

I complete, this week, the update on key projects and actions happening in the parish.

### **Achieving More Together** (the AMT Committee)

This group has been faithfully meeting since the joint Parish Council planning session in January, 2015. Commissioned by that gathering, it is made up of three parishioners each from St. Martin's and CCSY, plus Fr. Richard and myself. It is facilitated by Meredith Rogers. The most tangible outcome of this group has been the recent drafting and signing of the Covenant, formalising our relationship and the things we do together, as well as being aspirational regarding what we would like to do better together in the future. (The newly formed Refugee Outreach Committee is an example of this). In trying to ensure that we streamline our processes, and support one another in love and prayer, agenda items have included Emergency Food Relief (about to be bolstered by new CCSY volunteers), Office Manager support (Lance, the Office Manager at CCSY now routinely answers the phone there "Christ Church and St. Martin's", in preparation for that time when our phone capabilities allow us to forward our phones to the CCSY office when ours is unattended), Occupational Health and Safety and Compliance (this is to be done together in the future by representatives of each parish) and, more recently, the plan to form a joint Reconciliation Committee, to better understand and highlight the important issue of reconciliation with our indigenous brothers and sisters. This is a vibrant group, which is reporting back each month to the respective Parish Councils, who welcome the work being done by it. I encourage you to keep the committee members (Meg Basset, Ann Cutts, Meredith Rogers, and Tim Sherwood) in your prayers.

### **Messy Church**

This has continued to be well attended in 2016, although some months, particularly during school holidays, may be quieter than others. What has also been encouraging is the forming of some stable community, with a regular core of families supporting this service with their attendance. This year has also seen the introduction of hospitality being provided by the Messy Church attendees (for 3 months of the year), with the food on other months being generously provided by 4 teams of parishioners who are rostered for duty. The next major focus for this community is to work out how to support them in the weeks between gatherings, and also how to begin some targeted education aimed at the parents of these children, many of whom have not been brought up in the church themselves. Finally, may I remind you that this is a service and congregation in its own right, just like our two Sunday morning services. How we gather the Messy Church community into some of our other activities within the parish is also a major challenge to be met...

I encourage you to speak to Council members to keep up to date with parish happenings.

May Cyprian of Carthage, John Oliver Feetham, Ninian of Galloway, Hildegard of Bingen, and all the Saints walk with you this week...

*Sam*