and installation of reverse cycle air-conditioner	Hub-Air	Complete	\$4,796
Painting	South Yarra Painting	Completed in October 2017	Deposit: \$545 Quoted balance: \$5,902
Miscellaneous carpentry	Picot Ray (Gavin) Trewan	Awaiting quote	
Total			\$15,438

Mel Campbell will pay 50% of the costs, in return for guaranteed access to the Studio at designated times and a reduction in future rental. In effect, her contribution will reduce our initial outgoings but will not actually reduce the final cost of the renovations. We hope that you find the refurbishments pleasing.

Roof and Gutter Repairs

As reported last year, the church gutters are corroded, with the result that water is leaking into the Walshingham Chapel. There was also a serious leak into the back room of the vicarage. After much searching, we finally identified a company that is competent to repair all these defects. The vicarage leak was repaired at a modest cost, but the roofing company inspected the remainder of the roof and identified many potentially serious defects. We are still considering how to deal with the other defects. Repairs on the church gutters will commence in 2018 after approval has been granted by the Diocese's Building Committee. These major repairs will require prayerful planning to deliver on our responsibilities as stewards of the parish's physical and financial resources.

Garden

Barbara Hansen's work on the rear garden has resulted in planting that will grow even more beautiful over the coming years. The retaining wall at the western side of the rear garden was replaced, thanks to the skill of one of the Playgroup fathers.

Polyglot lease

The lease has been extended for a further two years.

Achieving More Together

Our collaboration with Christ Church South Yarra has flourished under the guidance of the Achieving More Together committee. We refer you to the AMT report (on page 39).

Fund-raising

Spring into Gardening

October 2017 saw us unable to provide produce and operate our usual stall at Spring into Gardening. Fortunately, SisterWorks were able to staff the stall and they sold \$1,000 worth of the preserves which are described above. It was also an excellent opportunity for the sisters to make contact with people and they were very pleased with the interest shown by visitors to the stall.

Australia Day Fireworks

Ann and John Baker again invited the Parish to their home in Mornington for dinner and to watch the Australia Day fireworks. This delightful evening raised \$3,950, thanks in part to substantial donations from several families, and brought the parish together as we enjoyed the bus trip to and from Mornington. We are grateful to Ann and John for their initiative and hospitality.

Raffle

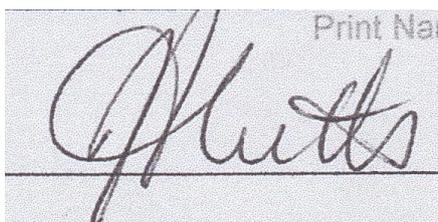
We raised \$19,000 for parish outreach by a raffle initiated by Ann and John Baker, who donated the very generous first prize and organised the raffle. The second prize, also substantial, was donated by Ewen Tyler. Many people from the parish sold tickets to their family and friends, and some took on the challenge of selling tickets in Hawksburn and Toorak shopping centres and the Prahran Market. Not only did the raffle raise a substantial amount of money, the street sales raised the parish's profile and created many opportunities to talk about SisterWorks and our other outreach activities to people from our local communities.

Conclusion

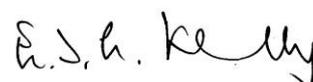
It has been our pleasure to serve the St Martin's community. We ask you to join us in prayer each month for God's guidance in caring for the Parish's activities, people and buildings.



Meredith Rogers
Vicar's Warden



Ann Cutts
People's Warden



Liz Kelly
People's Warden

TREASURER'S REPORT

Introduction

This report provides a commentary on the financial results for 2017 and discusses the forthcoming financial year. Comprehensive results are included in the parish accounts which follow this report. We are close to finalising the report with the auditor and hopefully I will be able to report at the Annual Parish Meeting that this has been completed.

Balancing the Treasurer role and my work commitments has at times been challenging, and I am very appreciative of the patience and assistance provided by the Wardens and Parish Council. I would especially like to extend thanks to Revd Sam Goodes for his guidance and ability to address matters efficiently. He will be sorely missed from St Martin's and all the work he does for Parish Council and the Executive. May I also thank our Bookkeeper, David Sharrock, for his impressive efforts to consistently provide us with management accounts each month, to organise payment of all of our invoices throughout the year and supporting me through the preparation of the financial report.

Results for 2017

The operating result for 2017 was a surplus of **\$8,966**. This result was an improvement on last year's operating surplus of \$2,839 but generally consistent with prior year results.

The bottom line surplus of **\$15,633** (2016: \$3,031) was a very solid performance, buoyed by unrealised gains made on the equity holdings in BHP and S32.

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 prior year

There was a significant increase in fundraising this year which was underpinned by so many in our Community contributing to the fundraising activities. The costs have increased, primarily as a result of capital works undertaken to repair Polyglot and the Studio upgrade; projects that were either necessary or advantageous long-term.

Outreach

The Parish's main outreach activity is the Playgroup. As evident from note 6 to the accounts, the playgroup ran at a gain this year which is a reflection of the popularity of the program under Rachel's leadership. We received a very generous grant of \$20,000 from the Collier Charitable Fund a couple of years ago and this is being used to fund a Playgroup Assistant, a role that has been most beneficial to the overall ability of the activity to begin spreading God's word.

Messy Church is not self-sustaining and at this point that is not our goal. The program has several regular families and has generally maintained a consistent base attendance. A review was undertaken during the year which culminated into a survey. The results of the survey were varied due to low participation numbers however there was no notable concerns which arose. We shall continue to monitor the performance of this area.

Our relationship with SisterWorks blossomed this year and in addition to a \$4,000 contribution we have undertaken several integrated activities.

Budget for 2017

We worked on a conservative basis when developing the budget and have produced a break-even budget or thereabouts. We therefore endorse the attached budget of a deficit after capital works of \$61,000. The budget is attached as Appendix 1.

Balance Sheet Analysis

Total assets have increased by over **\$15,446** as a result of the surplus. Liabilities have decreased by **\$2,189** and are essentially consistent with last year.

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 again by **\$13,801**, the fourth increase in as many years.

National Trust monies received for the window do not appear in our Balance Sheet as they are paid directly to the Trust and they are then responsible for payment of invoices related to the remedial works.

In the new year we will be investing some of our surplus cash into the Diocese investment vehicles with the aim to maximise the return available - instead of keeping those funds in a low/zero interest earning bank account.

Conclusions

This year's operating surplus has been created by money raised by the fund-raising and monitoring of expenditure. We are in a financially stable position going into 2018 and this will aid in helping to support the decisions which will need to be made about our built environment - especially the repair work required to the Church's guttering and Vicarage roof.

Christian Lawless

Treasurer

NOTES TO PROFIT & LOSS	2017		2016	
	Income	Costs	Income	Costs
1. Offertory				
Parish - Open	22,188		21,887	
Parish - Envelope	21,165		22,553	
Parish - Planned Giving	30,372		30,734	
Messy Church	830		884	
Parish - Electronic Transfer	1,660		154	
	76,215		76,212	
2. Donations & Sundry Income				
Weddings, baptisms, funerals	3,000		2,725	
General donations	651		105	
Donations for equipment & maintenance	5,050		5,780	
Messy Church parishioner donations				
Playgroup parishioner donations				
Donations for pascal candle				
Archdeacon Parish Support	7,288		-	
Alfred Health income	1,200		2,400	
Sisters of the Church	201		-	
Sundry Income	-		22	
	17,390		11,032	
3. Investment Income				
Interest Recd ANZ cheque A/C	-		-	
Interest Recd ADF Acc Saving	2,000		3,483	
Distribution Cash Plus Funds	12,786		13,612	
Shares Income	791		581	
	15,577		17,676	
4. Property Income				
Rent Received	22,075		22,932	
Crypt/Church Hire	4,915		6,065	
Optus	45,841		43,658	
Total property income	72,831		72,655	
Property Insurance		1,838		1,754
Utilities		-		377
Maintenance Building & Grounds		16,569		-
Council and Water Rates		605		1,476
Total property costs		19,012		3,607
Net property income	53,819		69,048	

NOTES TO PROFIT & LOSS	2017		2016	
	Income	Costs	Income	Costs
14. Bequests				
None	-		-	
	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>	
15. Donations				
Anonymous donation	-		-	
	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>	
16. National Trust - East Window Appeal				
Two years ago the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) established an appeal for the benefit of remediation works over the East Window of St Martin's Church.				
Balance at 1 October	8,372		10,673	
Donations for the year	42,270		-	
Expenditure for the year	- 18,998		- 2,301	
Balance at 30 September	<u>31,644</u>		<u>8,372</u>	
As the above funds are held by the National Trust of Australia on behalf of an asset which is not Expenditure invoiced during the 2017 year comprised of the initial rectification works.				

APPENDIX 1
BUDGET FOR 2017/18

APPENDIX 2 - PROVISIONAL CALCULATION OF PARISH ASSESSMENT

(\$26,367 UP FROM \$25,120)

Appendix 2 - Provisional Calculation of Parish Assessment

CALCULATION OF PARISH ASSESSMENT - Page 5																																		
Parish of St Martin's Hawksburn																																		
Item	Details	This Year \$	Assessment %	Assessment \$																														
16	Total Assessable Income - from Page "Income"	195,487																																
17	Less Allowances Staff Allowance - on Remuneration of all Clergy & authorised stipendiary Lay staff - excluding the Vicar & Locum Only. Includes: Stipends/salaries, salary sacrifice, M.V. allowance, Housing allowance, Superannuation, Corporate card, LSL, S&A insurance.																																	
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Clergy & Authorized Stipendiary Lay Staff ONLY</th> <th rowspan="2">Staff Costs Expense schedule (\$)</th> <th colspan="2">Allowance</th> </tr> <tr> <th>rate %</th> <th>(\$)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>a Vicar, Incl Locum costs</td> <td>82,602</td> <td>nil</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>b Curates/Theological students</td> <td>1,500</td> <td>100%</td> <td>1,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c Total Other Clergy/ASLMs</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>LESS staff involved with Youth & Benevolent courses (refer page 4)</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>c Total Other Clergy/ASLMs (Net)</td> <td>0</td> <td>***</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>d</td> <td>Total Allowance</td> <td>1,500</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Clergy & Authorized Stipendiary Lay Staff ONLY	Staff Costs Expense schedule (\$)	Allowance		rate %	(\$)	a Vicar, Incl Locum costs	82,602	nil		b Curates/Theological students	1,500	100%	1,500	c Total Other Clergy/ASLMs	0			LESS staff involved with Youth & Benevolent courses (refer page 4)	0			c Total Other Clergy/ASLMs (Net)	0	***	0	d	Total Allowance	1,500				
Clergy & Authorized Stipendiary Lay Staff ONLY	Staff Costs Expense schedule (\$)			Allowance																														
		rate %	(\$)																															
a Vicar, Incl Locum costs	82,602	nil																																
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LESS staff involved with Youth & Benevolent courses (refer page 4)	0																																	
c Total Other Clergy/ASLMs (Net)	0	***	0																															
d	Total Allowance	1,500																																
	*** rate - First \$100,000 @ 50%; balance @ 25%																																	
18	Growth Allowance - 50% of growth in "live" income (after allowing for an inflationary factor of 3%) Formula: $(\frac{2017 \text{ 'live' income}}{\text{from Assessable Income}} - \frac{2016 \text{ 'live' income}}{\text{from Assessable Income}}) \times 1.03 \times 50\%$	7,153																																
19	Mission Giving - 100% deduction of "Vestry approved" donations - Expense Sch																																	
	Donations	3,289																																
20	Partner Church allowance - 100% Deduction																																	
	Expense Schedule	0																																
21	Chaplaincy Support - 100% Allowance																																	
	Expense Schedule	0																																
22	Multi-centre Maintenance Allowance																																	
	Expense Schedule	0																																
23	Total allowances (\$) = Items 17d + 18 + 19 + 20 + 21 + 22 + 23	11,942																																
	Total (net) assessable income for assessment purposes = Item 16 - 23	183,545																																
24	Calculation of parish assessment:																																	
	First \$60,000 of assessable income	60,000	11.0	6,600																														
	Balance	123,545	16.0	19,767																														
25	Total net assessable income = Item 25	183,545	Total	26,367																														
26	Less Area Deans Allowance			\$ -																														
	Assessment Payable			26,367																														
Important: * Minimum assessment is 5% of base stipend (\$7,363) = \$2,868																																		

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St Martin's Hawksburn Churchwardens' Declaration

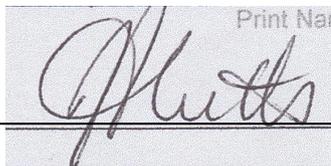
The churchwardens have determined that the parish is not a reporting entity and this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note A to the financial statements.

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 2017 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 Cutts

Signature:  Print Name

Name: Meredith Rogers

Signature: Meredith Rogers

Name: Elizabeth Kelly

Signature: E.S.K. Kelly

Date: 17 November 2017

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY COORDINATOR'S REPORT



At playgroup, we offer not only a safe and fun playgroup program four sessions a week during the school term, we also offer a safe environment for the carers to share their daily struggles, such as concerns for their children, family affairs, jobs and more. To do this we chat, laugh and cry together while running the playgroup program. Until last December, I (Rachel) was struggling to do both at the same time. But not anymore - thank you for welcoming Farrah to our playgroup ministry! We are now able to run the program efficiently as well as meeting the carers' needs.

One of the examples: One winter morning, we were running the program as usual. All the families decided to go to the downstairs room to play

except for one. The child was refusing to leave the cubby house (happily playing). The mum was alone. So I sat down and began a casual conversation with her. I start talking to her about the weather, asked about her plan for the weekend...but I didn't have to try talk to her for long. She began to whisper to me...very quietly... about how she had bought a house, struggling with her job, how her mum is battling terminal illness, and how her partner has been resentful for having the child. She was trying so hard not to cry in front of her child. I glanced the clock, it was time for me to start the music time downstairs. If this was last year, I used to have to stop the conversation to run the program and try to catch up with her outside the playgroup if possible. But this time, knowing that Farrah was with rest of the group downstairs, I decided to stay with this mum and listen. Farrah knew there must be a reason I was not with the group, so she ran the program as usual. Great team work! This mum knew herself that she and preferably her partner needed to see a professional counsellor. She said to me before she went home, "Thank you, I really needed someone to listen to me..." We didn't do much for her except offering her a safe place to share and cry. I believe "listening" is one of ways to share the love of Christ.

Heather Karrasch, Coordinator Early Childhood Ministries Baptist Union of Victoria wrote this in her 2004 article "Playgroup Can Be Missional":

"For a long time churches and leaders have focused their playgroups on children and the program and while there is no doubt that the program is very important for children, there needs to be more awareness of the needs playgroup can meet for parents. Parents are often attracted to playgroup because of the program for their children, but they also experience support, encouragement, and acceptance for themselves. This is a God given environment for "friendship evangelism" as relationships are often the life beat of playgroup.... People are drawn because they see Jesus in the Christians involved in playgroup.... This is happening through friendships and relationships. Grace is coming before truth."

If we can be the light & salt to those carers by listening, laughing and crying together, I believe we are sharing the love of Christ. It is even better if we are given an opportunity to share the gospel!

In October, we have asked the carers this question: what does St Martin's Playgroup means to you? This is what some of the carers said...

"It's a place to socialise for me and my child. It's a reason to get out, routine for my child, we love the music group!"

“My twins love coming to the playgroup, and talk about what they have done for hours afterwards. Thank you for the warmth and humour you have extended to myself and the boys! “

“We choose to come because it’s well organized.”

“My child and I both love the social interaction with the mum and bubs. All of the activities and singing/dancing are wonderful and fun. You make it a very welcoming place. We look forward to it each week!”

“More days per week could be a nice idea.”

“More different toys and crafts please.”

“Longer music time please.”

Messy Church

Messy Church is one of our wonderful ways to “sow living seeds” in local families’ life. This is where the message of hope is shared in this busy town.

Each month we have a Biblical verse as a theme. We try our best to share the Bible theme through the crafts activities for the first hour, then we send the families upstairs to the Church where Rev. Sam shares the Biblical message. For many of the Messy Church families, this is the one time where they hear the Gospel. Some of them have a Christian background but whatever the reason, they haven’t committed to Christ yet. For others Christianity is totally new. I believe it is vital that we have a consistent program for the community such as this Messy Church to attract and invite seekers and not yet Christian people to share the Gospel at St Martin’s.

Thank you for all your support for this mission. Please continue to pray for us for

- Pray that we can share the Good news effectively and efficiently in the short time we have each month.
- Pray for those at Messy Church to have a desire to know Christ more and be saved!
- Pray for more families will come next year.

What Farrah and I do is possible because of your support and prayer! Sincere “thank you” to everyone from St Martin’s. Please continue to pray for us and this ministry, pray for wisdom, love for others, opportunity to share the gospel and bring them to Christ.

God bless you,
Rachel Virsu
November 2017

Since coming on board to St Martin's almost 1 year ago, I had no idea of the impact Rachel's and my role would have on carers and children. Playgroup at St Martin's is more than a service for children and carers in the community to socialise and play...it's a place of belonging, where carers and children unite. A safe place built on trust, St Martin's playgroup is a very much needed service in these uncertain times. Financial problems, diet issues, low self-esteem, domestic violence, baby/toddler issues and loneliness are just some of the struggles Rachel and I hear about....no one should suffer in silence.

I am extremely proud and honoured being an employee of St Martin's.

Farrah Dunn
November 2017

ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER SUB-COMMITTEE

Achieving More Together is a joint initiative of Christ Church South Yarra (CCSY) and St Martin's Hawksburn (St Martin's) which aims to increase cooperation between the two parishes, so that together we achieve more for our community than either parish can achieve alone. The parishes signed a formal covenant in April 2016 and the joint program is guided by the AMT Working Group which has 3 lay and 1 clerical representative from each parish.

The year started with a workshop of the St Martin's and CCSY Parish Councils, facilitated by Jamie Miller from CCSY. Three priorities emerged from the workshop:

1. A joint Pastoral Care program [including the provision of home communions]
2. Greater reciprocity at PC level with a sharing of plans and strategies [including financial]
3. Jointly develop:
 - a. Reconciliation Action Plan
 - b. Work in support of Asylum Seekers and Refugees.

Both parishes perceive weaknesses in the pastoral care activities that support their own congregations. Strategies to overcome these weaknesses include training provided by Revd Marilyn Hope from CCSY. There is scope to do more with this in 2018. Increased reciprocity at Parish Council level also proved to be challenging because the two parishes have different priorities, largely due to issues associated with Christ Church Grammar School (CCGS). This initiative was deferred until 2018.

Work to create a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) covering CCSY, CCGS and St Martin's has commenced, with potential support from Revd Glen Loughrey, Vicar of St Oswald's Glen Iris. The three current representatives are Tania Evans (CCSY), Marg McBean (CCGS) and Suzanne Peart (St Martin's). The AMT Working Group agreed that the process of the RAP development would be best facilitated if each RAP group representative were to report directly to their own Parish Council or School Committee, rather than to the AMT Working Group which meets less frequently.

The fruits of our joint actions in support of asylum seekers and refugees are described in the Churchwardens' Report (see page 19).

Another area for cooperation in 2018 is the development of suitable policies and practices relating to the safety of children in our parishes. The first action will be St Martin's review of the Child Safe Policy Statement developed by CCSY, with a view to its adoption as the first step in St Martin's actions on this critical subject.

Our two parishes continue to working together in the mission of Christ:

- not doing separately what we might do together, and
- doing together what we are less able to do separately.

Meredith Rogers
AMT Secretary

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT

The ministry to children in the parish consists of two main aspects – the children's talk and activities in the Sunday 10am service, and the monthly service of Messy Church.

Messy Church is a wonderful opportunity for ministry and evangelism to a community which is largely unchurched (and in many cases not even Christian). Although our average attendance has decreased slightly this year (45/month, down from 47/month in 2015/16), we have noticed a more steady core of families attending more regularly, allowing for greater continuity and deepening of relationships. I am grateful to Rachel and Farrah for their prayerful and creative input into Messy Church, as well as the teams of parish volunteers who provide hospitality each month. This year two of our regular Messy Church families also took on this responsibility.

I foreshadowed in my report last year some challenges for the Messy Church community, including the desire to offer an opportunity for Christian faith exploration. In canvassing the attendees to try and find the most appropriate format for this, it became clear that this was not a priority for them, with the majority of respondents to the survey stating that they would not be interested in attending something like this. It does bring into focus the overall aim of this outreach activity, as the opportunity for sharing of the faith and growing disciples is naturally limited in the context of the service itself. I believe this is a topic for careful discernment and discussion by Parish Council over the next 12 months.

I am pleased that we are still offering something for children in our main worship service of 10am each Sunday. We continue to use, in the main, material from the *Seasons of the Spirit*, provided by Mediacom Education. I continue to be very grateful to those few people who are rostered to provide the talk and/or activities for those children who do come each week:

- Kate Goodes
- Janet Lea-West
- Lynne Sherwood

Rev. Sam Goodes

ART AND ARUNDEL PRINTS

Thanks to the faithful team, the rotation of the Arundel Prints has continued throughout the year.

The big excitement of the year was the gift of four prints from St. Catharine's, Elsternwick. Two of them were already in our collection, but there were two new ones; "The Supper and Vision of St. Dominic", by Fra Bartolomeo Fattorini (1475-1517), and "The Presentation in the Temple", by Bernadino Luins (1475-1533). They are splendid additions to our collection. Both have been restored by Candida Bascombe, and remounted to fit our museum frames, for exhibition in the coming year. Look out for them in January and February, 2018.

My thanks to the Arundel team yet again, for their commitment for another year.

Ewen Tyler
Curator

GROUNDS REPORT

It is my pleasure to report to you on the present state of the Church garden. As I have now almost completed the garden project I thought it appropriate to give an overall view of what has been achieved in the last few years.

When I began in 2015, prior to any gardening work commencing, 13 trees on the south side were removed and the large cotoneasters on the West boundary were removed.

My primary brief was the Memorial Garden. I was fortunate to win the 2015 "Spring into Gardening" raffle and the ceramic pot was the prize. Sam and I made the decision that the best place for the pot was the Memorial Garden. This pot was made by Sue Dickens and now is the prize exhibit in the garden.

From the Memorial Garden I went to the West garden. The planting began in 2016 and I am very excited now that with only one year's growth the garden is starting to look like a garden. Good times ahead.

The next step was part of the South gardens and I am still working there. The Clivia and Acanthus Mollis commonly known as oyster plants, that have dominated the area, I have divided, repositioned, replanted and

again I am well on the way to achieving a beautiful garden. The staff at Polyglot who walk up and down this pathway appreciate the garden and I am now supplying them with Clivia's for their gardens.

It has been very exciting for me to achieve what has been achieved. There are problems ahead, the maintenance is not a problem but the watering over the summer months concerns me. I would be very grateful if anyone could make time available to help with the watering of the West garden. No need to consult with me.

My thanks also to others who work in the gardens, including Ann Cutts who prunes and cares for the beautiful roses along the path to the Church, Jacqueline Boyce, who continues to lovingly maintain the south-east part of the garden, and others who have contributed to the upkeep and care of our wonderful gardens.

Barbara Hansen.

CURSILLO AT ST MARTIN'S

The Cursillo group at St. Martin's has not met as regularly as in years' past. However, it remains an active group, and faithfully conducts its 4th Day Reunion meetings followed by a shared meal.

Following a short study, one person is responsible for leading the discussion. The aim is to keep the topics relevant for today's changing world.

A major strength of the group is prayer and support – one for another. The shared meal is a focus and integral part of the fellowship.

If anyone would like to join the group on an occasional basis, they would be most welcome.

Ann Baker

MUSIC

At 10 a.m. services on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays, and Christmas and Easter, under Rev Sam's leadership we have continued to sing the psalm and the mass, hymns, and mostly a sung gospel acclamation. We seasonally change the mass setting to reflect the liturgy: simpler in Advent and Lent, more joyful in the other seasons.

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 (hopefully) send people out with a spring in their step.

Thanks to Sam as ever for his commitment to singing the psalm and ordinary of the mass. I will greatly miss his support and strong musical leadership, and I thank him for all of that, and for being such a pleasure to work with.

For many of us appropriate music contributes enormously to a service, to our spiritual journey, and to our praising God, and it is always my intention to support and add beauty to our worship, enable reflection, and to help lift hearts heavenwards.

*Jenny McPherson
Parish Organist
October 2017*

SACRISTY REPORT

Sacristy duties have been carried out this past year with much appreciated help from Olga Pole. Olga's help during my recovery from an unexpected hip replacement was invaluable.

I also thank Ann Baker and Ann Cutts for help when they are available.

Reference was made in last year's report on the condition of the red cassocks and white cottas. They are very old and rapidly deteriorating. They need to be replaced as soon as possible. Any new robes should be made of washable fabric and require no ironing. I would greatly appreciate if the Parish Council / Executive would give the matter serious consideration.

Thank you very much to Father Sam for his assistance and Pastoral Care.

Diane Holdsworth
Senior Sacristan

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Committee has met this year on a two monthly 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 11am has been well supported, and provides an opportunity for fellowship.

In addition to home and hospital communions, Rev Sam Goodes and the pastoral volunteers have taken regular communion to two aged care facilities – Estia Health in Windsor, and Chomley House in Prahran. The efforts of the regular volunteers involved in this ministry - Allen Soule, Jacqueline Boyce, Ann and John Baker - are acknowledged and appreciated.

This year has seen the expansion of the family support and playgroup programmes, along with Messy Church held once a month for children and their parents. The Children and Family Ministry Coordinator, Rachel Virsu, has overseen the development of these programmes, assisted once again, by a number of committed volunteers.

The Sunday School activities and presentations have been enjoyed by all parishioners and visitors alike.

Emergency Food Relief

This year we continue to coordinate the Emergency Food Relief programme in conjunction with Christ Church, South Yarra. A number of volunteers from Christ Church South Yarra have joined the existing food relief volunteers for these sessions, in the hope of being able to meet the increasing needs of the individuals and families that use our service.

The food relief contribution made by Christ Church Grammar School and the parish community, have fulfilled a vital role of support for this ministry. The generous donations made by all people from both parishes is greatly appreciated towards this growing area 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 on the 1st Monday of each month (excluding January). From 2018 they will be held in the Church.

The format follows a reading from 'Revelations of Divine Love', a short meditation, discussion, closing prayers and The Grace, followed by a light meal and good fellowship.

Julian is considered world-wide to be one of the great Theologians who wrote for the encouragement of her 'even-Christians'. Her work is a cosmic and timeless view of Christian Spirituality, and taps into deep mystical ideas than run across the millennia. Julian produced something beyond beautiful English Literature (Prose), and her homely images of God are entirely unique.

She opens her book with the phrase "this is a revelation of love". This love is unlike that described by other theologians of her time and tradition, because for Julian, her understanding of God is equally male and female - "As truly as God is our father, so truly is God our mother", and God's Love is everywhere.

Julian's approach on the subject of sin is surprising and open-minded. She declares that "sin is behovely" (necessary), that sin comes from our freedom to choose, and never from God. God as mother is forgiving and loving, and the unconditional love of a mother will not be broken by our offences.

Julian sees a bigger picture behind the daily chaos. The sense of fragility of the universe (seen in a hazelnut nestling in the palm of her hand), such a little thing, but there is hope because it is loved by God. And Julian is quietly confident that no matter what events are playing out on earth, our heavenly mother Jesus cannot allow us that are his children to perish. Her deceptively simple words "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well" exist outside of time.

Come and join us and be enriched by Julian's messages of safekeeping, joyful salvation, and God's endless continuing love.

Janet and Rober Lea West

WIDER MISSION

In 2016-7 the Parish Council decided to divide our giving outside the parish into two parts: 50% to Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) and 50% to an organization working locally with refugee families.

After a thorough investigation SisterWorks in Richmond was chosen as the local organization. They assist refugee women living in Melbourne to become financially independent, supporting them to learn English and also to learn the skills they need to gain employment in Australia. The relationship with them has been much more than the giving of this money. They have assisted in catering for a parish event and have taken over out slot at Spring Into Gardening. In addition, several members of St. Martin's have become regular volunteers at SisterWorks.

Following our last Annual Parish Meeting, when concern was expressed about the withdrawal of Australian Government funding to the churches in Papua New Guinea (PNG) for education and support for people living

with HIV, it was decided to give the full amount of our giving to ABM to support this important work. The Anglican Church of PNG has expanded its ABM funded program for adult literacy to include education in various aspects of health, especially HIV and our contribution will be used in that way. Parishioners will be pleased to know that all the instructors are given a training program before they begin and most of the instructors are women. This means that the message about the dangers of infection and support for those who are infected, can be effectively delivered over a very wide area of the country, not just in Lae and Port Moresby.

We hope that the Parish Council will decide to continue to offer financial support to SisterWorks and ABM in 2017-8. The 50/50 split seems to have met with general approval in the parish.

Margaret Bride & Ruth Mercer

EMERGENCY FOOD RELIEF

St Martin's, in partnership with CCSY, continues to provide emergency food relief parcels each week. The past 12 months has seen a change in distribution days, to accommodate other parish commitments, and to consolidate our volunteer base. The scheduled days are now Tuesdays each week, between 10am and 1pm.

We currently have fourteen (14) regular volunteers from within our own parish and from CCSY who give their time on a regular basis to this outreach activity. Through having more volunteers on each occasion, we are now trying to provide more opportunity for fellowship and community within those who come seeking assistance. Many clients now enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat while they wait their turn to be served.

Our standard offering to people is made up of a choice of up to ten (10) essential pantry items, none of which are perishable or require immediate refrigeration. In the lead up to Christmas, we are able to offer some extra "treats" (a tinned ham or large tuna and something sweet – a Christmas pudding or cake, sweet biscuits or block of chocolate), which are donated either by our parishioners or by the 'Food for Friends' group, an ecumenical venture between the Uniting, Anglican, and Catholic Churches in Toorak. Our clients are always most appreciative!

We feel very fortunate to have been able to continue our food assistance even since the SWERNI funding was cut. This has been due to 3 major sources:

1. A generous financial donation from the TRAK Op-Shop over the past 3 years;
2. Food and financial donations from our parish community and;
3. Regular donations of food from CCSY parish and Christ Church Grammar School. This last partnership is vital, with school families bringing specific donations of food from each year level, and parents volunteering to deliver the donated items here to St. Martin's each term.

For the past number of years there has been a steady increase (almost 5% each year) in our client numbers. This year we have seen another increase of clients, averaging 60/month (up from 57/month last year).

Most of the people attending our service are regular clients (77%) returning for assistance every 6-7 weeks. The profile of our clients has not changed significantly over the last 10 years:

- The majority of our clients are single (64%) or couples without children (27%)
- Our clients mainly come from homes where the main language spoken is either English (38%) or Russian (53%)
- Total number of clients assisted throughout the year: 716 (on average – 60 per month)
- First time Emergency Relief clients: 34 (double the number from the previous year)
- New clients to St Martin's: 53 (double the number from the previous year)

Rev. Sam Goodes

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE

It was over 12 months ago now when I asked Parish Council for their support for the formation of a committee to meet with the purpose of framing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for the parish. This has been an issue which I have personally wished to see advanced for some time, and it has been mentioned at Parish Council meetings over the past 2 years.

In the spirit of the Covenant, it was agreed that we would approach CCSY and ask for their involvement in the process. When the item was discussed at the following Achieving More Together meeting, the request that was warmly received, and a Committee was formed, which also included Christ Church Grammar School (CCGS), who had already done some work in this area.

The RAP Committee has met only twice so far, and is still at a preliminary stage. I hope that further energy and emphasis will be placed in this area in the coming months.

The committee consists of:

- Suzanne Peart (St Martin's)
- Marg McBean (CCGS),
- Bruce Walker (CCSY)
- and Tania Evans (CCSY)

The committee also plans to engage the assistance of Rev. Glen Loughrey, the Vicar of St Oswald's, Glen Iris, an indigenous person.

Rev. Sam Goodes

MEDITATION

The Christian Meditation Group has continued meeting regularly throughout the year, despite having been reduced in numbers for periods of time, due to sickness, mishap, and life's competing demands. It is a real joy for us all when an absent member is able to be present again. There is a common realisation that being together as a group is an essential element in our practice. Each one's faith commitment to the group brings grace and spiritual energy which is palpable.

This year we have benefitted from the addition of ethereal music which enables the transition from busyness into sacred space, and also signals the end of our silent time. Thank you, Meredith.

Having met now for three years, the group has a defined identity. We welcome the occasional visits of non-permanent members. Christian Meditation is never a closed group, and ours, too, is open to others joining us, whether occasionally or permanently.

Some members' personal reflections on meditation ...

"Not only does meditation require discipline (limited in my case) but requires a compatible group and leader. I have found both at St Martin's. Anne's calm presence and thoughtful readings sets the framework, which allows the group (usually about 8) to still their minds for 30 minutes on a Saturday morning. A challenging exercise but much valued."

"When we meditate together, silently repeating the mantra, I feel strongly that 'the Spirit is with us.'"

"I wish to say that we anticipate meditation each Saturday morning. It is a precious time to simply 'be' in silence and peace with God and with each other. We set a time to listen rather than search for words and ask for things! Of course this can be done alone but it seems more powerful and bonding in our small group."

“Meditation has led me to prioritise my faith and so I live more consistently in the presence of God. This brings me joy and satisfaction.”

“I have found Saturday morning meditation from 8.50-9.20 particularly helpful and gave me a sense of who I am and enabling me to find new depth of spirit. I thank Anne and the others for the sense of togetherness we share.”

I am deeply grateful to each member of the group for the faith commitment they bring.

Anne David, Leader

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2016-2017

Vicar

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

Honorary Assistant Priests

The Reverend Graham Bride

The Reverend Matthew Dowsey

Organist

Jenny McPherson

Churchwardens

Meredith Rogers – Vicar's Warden

Ann Cutts

Liz Kelly

Parish Council

Ann Baker

Meg Basset

Christian Lawless

Robert Lea-West

Tim Sherwood

Ewen Tyler

Honorary Treasurer

Christian Lawless

Children & Family Ministry Coordinator

Rachel Virsu

Playgroup Assistant

Farrah Dunn

Senior Sacristan

Diane Holdsworth

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Terry Schlicht

Synod Representative

Ann Baker

Meredith Rogers