

St Mary's *Anglican Church*

Reports for the 2015 Annual Meeting

9th November 2015

St Mary's
is a
community....

Loving God,
Following Jesus,
Sharing God's
love with all

Vicar's Report to the Annual General Meeting – November 2015



1 Looking back

I love long distance driving. I have driven to Adelaide and back twice in the past year and I'd love to drive across the Nullabor one day to Perth. When driving along a highway, it's very important to look forward, but also important to check the rear view mirror and side mirrors; to look back. Looking back helps keep an eye on what's around us; helps us remember where we've been and reminds us how far we've come. We do this often in our lives as we remember important people, events and occasions and remember how far we've come in our lives; in our relationships and importantly in our relationship with God.

So, while we keep looking forward to what God is calling us to be and do, it's also important to look back and give him thanks for what has taken place in our lives and in our church.

As I look back over the past year at St Mary's, amongst the great ministry that continues to take place by very faithful people, I have reflected on 3 highlights – for which I give God the glory and praise.

1.1 A New Weekly Congregation

This new congregation began meeting weekly in February 2015, under the leadership of Kim Beales. Kim will elaborate on this but from my point of view I have seen the following blessings from God:-

- new people coming to Christ and joining our Parish;
- some people returning to regular worship with the new time slot working better for them;
- a continued deepening of the strong, existing relationship we have with St Andrews;
- people taking on an expansive array of roles - using their gifts for the building up of God's kingdom; and
- a new community being born.

The impact of this new congregation has meant that for the first time in its history, the average weekly attendance at St Mary's has passed 200. This is a wonderful praise point but also brings challenges with it. I will address these later.

1.2 Next Steps in the Visioning Work

We have continued to take steps forward in God's vision for us, specifically with the work of the Mission Action Teams.

The monthly "Sing and Soup" has become more and more popular with attendances now averaging nearly 40. The Mission Action Team is now facing the challenge of what the next steps are.

There have been increasing connections made with young families in the community through a variety of relationship building activities. See Kim's report for more details. The Building Committee have continued to work diligently behind the scenes (see their report) and we are now at the point of appointing an architect, which will take us to the next step.

1.3 Exceptional Generosity

The Parish has given away over \$144,532 in the past year.

\$15,500 of this was given to local and overseas missionaries and mission agencies through the tithing of our offertory income by Parish Council decisions.

\$42,527 of this was given to local organisations, including Careworks, the Rotary Community Meals Kitchen and Sunbury Chaplaincy (amongst many) through the hard work of our Community Store volunteers.

\$7,036 of this was given to HMP for the care of orphans, widows and vulnerable children through the generosity of many in the Parish through donations and fund raising. This was used to purchase a fridge and install a bore at the Health Post, amongst other initiatives.

\$4,469 of this was given directly to the work being done on the Chibobo High School, once again through fund raising and donations by people at St Mary's.

Finally, the decision was made to provide for the completion of Stage 1 of the Chibobo High School, a figure which could be approximately \$75,000. This will enable orphans and vulnerable children in the Chibobo community to complete their Secondary education, providing a bright hope for their future and helping to guard against them falling into former patterns of child pregnancy and poverty.

This final act of generosity came about through a most gracious and godly decision by Parish Council to be generous with what God had blessed us with through the Telford bequest, with this one-off gift.

This generosity speaks into the heart of who we are as a Parish – sharing God's love with all (locally and internationally). It demonstrates we are seriously looking beyond ourselves to others and keeps our eyes firmly on what God is calling us to be and do.

1.4 Other Key Activities of 2015

Some of the other key activities of 2015 were:-

- Involvement in Sunfest 2015;
- 9 people undertaking "Preacher Training" with Mike Raiter;
- Further Ridley Certificate subjects;
- 3 people being confirmed and one young adult baptised (by full immersion) – nice and cold wasn't it Jemimah?;
- Winter Dinner for Chibobo High School;
- 8th visit to West Wimmera Parish to support them; and
- Visit to Chibobo, by a small team, to undertake a week of Biblical Leadership Training, and announcement regarding High School Funding.

In addition to this brief snap shot, many people are involved in a plethora of on-going ministries (as detailed in the various reports). They are a great read!!!!

I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all those who lead or co-ordinate these activities and ministries. You are regularly in my prayers as we serve God together.

2 Looking Forward

As we look forward to the next 12 months, there are three matters we will need to be focussing on:-

2.1 Building Work

With the appointment of an Architect the next stages of our building programme will take place including consultation and discussions with everyone regarding plans, inspection of other churches and what they have done, discussions with Hume Council and with the Diocese and the commencement of the financial planning for this work.

2.2 St Mary's 150th Celebrations

We will need to begin planning for our celebrations – to be held in November 2017.

2.3 Additional Staffing

As we are now averaging over 200 people/week at our services and continuing to connect with others in the community, we need to begin to structure ourselves to underpin this growth - to build upon it. Our present staffing levels are not able to maintain this many, let alone enable growth. This means we need to be looking towards employing an additional staff member and I will be speaking about this specifically at the Annual General Meeting.

In addition the Mission Action Teams will continue to do their work as we continue to look outwards and minister into this growing community of Sunbury and surrounding areas.

This is a very exciting time for us at St Mary's as we continue to follow God's lead and vision.

3 My additional Activities

In addition to my usual activities associated with public worship services on Sundays and Wednesdays, the planning of the preaching programme, oversight of the Parish with the Staff Team, Wardens and Parish Council, pastoral care and visits, visioning activities and involvement in Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, you may also be interested in the following activities I have been involved in:-

- Working with two Mission Action Teams (see separate report);
- Assisting Ros Armstrong in organising and attending Preacher Training for 9 participants;
- Meeting quarterly with the leaders of our two Sunday morning congregations (see separate report);
- Attending a Diocesan Consultation on Mission Shaped Structure;

- Participating in the preparation of the Inaugural Sunbury Anzac Day Dawn Service (with the RSL and the National Servicemen's Association);
- Participating in Anzac Day and Remembrance Day celebrations;
- Ministry with the National Servicemen's Association as Chaplain;
- Co-ordinating the meetings of the Sunbury Minister's Fellowship;
- Attending the Sunbury Inter-Church Council meetings;
- Organising and leading (with Peter Cannon and Emma Sterling) the annual Christmas Remembrance Service;
- Attending Area Deanery meetings;
- Attending the Annual Sunbury Chaplaincy Dinner;
- Attending Diocesan "Coaching Training";
- Playing Joseph with some lovely Marys at the Carols on the Green;
- Mentoring 3 other younger clergy and have just commenced a formal coaching arrangement with another clergy;
- Attending the Anglican Futures Conference;
- Leading Confirmation Classes with assistance from Emily Clements and Jess Caddaye;
- Attending a Diocesan Occupational Health and Safety Seminar with Max Langshaw;
- Conducting a number of interviews on behalf of the Diocese for Authorised Lay Ministers in the Region;
- Attending a Special Synod Day in June and the Annual Synod in October;
- Spending a week in Townsville on Retreat preparing for my talks in Chibobo;
- Mentoring the Goonawarra Primary School Chaplain on a monthly basis;
- Meeting with my own mentor;
- Continuing to organize the fortnightly coffee with fellow widowers;
- Continuing to be a Kids Hope mentor;
- Travelling to Chibobo in August/September (see separate report);
- Connecting with various community leaders including MP's and Councillors;
- Attending the Rotary Meals Kitchen on Monday evenings (once a month) to assist and minister as needed; and
- Attempting to have a monthly (or once every 6 weeks) Prayer Retreat Day in which I commit every member of St Mary's and their family to God in prayer and do some quiet reflection, praying and waiting upon God.

I would be happy to chat to anyone about any of these activities.

4 Staffing Changes

Kim Beales concluded his curacy with us and has now been engaged as an Associate Minister for three years. It's been wonderful to have him continue his ministry amongst us.

Flora Whittington left us as Accounts Officer in May and we acknowledge and thank her for her diligent work in that role.

We have now commenced a formal arrangement with Diocesan Services for our Accounts activities. As part of this we have increased Narelle's hours to undertake some of the practical activities at this end.

My thanks to the great staff team at St Mary's (Kim, Narelle, Ros and Jill) for the work you have done this year and for the support we have provided each other through a variety of circumstances.

5 Parish Council

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have served on Parish Council during this past year. There have been some difficult issues and some great joy and I acknowledge each one of you for your godliness and prayerful approach to the matters that have come before us.

I look forward to working with the new Parish Council as we step into 2016 in our service of God.

7 Conclusion

This coming year holds some challenges for us as we continue to adapt and adjust to our changing environment.

In all things, may we keep Christ central and honour him in our lives and our service together.

"I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth."
Psalm 34:1

Rev Gavin Ward
Vicar





Kim Beales AGM Report, 2015

The church is growing. People are becoming disciples. It has been an encouraging year. Yet when Jesus told the parable of the sower, he warned of the weather, the rocky terrain, and the thorns, which can distract, scorch, choke, and prevent the seed from taking root. The gospel is being sown, and yet whether old Christians or new, we need to nurture our faith in God, and see that God's word falls on good soil. To flower and flourish, we must grow deep roots in our discipleship, for life is testing. Not only do we face external troubles, we are also confronted by our own sinfulness and weaknesses. Yet, the wonder of the gospel is that in our place of weakness, we can find God's strength and grace.

I wonder what it might look like to see a remarkable outpouring of the Holy Spirit across the life of our church, with people young and old? What might it look like to become a church where we excel in making new disciples? Continuing with the farmer's analogy, the Australian soil can be hard to prepare, for Australians are largely wealthy, busy, and on the whole, people think they know what Christianity is all about, and that the world has moved on. Yet in every place and every time, the Holy Spirit is able to transform people. We are beckoned to pray and to collaborate with God, as God leads people to himself. I look forward to the coming year, and hope that together we grow deep in our devotion to God, strong in our commitment to one another, and bold and adventurous in mission.

We have a faithful and devoted ministry team, and a godly leader in Gavin Ward. It is a pleasure to serve in this team, and I look forward to how God continues to guide us, and to grow this team and help us be powerful and effective in ministry.

1. A new congregation planted in 2015

The past year has been a satisfying year in ministry for by God's grace we have planted a new congregation, and seen a vision come into fruition. Each year we have taken some significant steps towards this goal. A tremendous team has devoted their time, energy and heart into the formation of a new community who are following Jesus together and people at St Mary's and St Andrew's have worked together to see this eventuate.

In previous years I had been running two monthly gatherings for different demographics. The choice to run an all ages service has been a great blessing, as people in different life stages are able to walk together and enrich one another's lives. The shift from monthly to weekly services has enabled this community to flourish and the sharing of a meal each week has enabled a context for conversation and a sense of togetherness. Each week I intentionally see that young people are participating, with many people trying things for the first time, such as playing in a band, leading services, and assisting in different roles in worship. We have been

working in teams and sharing responsibilities. This has made the weekly service sustainable, and there is a high level of participation and cooperation.

2. Mission and Pathways

Making New Disciples

A significant part of my ministry is aimed at making new disciples. This involves devoting time to forming relationships with people, and forming contexts where people might explore the gospel. More than that, we are seeking to structure our life together in order to be good at making disciples as a church. This includes the work of pathways, which I will describe below. The process of making disciples involves us bringing our best to the table, but also having eyes to see what God is doing, as God's Spirit opens doors, and enables people to respond to the message of the gospel.

Mission Action Team

This year I have led a mission action team with Benjamin and Emily Clements, Narelle Riley, Tom Riley, Zac Hodgkinson, Kate Beales, Jess and Erran Caddaye, Christine Brown and Nathanael Armstrong. They have been an exceptionally innovative group. We have worked together towards outreach initiatives for youth, young adults and families.

My picture of a movement is of lots of people meeting in a smallish room, with a whiteboard, prayerfully seeking to work out how we are going to change the world. Some of the highlights of the year's ministry have been participating in moments like this, whether preparing for our upcoming refugee weekend, meeting with a mission action team, or preparing to plant the 5pm community.

Contexts for Belonging

In the last year we ran a number of initiatives aimed at helping people to find a sense of belonging with Christians.

- *Film Group*: Zac Hodgkinson led the Film Group, the highlight of which was a screening of the group's films at the Youth Centre. The parents of teenagers expressed their gratitude that someone had taken initiative to help their children develop and flourish in new skills.
- *Playgroups*: Vinci Haworth, Debbie Last, Marj and Mardi Stacy continued to help with our two playgroups (Tuesday Playgroup and Music Playtime).
- *Meals for Newlyweds*: Ben and Emily Clements assisted Kate and I in forming a community for newly married wedding couples around a regular meal hosted in various homes.
- *Daytrips*: We ran several family daytrips including a trip to the snow, and to a Gisborne playground and café.
- *Gaming Nights*: This year, Erran and Shaun Caddaye initiated a monthly gaming night that has been particularly effective in connecting with teenage boys.
- *Dance Group*: Jemimah Armstrong and Ellie Priest have also begun exploring the possibility of a dance group for 2016.

Embrace the Gospel

- *Alpha Course*: I run a Tuesday morning bible study (with childcare) aimed for helping new disciples and enquirers. In term 3 and 4, we did the Alpha Course, which for me has been a highlight of the year. Ros Klouth, Sue Allaz, and Debbie Last have offered great support to parents by assisting with childcare. Klara Hahne and Christine Brown have assisted in discussion leading during Alpha.

Following Jesus

There are a number of contexts for youth, young adults and parents to grow in discipleship. These include:

- *Youth United* - our youth have a fine leadership team, who continue to make a significant difference in the life of young people.
- *Young Adults* – this year Ben and Emily Clements and Zac Hodgkinson have led our young adults group on a Wednesday night.
- *Men's Bible study* - I started a monthly bible study in my home for men.
- *Tuesday Morning* - I also lead a Tuesday morning bible study (with childcare).
- *The 5pm Service* – (described above).

Other initiatives

- *Drama Group* - This year I supervised Christine Brown in her Ridley field placement subject. A key part of her placement was to create a drama network. She has gathered a wide range of people, leading them through the process of dramatizing Scripture readings.
- *State Youth Games* – Kyle Cozens coordinated a group to attend State Youth Games (this is a gathering of youth groups from around Victoria, who participate in sports, games with worship and teaching).
- *Kick off Camp* – The team forming 5pm, and the Youth United leadership team travelled to Ballarat in February 2015 to grow as a team and to prepare for the year.

3. Other ministry

Preaching

I have enjoyed preaching several series this year, including 2 Corinthians, the Joseph narrative in Genesis, and Mark's gospel. It has also been fantastic to have sermons from Ben Clements, Emily Clements, Zac Hodgkinson, and Annette Swaffield, who each greatly benefitted from the preacher's training workshops.

General ministry

- I conducted 4 weddings (including marriage preparation), 4 funerals, and 3 baptisms, (with baptism preparation).
- I assisted with 8:30, 10:30 and Wednesday services as required.
- I attended Synod, Deanery, and visited our Anglican regional conference.
- I also led the band for the carols on the green.

Itinerant Ministry

In the last year I had several opportunities for itinerant work, including:

- a bible study on Genesis 4 for Emerald Anglican church, staff and volunteers
- leading the talks at the ESA winter youth camp, directed by Christian and Kylie Boscolo.
- two bible studies on spiritual wisdom for Arrow's executive leader stream.
- I also spoke twice at Red Rock primary school assemblies.

Professional Development

- This year I did a Master of Arts subject on Genesis 1-11, which I attended with Ros Armstrong.
- I meet with a professional ministry coach to work on developing in ministry, and growing in leadership.

4. Looking Forward

At our most recent Parish council meeting, Michael Williams presented a devotion from Mark 1, about preparing a highway for our God. He asked us what it might look like for us to help people in Sunbury have a clear road to God. It would be fantastic to excel as a church in making new disciples.

- In 2016, I intend to write a 6-7 week intro to Christianity course for term 3. I hope to begin with a celebratory dinner in which we make the course available to a wide audience. In the months prior to the course I aim to be preparing people to pray for friends, to lead discussion groups, and hope to see the various belonging/pathway activities thriving, that we can find many people that we can invite to explore the gospel with us.

Other thoughts:

- I look forward to seeing our ministry team grow, and am excited about the possibilities of St Mary's developing its ministry and outreach with a new staff member.
- I think our church would benefit from an outreach program for primary aged children. This would enable playgroup families to remain connected once their children attend primary school, and could also help people transition into Youth United. If CRE stops in Victoria, an after-school bible club becomes a key strategic ministry. There might also be CRE teachers who would be happy to help if they can no longer teach CRE at school. It may also be possible to advertise a program through schools as an alternative to CRE.
- I look forward to our upcoming Refugees weekend. The purpose is to embody the hospitality of Christ, and to assist the church in meeting refugees and asylum seekers.
- I hope for the 5pm community to develop in prayer ministry.

Ernest Horth recently encouraged our staff team to be expansive. Whilst recognizing our limitations and weaknesses, I look forward to what I think will be an exciting and expansive year. We hope that many people will discover the wonders of God's love in Jesus Christ, and that as a church we would grow in number and in maturity and in love.



DISCIPLESHIP AND MINISTRY TRAINING COORDINATOR

2015 has brought a much improved health situation for me, which has been very pleasing, and made life considerably easier.

The Ridley Certificate has continued with two units done as a group this year: Knowing God, our last core subject, which covered theology; and A Journey Through the Psalms, which was literally that, and brought out much about these wonderful Old Testament songs. We were saddened to hear that after the end of 2015 there will be no more new units being produced due to financial constraints. I believe there are enough units available to complete the Certificate, but the material covered will not be as expansive as it had been hoped originally. Another exciting development is that one

of the home groups will be starting the first unit – Bible Overview – shortly. I look forward to leading more units in 2016, and encourage anyone who might be interested to be a part of it: there are no pre-requisites.

During Term 2 we did not do a Ridley Certificate unit as we were privileged to have Mike Raiter from the Centre for Biblical Preaching leading a group of nine people through a seven session preaching course. Some hidden gifts were revealed and already some of those participants have preached at our regular services, and I look forward to seeing others do so as well, particularly over January.

I have also conducted two sessions on writing bible studies for those involved in home groups, particularly the leaders. As a result the group produced the studies on 2 Thessalonians corresponding to Gavin's sermon series. I hope to run similar sessions next year as well.

By the time of this AGM I will have run a "Hitchhikers' Guide to the Bible" course, which has proved challenging and interesting. I hope this bible overview will be helpful for those who attend.

Preaching has become a more major part of my role this year, as I have been preaching approximately once per month, partly to allow Kim Beales to concentrate more on the 5pm service. The highlight for me was to do the three-week series on Zephaniah, which I know was challenging for many in the parish. We like to think of God as loving and merciful and can sometimes forget that justice and judgement are inextricably tied in with that. It was a challenge for me also to get my head around it, and to try and present it in a way that was interesting for the congregation, and true to the biblical text.

I have also done another unit towards my Master of Arts (Theology). This year's unit was on Genesis 1-11, which has given me much to think and meditate on.

I thank God and this parish for the wonderful privilege I have to work in this role, and use and develop my gifts in preaching and teaching. I pray that God will continue to work through me to bring us all closer to maturity in Christ, for his glory.

Ros Armstrong



Parish Administrator's Report

It's 2.30pm on Thursday 29th October 2015. I need to start printing the Annual reports or they won't be ready in time to hand out on Sunday morning for you all to have time to read about how amazing the last 12 months has been at St Mary's. Panic is setting in. It's always like this. Every year. Without fail.

Let me take it back a step and give you a little insight into how I operate. I am a stupidly organised person and it realises that at times it probably drives my family crazy! I'm the person who has check lists for packing for holidays so we don't forget things! If my brain was a google page there would be way too many tabs open!

My brain runs at a million miles an hour, I get my best ideas in the shower, and when I come out of the bathroom and say to my husband "Hey honey..... I've been thinking...." he usually runs a mile! And I'm a "To-do List" person. I write everything on to-do lists and I get great satisfaction from crossing things off my to-do list! (I secretly wish I could write "drink coffee" on my to-do because then I would get a lot more crossed off my list every day!!) but for the last month every single day I have been writing "write AGM report" on the top of the list and it never gets crossed off. And every day I write it again and feel guilty because I still haven't done it!

It's not that I don't want to write the report- it's just that I don't know how to put into words or summarise my role or the year that has just gone and so I just keep putting it off and finding other far more important things on my to do list to do! I mean sure- there's all the usual admin stuff of emails, answering phones, processing mail, hall bookings, filing, ordering milk and stationery and toilet paper, wedding paperwork, banking, promotional materials, social media, pew sheets not to mention the expansive "other duties as directed" category that requires talents such as being able to sing along with music playtime and sing&soup, hand out hugs and tissues as required, act as a melways/Telstra directory assistance for the lost, security/bouncer, antiques appraiser..... all in a day's work! And now my role has some new challenges with the additional tasks associated with finance and accounting that I am enjoying the challenges of.

Jokes aside- I would like to pause for a moment to thank the staff team of Gavin, Kim, Ros and Jill and the Wardens and Alan for their support and friendship through this year. I look forward to sharing the coming year and the challenges, laughter and tears with you all. (I'll write that on my To-do list.... and maybe I'll get my AGM report written a little earlier next year!)

Narelle Riley



Pastoral Care Annual Report

*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6:8*

Koinonia is a term used in scripture to describe communion, fellowship and caring in community. Being in community is to share our life together, in time, in resources and of self. Furthermore it asks of us to be available- to step out of our life and offer ourselves to another. It can ask of us to be vulnerable- to offer another a willingness to be honest and real with one another. As members of God's community and the community of St Mary's it also means sharing our belief in the love, diversity and expansiveness of the God we believe in and model our lives on.

Over the last 12 months I have witnessed koinonia - community in action.

I have been amazed at, grateful for and blessed by watching our community care for one-another. I would like to thank those members of each of the congregations who continually step into leadership roles in coordinating pastoral care within their home groups and congregations they are a part of. To members of those home-groups and congregations - thank you for sharing God's love in the offering of yourselves in caring for one-another.

It has been a year where pastoral care has not only settled into the "new" model of being, it has taken on the model and modified it to suit the individual needs of the varying groups and individuals within our caring communities.

As we move towards 2016 there we will be more opportunity to reach out in service to one-another as we conduct pastoral care volunteer training and seek to explore new ways of caring in our increasingly diverse and changing community.

I look forward to the year ahead as we continue to grow and extend ourselves as a "Community: Loving God, Following Jesus, Sharing God's love with all."

As always I would ask that all members of St Mary's consider prayerfully how they can best show their love for one-another and their gift of care throughout the coming year. Please let myself, the leadership team or your small group leaders know if you would like to become more involved or simply to talk about how best your gifts may be used in service to God and one-another.

Finally, to Gavin and the leadership team, thank you for your support of this role and the pastoral work that has been done by all members of St Mary's over this past year.

With Gratitude and God's Blessing

Jill Gray
Pastoral Care Coordinator

Wardens Report

Mark Armstrong,
Wendy Caramarco,
Geoff Klouth,
Max Langshaw
(emeritus)



The Church Wardens have responsibility for the oversight of the buildings and finances of the parish. The responsibilities and duties of the Wardens are subject to the Parish Governance Act 2013.

Last year we welcomed Wendy Caramarco to the team of Wardens as Noel Sprague took a well earned break from warden duties. This coming year it will be Mark Armstrong's turn to take a break and the Wardens welcome Noel back to the role. The Wardens would like to acknowledge Mark's work as a Warden and also his contribution to church life and his support of Ros in her ministry to the church.

This year has been one of challenge due to personnel changes and the engagement of the Diocesan Financial Services to help the Wardens, Treasurer and Parish Council keep on top of financial matters.

The Wardens have been conducting performance reviews of the clergy and permanent staff as an ongoing requirement of the Diocese. This process is a valuable way for the Wardens to provide feedback and for staff to help prepare for the new year.

Additional requirements are for audits to be conducted of Professional Standards and for OHS audits of all the buildings. The audits are required to be completed by February for submission to the Diocese and we are on track to meet this deadline.

Work is still progressing on the construction of the new worship centre with survey work having been completed. The Wardens would like to thank the Building Committee for its valuable work in keeping the project moving.

This year's budget has, as always, presented challenges to the Wardens but the final version shows that our finances are in a good state despite showing a deficit. The Wardens would like to particularly acknowledge the significant work that Alan Phillips as Treasurer and Narelle Riley as Administrator have put in to assist the Wardens get the budget to what has been presented to the AGM. The deficit includes a provision for another part-time member of staff to be included. There has been a slight shortfall in the actual amount provided through collections to that budgeted but it is encouraging to note that the amount given was provided during a time of increasing cost of living expenses. The Wardens can only encourage every parishioner to prayerfully consider their giving while acknowledging the significant amount that was received.

The Wardens would also like to acknowledge the significant work and assistance to the budget provided by the Community Store and all its volunteers. The Community Store provides a significant income to the church and welcomes any help parishioners can provide.

The Wardens would like to acknowledge the work done by all the office staff and volunteers who assist them in fulfilling their roles and duties as Wardens. The Wardens would particularly like to thank Gavin for his prayers, fellowship and leadership when we meet with him to discuss church matters.

We pray for God's continual blessing upon the Sunbury community and for the Vision and challenges that He has encouraged St Mary's to meet.

In His Service

St Mary's Wardens

Parish council Report

Max Langshaw- Parish Council Secretary

Parish Council met for 7 business meetings and one special meeting during 2014/15.

Noel Sprague took a year's "Sabbatical" from Parish Council. Wendy Caramarco commenced as a Warden and Emily Clements joined Parish Council.

At each business meeting, Parish Council received a report from the Vicar, Congregation planter, Wardens and Treasurer as well as the Discipleship and Ministry Training Coordinator. Parish Council also received minutes from Community Store meetings.

Major motions passed at Parish Council this year include:

November 2014

- Move that Max Langshaw be elected as Parish Council Secretary
- Move that Annette Swaffield be elected to the Parish Electoral Roll Committee
- Move that Wendy Caramarco be added to those authorised to sign cheques and operate St Mary's NAB and ADF bank accounts, as one of two signatories
- Move that Noel Sprague's authority to sign cheques and operate St Mary's NAB and ADF accounts be revoked and cease from this date forward
- Move that Parish Council give approval for the Building and Finance Committee to spend up to \$20,000 on preliminary investigative works, as detailed in the building committee minutes from the meeting held on 12/11 14

January 2015

- Move that Parish Council approve the funding request for \$3500.00, from Community Store excess funds, for the re-establishment of the Agriculture project at Chibobo HMP orphanage, subject to Mike Lampard receiving satisfactory answers to his questions of Staivous
- Move that the Lay Assistants at Holy Communion list be accepted.

February 2015

- Move that a discussion be held in the coming months with Peter Cannon to review the shared stipend and property arrangements in preparation for the next budget.
- Move that we offer the option of paying 50% of the upfront fee for those who require it for the preaching training course through the Centre for Biblical Training.
- Move that funding for this offer come from excess Community Store Funds up to a total of \$2,000.
- Move that Parish Council support Frances Hayes' request to organise a Winter Dinner, at \$40 per head, as per proposal presented.

April 2015

- Move a motion of thanks to Don and Alma Sly for their provision of the pew cushions in the church.
- Move that St Mary's fully sponsor one participant on the preaching course, for the full course fee of \$300.00
- Move that Community Store Excess Funds be spent as follows:-
\$230.00 on Vinyl Banners, \$150.00 on a Tripod
\$6590 for installation of LED lighting in Parish properties as per quotation received
- Move that the Parish Council giving allocations be allocated as follows
Church Missionary Society (for Thompson Support) \$3000.00, Ridley College \$1000.00
Bush Church Australia \$1000.00, Access Ministries \$500.00, Mission Aviation Fellowship \$700.00, European Christian Mission \$500.00, The AMOS Foundation (Anglican Military Outreach Foundation) \$800.00

May 2015

- Move that Flora Whittington be removed as a signatory from all NAB and ADF accounts
- Move that the following people have internet viewing access removed from NAB account- Flora Whittington, Lesley Atkinson, David Sullivan and Max Gifford
- Move that the Wardens be authorised to ensure that all signatories are up to date on all accounts at NAB and ADF and to adjust as required.

June 2015

- Move that the account held at NAB titled "St Mary's Parish Centre" with a balance of \$10.45 be closed
- Move that St Mary's enter an agreement as per the proposal prepared by the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne to provide third party book keeping services at an annual cost of \$5400.00

August 2015

- Move that the parish Council giving allocations be allocated as follows:-
Church Missionary Society (for Thompson Support) \$4000.00, Ridley College \$1000.00
Bush Church Australia \$1000.00, Access Ministries \$1000.00, Prison Fellowship \$500.00

October 2015

- Move that the Atelier Wagner be engaged by St Mary's
- Add \$3000.00 for a Ridley Student to 2014/15 student to the Budget presented by the Wardens.



COMMUNITY STORE ANNUAL REPORT

The shop has again been a busy place. We have had a number of new volunteers start this year, and seen two long serving staff members retire.

I would like to thank each and every person for their involvement in the smooth running of the shop, and for those who have volunteered their time to take additional shifts as occasions arise.

This year in conjunction with CareWorks we are able to provide customers with free bread, this seems to be well received. We were also able to issue funds to our 2 "Men's Sheds" in Sunbury, along with a men's cooking group held Tuesday's in the Memorial Hall.

Free school uniforms are still being issued out at the beginning of January. A welcome relief for families in need. Presently we are not encouraging furniture donations due to lack of storage space.

Our birthday lunch in July was held at the Sunbury Bowling Club. Max Langshaw took our group photo. Christmas lunch will be on Monday 14th December, venue yet to be confirmed.

This year the shop will only close on the main days between Christmas and New year, these being Friday 25th December 2015, and Friday 1st January 2016.

The purchase of an easy to use stick vacuum cleaner makes it easier to maintain the workroom. We are still using the hall on Mondays when the donations are such that the workroom in the shop is not adequate enough.

Thank you all once again to all the volunteers who keep the Community Store looking great and running smoothly.

J. Belcher, Coordinator, St. Mary's Community Store.



SYNOD 2014/15

The October 2014 session of Melbourne's Diocesan Synod considered, as usual, a wide range of topics.

The Budget report showed a financial outcome for 2013/14 which was weaker than forecast, with a deficit of \$202,000. One of the reasons for this was extra costs incurred in Professional Standards stemming from the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry and the Royal Commission into Child Abuse. Also lay personnel costs were above budget.

A highlight of Synod was an address from guest speaker Arda Aghazarian from the Palestinian/Israeli Ecumenical Network. Arda, who is a young Armenian Christian woman living in West Jerusalem, spoke movingly of the difficulties experienced by non-Israelis of different legal statuses living in different parts of Israel/Palestine. The motion following the address called for regular prayer for "the peace of Jerusalem" and for a just two state solution. This was generally supported, but one speaker in the debate took a strongly pro-Israeli stance condemning much that the guest speaker had said. Whilst his speech was offensive to many Synod members, the motion was amended to refer to a "just Godly political solution."

Synod also passed a resolution supporting the resolution of General Synod (covering the whole Anglican Church of Australia) on Response to Climate Change. This involved reviewing the Diocese's investments with a view to not investing in the extraction and/or production of fossil fuels. This was supported by those administering diocesan investments as being financially prudent.

At a special session of Synod convened in June 2015 the main business was the passage of the Melbourne Anglican Diocesan Corporation Bill, which was mainly driven by Workcover and other legal issues. Historically clergy have been considered as holders of an office receiving a stipend rather than a salary and therefore not employees. In respect of lay employees, as representatives of the parish the incumbent and wardens might be regarded as the employer and personally liable as such.

The Bill, which was passed, serves a number of strategic purposes, including -

- First, enabling the extension of the Workcover statutory scheme to clergy following a recent court case involving the Victorian Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013.
- Second, establishing a corporate entity through which the Church may be accountable for the acts and omissions of its employees and volunteers. This has recently become an issue in respect of cases of child abuse.
- Third, attracting statutory immunity available to volunteers only if they are appointed by a body corporate.

Bev Cottell and I attended both these sessions of Synod as the lay representatives of St Mary's. I have now served two three year terms and intend not to stand for re-election next year. If anyone is interested in serving as a lay representative of St Mary's at the next election, please feel free to talk to Bev or me about what is involved.

Lesley McInerney

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT TO AGM 2015

The Building Committee has been meeting regularly for the past twelve months. The committee has reviewed the vision, the vision mind map, developed various concept plans and developed a project brief. We have met with several local Sunbury councillors on site as well as representatives of Hume council. We have met with 3 Diocesan recommended architects as well as visit various churches. To date we have recommended progressing with Atelier Wagner as our design architect. Below is an estimated program once we have agreement with the Diocese to proceed.

Site Investigation - 2 weeks

Geo tech report on ground conditions
Review of existing buildings planned interface.

Concept and Schematic Design- 3 weeks

User Group consultation
Project Inception meetings

Project Workshops- 5 weeks

Draft concept design
Cost estimations
Concept design development
Develop façade and structural solutions
Risk review
Additional consultant requirements –traffic management
Final design for community feedback

Parish / Diocesan agreement sign off on final design- 6-8 weeks

Schematic design development
Finalise documentation for planning submissions

Planning Permit application -8-12 weeks minimum

Finalisation of building interior / exterior landscape
Structural details
Acoustic
ESM requirements
Detailed documentation and specifications for tender
Parish / Diocesan Review and Sign off

Tender Documentation delivery 6-8 weeks

Apply for building permit

Tender period 4 weeks

Review of submissions 2 –weeks

Appoint builder / contractors -4 weeks

Apply for building permit
Issue documentation & building permit
Construction Contract issued and agreed with Diocese signed off.

Total: 48 weeks minimum

Construction Period -9-12 months

Defect period 12 months

We continue to work towards our vision of being able to turn the first ground by our 150th anniversary. There are many obstacles ahead but we look forward with optimism as we further God's plans for St Mary's.

Building Committee:

Noel Sprague, Phil Stacy, Alan Phillips, Benjamin Clements, Peter Jones.

SERVICE LEADER'S MEETINGS

During the year I have met on a quarterly basis with the leaders of the two morning services, including the music leaders.

Those I meet with are:-

8.30am Service Leaders:- Helen Gifford, Gwen Hutchinson, Spencer Flint, Phill Stacy, Mike Lampard, Noel Sprague, Peter and Peg Jones, Don and Bev Cottell and Cath Robinson

10.30am Service Leaders:- Ros and Mark Armstrong, Ros Klouth and Heather Watts

Some key matters discussed have been:-

- Feedback and adjustments following the internal configuration of the church
- The new Diocesan Protocol for taking Communion
- The need for new people to be involved in Leading Services, assisting with Communion and intercessions (10.30am)
- Ideas for the preaching programme
- Adjusting and organising Prayers during Communion
- Logistical issues around Communion at 10.30am
- Ideas for the Advent Wreath for this coming Christmas
- Issues with PA and suggestions and changes
- Suggestions regarding the colours and use of the Screen (10.30am)
- Music and suggestions for hymns, songs etc
- Feedback on sermons, and
- Monitoring the impact of the new 5pm Congregation on attendances

We have also noted the sermons delivered and the range and variety of both topics and speakers. Some highlights this year have been:-

- Philippians, Zephaniah and Joseph series
- Jesus' words on the Cross
- Big Words that end in "Shun"
- Visits from various Missionaries including Max Chapman (MAF), Ian Dennis (ECM) and Cath Fisher (ADF)
- Question Sundays
- Looking at Contentious Issues, and
- Hearing others including Ben Clements, Keil Maslen, Robin Phillbrick.

If you have any suggestions for sermon series, please let one of the staff know as we begin preparations shortly for 2016.

I enjoy meeting with both teams. We have serious discussion and lots of enjoyment as we celebrate what God is doing in and through both congregations.

Rev Gavin Ward
Vicar

HOME GROUPS

This year continued to see healthy participation in Home Groups at St Mary's, with eleven groups meeting, most weekly, and a couple fortnightly. The groups are expansive, covering a wide variety of people from all services, and some have had lively discussion and debate as they look at God's word. It is encouraging to see and hear how the groups are going, and how they are caring for each other.

Thanks go to Lesley McInerney for her assistance with administration at the beginning of the year.

There is still a need for a regular coordinator for Home Groups. Please pray that God will raise up someone to take on this role for 2016.

Ros Armstrong

Acting Home Group Coordinator

PRAYER MINISTRY REPORT

"Oh what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear; all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer." The truth of this line of the song, "What a friend we have in Jesus" is just as true today as it was when William Rowlands, born in 1860, wrote it.

Prayer is a wonderful gift from God. We don't have to purchase prayer time or make an appointment to talk to the Lord. He has made himself available to us any time of the day or night- to speak with Him and listen for what He would say to us!

As well as personal prayer, there are many ways to participate in the 'prayer life' of our St. Mary's church family:

- Our church bulletin alerts us each week to any special prayer needs and general prayer points.
- Our prayer chain operates for urgent prayer matters.
- The intercessors group meets weekly to pray over church matters and personal prayer requests from the green communication cards collected each Sunday.
- On Wednesday mornings there is prayer at 7:30 AM in Gavins office until 8:30. All are welcome to join in for the hour or any portion of it!
- All who are able are invited and encouraged to come along to the monthly Parish prayer meeting. Please join us every second Tuesday of the month from 7:30 PM to 8:30 in the church, as we pray for our world, our community and our church family.

At Saint Mary's we have been encouraged by God's Word and many sermons over the years on prayer. I trust that all of us have experienced the loving hand of God moving on our behalf in answer to prayer.

Jenay Flint

GOD'S GANG (4-8 YEAR OLD'S)

What a wonderful year I have had teaching Gods Gang. I cannot describe the joy it brings me to participate in the Children's Ministry at St Mary's. One of my favourite lessons this year was when I only had three of our quieter children in the class. That lesson I discovered three beautiful personalities and learnt more about them in one lesson that I had all year. I feel very blessed to have had such an opportunity.

Highlight of the year has to be the combined children's service in the hall in May this year. The Blast children put on a wonderful production with puppets and the Gods Gang children put on a short play for us. Emma and her children sang beautifully and Rebecca taught all the children a new song. Thankyou Ros and Liane for organising the service. Thank you to the ladies in the kitchen that helped with the food.

I would like to forward thanks to our teachers this year. In particular Emma who we had for a short time before moving to the 5pm service. Thank you for you and your children's participation and inspiration this year. Thank you, Klara and Vinci and a big thanks to Bev for your teaching.

A big thank you to our helpers. We may not always get a chance to express our gratitude for your time and assistance but it is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Peta, Ellie, Liz, Kate, Joan, Matt, Tania, Larry and Sue. If there is anyone I have missed its because you are the most important. May God bless you.

Thank you to our parents. Thank you for the support and feedback you have given us this year. Your support and contribution to the Gods Gang is vital for its success.

Thank you to Ros K for coordinating the Sunday School. Your experience and passion for children's ministry is inspiring.

And last but not least, thank you to our wonderful children. I believe you are the most important people in our parish and I am honoured to have been able to be a part of your lives this year and to have the opportunity to contribute to your faith journey.

Looking forward to the lead up to Christmas. We have a final all combined children's event in the parish centre on November 29th with families and friends welcome. The last children's ministry get together is on December 9th at the parish house.

ps: I had a chat with one of our quieter children about what he liked about Gods Gang. He liked reading the stories and making stuff and he enjoyed the songs in the church. So, I think we are doing ok :)

Samantha Dennett, on behalf of our the Gods Gang teachers.

BLAST 2015

“Let the children come to Me and do not stop them because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these” (Matthew 19:14)

BLAST is our senior Children’s Ministry group for children in grades 3-6 at school. Our teachers are Ros and Liane. At the beginning of this year Esther Rule stepped down from her teaching role. Esther has been faithfully teaching our church’s children for more than 20 years. If your children have grown up at St Mary’s, Esther would have taught them. We’d like to take this opportunity to thank Esther again for her loving and faithful service to the children of our church over a couple of generations.

Highlights of this year for BLAST have been leading our 10.30 service in terms 1 and 3, the COOL Kids band joining the 10.30 music team once per term and the combined groups ALL IN service in term 2 where we looked at the early life of Israel’s first great king, David. On Sunday 29th November we will be joining together again with God’s Gang, to look at the early life of our greatest king, Jesus.

This year we have learnt about the Christian life including how God helps us and how to forgive, and we’ve had an in depth look at the bible: how we got it, how we can trust it, how it’s put together, and an overview of the books of the Old Testament. In term 4 we are discovering the armour of God. Prayer and bible reading are an important part of each week and we particularly pray for each other and for those who are not there.

We praise God for our church kids and the opportunity to go deeper into His word. We praise God for enabling us to teach and we thank Him for our church family who come to help in our group.

Our prayer points for BLAST would be that parents would continue to bring their children to church so that “we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together ... but encouraging one another” (Hebrews 10:24-25) and that we would continue to be a safe, faith filled place for our church children to learn about our loving God.

Thanks to Tonia, Don, Ellie, Tania, Linden, Joan, Liz and Belinda for helping Liane and Ros - BLAST teachers

YOUTH UNITED

Since the introduction of the weekly 5pm service, Youth United has been meeting from 6:15-8:15 on Sunday nights. We currently have a leadership team of nine and usually have about 6-8 youth attending weekly. Our usual routine consists of games, a shared meal and discussions linked to the Bible. Topics covered include sharing our faith, salvation, new beginnings and journey through the Bible.

A highlight this year was attending the State Youth Games, where youth and leaders had a fun filled long weekend playing a variety of sports with other youth groups. We also went trampolining, bowling and played laser tag. Many thanks to our dedicated leadership team for their efforts and for the guidance of our ministers.

Jenny & Ian Caddaye

ST MARY'S MOTHERS' UNION ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

I would like to present the Annual Report of St Mary's Mothers' Union for the year 2014-2015. At our AGM in October, 2014 the following members were elected Office Bearers for the following year:

President: Susanne Baxter-Smith
Secretary: Bev Cottell
Treasurer: Jan Kokic
Vice President: Gill Garth

We have 17 financial members, averaging 8 per meeting.

Some of the highlights from our year are as follows:

The year started well with a visit from Liz Hawthorne, a most inspiring lady who spends several months every year visiting Zambia. She drives her Land Cruiser 3,500km to eastern Zambia, working with a local church. She drives to remote villages showing the Jesus film, and distributing bibles in their native language. We also had visitors from other branches attend which was lovely.

Other guest speakers we have had were Bev Cottell talking about her trip to Myanmar and the camp where Mothers Union is at work, also Gill Garth speaking about her recent overseas trip.

In April 4 members did a tour of the Cathedral with Dr Irene Donohue-Cline, who showed us different artifacts from Mothers' Union.

5 Members attended Lady Day at St Paul's Cathedral, a beautiful service with dozens of banners on parade, it is wonderful to see the Cathedral full with MU members.

A wonderful Day of Reflection was held at St. Luke's Taylor's Lakes with the Rev Jeanie Woollard leading us again. We were joined by members of the Northern/ Western Region, and the day ended with a beautiful Eucharist service.

Once again we shared our Wave of Prayer Service with the 10am Wednesday service. It is wonderful to have others praying with us.

I would like to congratulate Peggy, Doreen and Hazel for their 50 year plus commitment to MU, certainly a wonderful effort.

MU has continued to play a role in the baptisms performed at St Mary's and I would like to thank Peggy, Bev & Pam for their help to me in attending and presenting candles, thanks also to Lil Kelly for the upkeep of the Baptismal and Marriage Rolls and sending out anniversary cards.

I would like to thank the members from St Mary's who donated craft goods for us to sell on our trading table. This year we have raised a total of \$941.76 which will be used for Australian Northern Outreach and many overseas projects.

I would like to thank the Rev Gavin Ward for his enthusiastic support of MU at St. Mary's. Thank you to Bev as Secretary, a great asset to me and Jan as Treasurer and thank you to all who had special roles.

Susanne Baxter-Smith
President

2015 AGM REPORT – CHIBOBO.

What a year it has been in relation to Chibobo. God's blessings never cease to amaze, and this year there have certainly been many blessings for which the faithful community at St. Mary's are to be thanked.

- Stage One of the Chibobo Secondary School is well on its way to completion, largely due to the generous support of the Parish Council via the Telford bequest. These funds have enabled work to move along at pace in the second half of 2015, and the school is still scheduled to open in January 2016 with the 1st intake of Grade 10 students. There will be much rejoicing in Chibobo as their children have access to continuing education in a local context for the first time. The opening of the school will also bring many other benefits to the community as the Government employs staff, connects Chibobo to the power grid and new businesses are established to support the growing community. Many thanks to Gavin, the Parish Council & Ken Garth for their work in overseeing the program.
- Our volunteer midwife, Kirsteen, from the Anglican Church in Ringwood has spent an extended period in Chibobo, introduced by Gavin during his mission visit. Her presence has allowed a new maternity ward and staff house to be built, expanding the work of the Chibobo Health Post. One of the most joyous pieces of news I heard during my visit this year was that there are less young orphans in the community due to the decreasing death rate, all because of our small clinic serving the community.
- Gavin's visit in August continued to bring the churches together and his biblical training and loving presence continues to have a major impact on the community.
- Annette Swaffield, via the Days for Girls group on the Bellarine Peninsula, organised for 150 female hygiene kits to be taken across to Chibobo, and the Overnewton team conducted training for both the teenage girls and older ladies in a variety of health matters. It is hoped that the 2016 St. Mary's team will help the Chibobo Koala Club to learn how to make the kits so that they can be totally self-supporting in this initiative.
- The generosity of the St. Mary's community, both in spirit and financially, is a continuing sense of strength and support in my role as coordinator. This year you have supported the Chibobo community in ways big & small – providing funds to enable Grade 12 sponsored student Melvin to receive specialist treatment on his eyes; helping to provide a bore at the Chibobo Health Post to hopefully see it through the current dry spell; sponsoring students to school or the HMP orphanage; helping with fundraising and the list goes on. Special thanks to those who have supported our annual Lenten appeal and who regularly enquire about Chibobo or help out when the need arises.

Finally, your continuing prayer support is so important and is truly valued.

2016 will see the 5th Mission trip by a team from St. Mary's travelling to Chibobo. I encourage you to think about being part of this. Is a trip that you will never regret.

Lesia Amipale (God bless)

Mike Lampard.

MISSION ACTION TEAMS

1 Traditional Anglicans

Membership:- Gill Garth, Peter and Peg Jones, Simon Foster, Harry Appleton and Wendy Caramarco

This team has organised three Open Church events:- 6 December 2014, 14 and 15 March 2015 (during Sunfest) and on 9 May 2015 (during the Rotary Community Market).

We provided a BBQ and music with the first event and coffee and biscuits with the second event. We had a number of people come through the church and most used the "10 Minute Guide" written by Wendy. There were some engaging discussions but not many returned or connected with us regularly.

We agreed that Open Church was still a good idea over Sunfest and for special occasions but we need to think of other options for connecting with "Traditional" Anglicans in Sunbury. Specifically we need to focus on existing relationships that many at St Mary's have with these folk.

To that end we are now organising a "Back to Church" event for Christmas 2015.

2 Retirees

Membership:- Robin and Ruth Phillbrick, Annette Swaffield, Margaret Flanigan, Spencer Flint and Edith Langshaw. (Thanks also to many who provide the soup and help serve). Please speak to any of us if you would like to get involved. It's a lot of fun!!!

The key focus has been on the "Sing and Soup" outreach which we have conducted every 3rd Thursday at 12pm in the hall. We have advertised at Sunbury Square and in the local paper.

Over the year, we have adjusted what we have been doing:- including opening the door to the Community Store, having a couple of "special" days (songs from Musicals and original songs that Footy Club Songs are based on) and advertising the Friday Friendship Lunch. One visitor brings his piano-accordion and leads us in singing Amazing Grace and Ode to Joy, from time to time.

We have averaged over 30 and are now nearing averaging 40 (of which 75% are not members of St Mary's). The Sing and Soup is clearly very popular, with people coming from the Community Meals Kitchen, neighbours and friends of parishioners, Community Store visitors and groups from the Community Health Centre and the Lions Hostel.

We have plans for 2016 for some more special days and also inviting people to take the next step on the pathway of considering a relationship with Jesus.

Rev Gavin Ward
Vicar

KIDS HOPE

“and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” Romans 5:5

As I write this report, there are currently 11 mentors meeting with students on a weekly basis at Sunbury West Primary School. 4 of these students are new to the program since our last annual report which is a great encouragement as it indicates that the program is still viable and valued by the school. It is also an important opportunity for us to continue to share God’s love with these students now that the school no longer has a CRE program.

At our Christmas party last year we farewelled one graduating student who had been with the program from the very beginning. Its always exciting and somewhat emotional to see this happen, and we continue to pray for this student as he now makes the secondary school educational journey. There are 3 students in Grade 6 who will finish this year.

Mid 2015 saw the sudden exit of two much-loved students from the program in very emotional circumstances as they moved overseas. This had a deep impact on the entire school and was a vivid reminder of the nature of the home lives of some of the children in the program. I know that their mentors miss them deeply and will continue to uphold them in prayer.

Inga Wilson was appointed as the new principal at Sunbury West this year and Gavin and I visited her with some flowers to congratulate her on her promotion. Inga has been a long time supporter of Kids Hope and just last week informed me that she already has several students in mind to start in the program next year! With that in mind, I ask you to prayerfully consider whether you might be able to commit one hour per week to a local mission, sharing God’s love with a primary school aged child.

Narelle Riley- Kids Hope Coordinator

SINGLES AND FRIENDS

Because of illness and people travelling we didn’t have as many hosts as previous years. We started the year with a BBQ at the parish house in February and didn’t get rained out this time! We had a mixture of eating out, and going to host houses. Some new things we did included supporting the Chaplaincy committee’s trivia night, going to Sandy and Suzanne’s complex for dinner, a cinema afternoon to see the Last Cab to Darwin”, and a lovely afternoon tea at Mike Lampard’s. Our last meeting for the year will be lunch at Denise Foden’s on November 22nd, with Denise and Pam as hosts.

I would like to thank everyone who has hosted and/or supported us throughout the year. I look forward to next year with hopefully some new members. We do have a lot of fun. Any new ideas for things to do next year will be welcome.

Marg Flanigan

SUNBURY LAY ECUMENICAL COMMITTEE INC.

After a busy and successful 2014 the committee has continued its work, representing the combined churches of Sunbury.

Office bearers are:

- President Wendy Caramarco
- Vice President A representative from the Minister's fellowship (rotational)
- Secretary Gwen Hutcheson
- Treasurer Juan Carlos Rodriguez-Deller

This year we have worked to bring the following ecumenical events to the people of Sunbury:

- World Day of Prayer at Bethany Lutheran Church
- Good Friday combined service at Memorial Hall
- Service for Week of prayer for Christian Unity at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Catholic Church
- Christmas on the Green to be held on December 12

The last event is fast approaching. Christmas on the Green draws the community of Sunbury together with the participation of numerous service groups, community and sporting organizations, schools and churches. Bringing the Christian message of Christmas to the people of Sunbury is the core focus of this event.

Without the Sunbury LEC Inc. there can be no funding and without funding there can be no event.

Each year this celebration grows, as does the Good Friday event, therefore the number of tasks to be undertaken continues to grow.

We are also developing a website in the belief that the work and profile of the committee will continue to flourish in reaching out to the local community. We anticipate that sunburychurches.com.au will be up and running soon.

A special mention must be made of the Combined Churches Chorale, whose performances contribute to each of the annual LEC events. The chorale, under the enthusiastic and energetic baton of Gwen Hutcheson consists of parishioners from the different churches in our community. It is a real asset, it assists in our outreach and we are extremely grateful to Gwen for all that she does.

The Sunbury LEC Inc. welcomes the input of any new members who can join us, from St Mary's and from any of the churches involved.

Wendy Caramarco
President - Sunbury LEC Inc.

ST MARY'S NURSING HOME MINISTRY -- 2015

Sometimes we can feel young and vibrant. And at other times, we can feel ... well ... a little less young and vibrant. Such is the ageing process.

And in visiting the three Aged Care facilities in which the St Mary's team ministers – Riddell Gardens, Lions and Goonawarra -- we meet many folk who are very much aware that they are in the twilight of their years.

The privilege of being there, and of being able to share freely the story of God's wonderful love for each and every one of them – and us – never eludes us.

We thank God for the opportunities afforded us as we chat, share the Scriptures, teach, sing, tease, laugh and cry with these wonderful people, and, when possible, share the sacrament of Communion with them.

Special thanks to the members of our Hotel Team – er, sorry, that was meant to read "Hostel Team" -- who each enjoy taking part in this valuable team ministry. We give thanks to God for Gavin in his leadership of this area of St Mary's outreach and his support to those in need: he has established a well-respected and eagerly-awaited visit each month or so in these Hostels. And we are indebted to God for the wonderful team-members who share their God-given love with others through this ministry: Elsa, Alan, Joan, Harry, Valda, Lisa, Debbie, Ruth and members of the Wednesday morning Congregation who come along and support the larger gatherings at Goonawarra.

Please support the team, and this ministry, in your prayers.

Robin Philbrick Co-ordinator (sort of!)

FACE PAINTING

This unique, creative way of reaching out to the local Sunbury community which has been described by families as peaceful continues to be a real blessing.

The Lord is truly amazing, there continues to be opportunities in Sunbury and the surrounding district to connect with communities whether it be providing face painting, or a tool as a topic of discussions which have lead to the Christian faith.

I pray the Lord will continue to uphold the team, guide and provide opportunities of witness in 2016.

Tonia Langdon

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY (CMS) REPORT

This year the donations from CMS tins have totalled \$987.55. It would be a great help if more people would take a tin, It doesn't matter whether it is a small or large amount. Every small contribution helps. If you would like to have a tin please see me. The money raised from these tins helps our CMS link missionaries, Ken and Alison Thompson in Cambodia.

Pamela Allan

STITCH AND SEW REPORT - 2015

Once again Stitch and Sew has met regularly on a Tuesday afternoon with a regular attendance of between 10 and 15 people. We have enjoyed one another company over a cup of tea and cake and worked on various projects. This year has seen members doing a variety of craft from needlework, cross stitch, knitting, and patchwork, or just sitting and chatting in fellowship.

Last December we had a Christmas outing to Morning Melodies at The Clock Tower in Moonie Ponds and enjoyed listening to the Australian Girls Choir singing beautiful carols. This was followed by a Christmas luncheon at The Station Bistro.

All crafters in Sunbury had been requested to knit or crochet poppies for the WW 1 centenary. The aim was to pin a poppy on the photo of past soldiers and to decorate trees around the war memorial in Sunbury on Anzac Day, 2015, with 100s of poppies. It was a very moving dawn service, the first time one had been held in Sunbury and we were able to view our poppies on various trees and in the Memorial Hall.

Several of our members have suffered illness this year but it has been great that we have been able to give support and assistance where needed.

Some members have been prolific knitters of baby clothes and these have been donated to various charities. We have also donated money to Care Works from our weekly gold coin donations.

We have enjoyed our weekly bible reading from the Book of Proverbs and have had some lively discussions pertaining to some of the readings.

We always welcome anyone to join us on a Tuesday between 1.30pm and 3pm, whether you can sew or not there is a friendly face and a cuppa waiting for you. Please feel free to come along.

Gill Garth.

FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP LUNCHESES

The lunches are usually held on the 4th Friday of every month. The numbers have been increasing, we have had as many as 40 people.

The lunches are enjoyed by all, and we have had a person coming as far away as Heidelberg to join us.

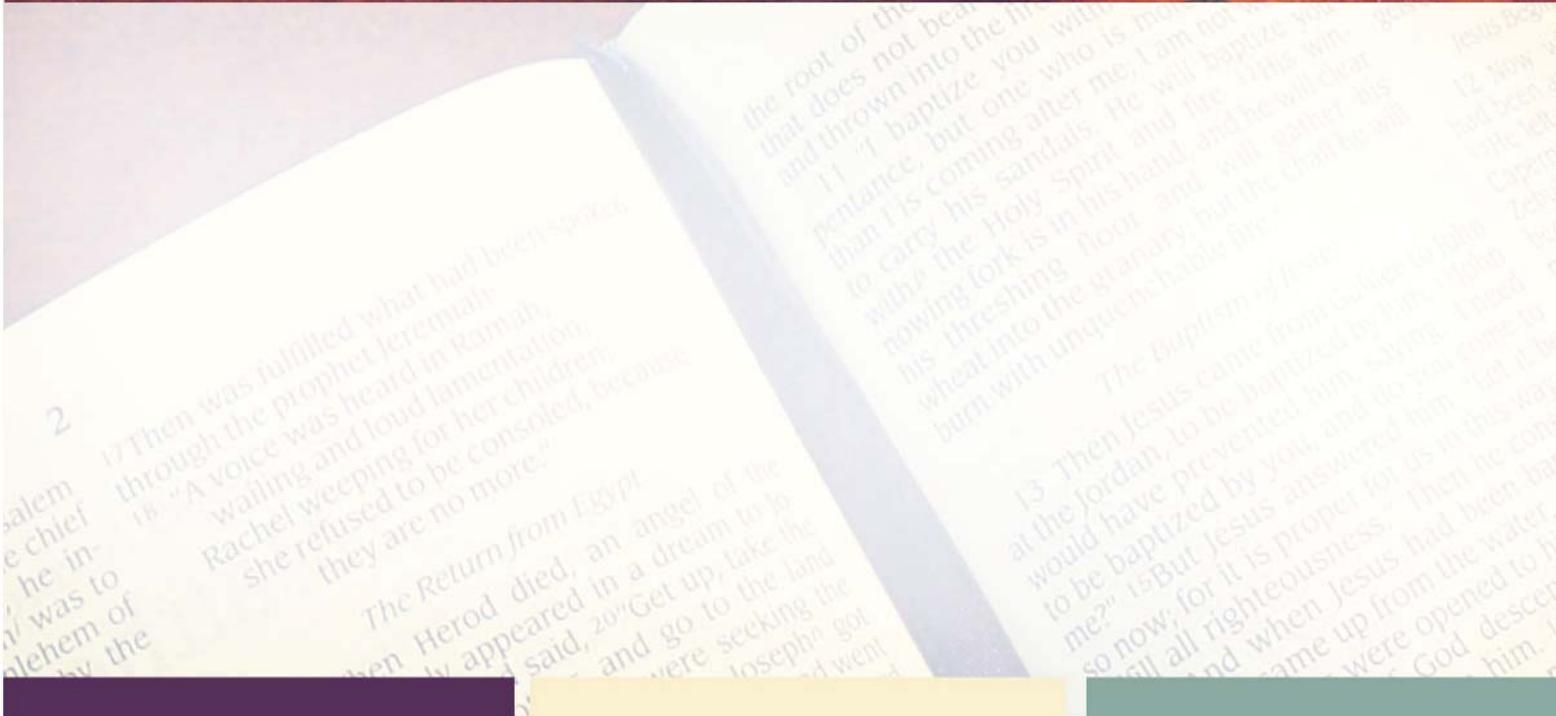
It is a great way of socialising and all ages attend.

The lunches are kept running by donations.

We have a lot of helpers, and it makes the whole preparation of the meal, and cleaning up go like clockwork.

Thanks to everyone for your support

Kristine & Larry Green



Minutes of St Mary's Annual General Meeting 10th November, 2014 at St Mary's Parish Hall

Meeting declared open at 7.38pm by meeting chair, Reverend Gavin Ward.

Attendance: Sue Allaz, Harry Appleton, Annette Appleton, Ros Armstrong, Mark Armstrong, Susanne Baxter-Smith, Jeanette Belcher, Mark Belcher, Robert Brennand, Katherine Burn, Wendy Caramarco, Matthew Ciappara, Benjamin Clements, Emily Clements, John Clinton, Bev Cottell, Don Cottell, Irene Curtis, Sally Davies, Lynette Donaghey-Frost, Margaret Flanigan, Jenay Flint, Spencer Flint, Denise Foden, Jill Gray, Peter Gray, Gwen Hutcheson, Allan Inglis, Ros Klouth, Jan Kokic, Mike Lampard, Edith Langshaw, Max Langshaw, Ruth Philbrick, Robin Philbrick, Alan Phillips, Elsa Phillips, Narelle Riley, Steven Riley, Peter Rovers, Tracy Sellars, Noel Sprague, Marj Stacy, Phil Stacy, Annette Swaffield, Kevin Swaffield, Peta Tickle, Gavin Ward, Heather Watts, Peter Watts, Hilary Williams, Michael Williams, Flora Whittington, Steven Whittington,

Apologies: Pam Allan, Lesley Atkinson, Kim Beales, Samantha Dennett, Gill Garth, Jennifer Garth, Kristine Green, Larry Green, Linden Johnson, Geoff Klouth, Fairlie Mann, Lesley McInerney, John McRae, Cath Robinson, Alma Sly, Don Sly, Yvonne Townsend, John Vanderstock, Susan Vanderstock, Fiona Wilkes, Thelma Yourn

Bible reading: Philippians 2:1-8

Prayer: Rev Gavin Ward

Apologies: (as above)

Previous Minutes: acceptance of previous AGM minutes
Moved by Emily Clements Seconded by Harry Appleton Carried

Acceptance of Electoral Role:
Moved by Alan Phillips Seconded by Annette Swaffield Carried

Guest Speaker

Jeanette Belcher who has been a volunteer in the Community Store since 1998, and the coordinator since February 2009 shared some funny stories of her time in the St Mary's Community store, outlines where the money raised will be going in 2014/15, and how we as a church can support and pray for the Community Store and its valuable volunteers (currently 26 ladies and 6 men).

At the end of her talk Gavin thanked Jeanette and her husband Mark for their tireless dedication to the St Mary's community store, and prayed for them, giving thanks to God for them. Jeanette was presented with flowers as a small token of our appreciation for her work.

Annual Reports

Vicar's Report: as per reports booklet

Special thanks to Noel Sprague for his many years as a Warden, as he takes a sabbatical year in line with new Parish Governance rules.

Congregation Planter's Report: as per reports booklet

Discipleship and Ministry Training Coordinator's Report as per reports booklet

Home Group Coordinator's Report as per reports booklet

Parish Administrator's Report as per reports booklet

Pastoral Care Coordinator's Report: as per reports booklet.

Warden's Report: as per reports booklet.

Parish Council Report: as per reports booklet.

Acceptance of these reports

Moved by Peter Rovers

Seconded by Marg Flanigan Carried

Synod- as per reports booklet

Community Store: as per reports booklet

Service Leader's Meetings: as per reports booklet

Prayer Ministry: as per reports booklet

Youth Group: as per reports booklet

God's Gang: as per reports booklet

MU Australia (St Mary's): as per reports booklet

Chibobo Mission: as per reports booklet

Chibobo 2014 Mission Trip: as per reports booklet

Ministry to the Elderly: as per reports booklet

Kids Hope AUS: as per reports booklet

Face Painting Team: as per reports booklet

CMS: as per reports booklet

Thanks to Peter Jones for his many years service in this role.

Stitch and Sew: as per reports booklet

Singles & Friends: as per reports booklet

Friday Friendship lunch: as per reports booklet

Lay Ecumenical: as per reports booklet

Thanks to all involved in these ministries.

Move that the reports be received.

Moved by Annette Appleton

Seconded by Harry Appleton

Carried

Financial Reports

Amendment to the "Notes to Accompany Accounts" -

Note (f) to read "*No funds have been withdrawn from this account this financial year*"

Noel Sprague presented the 2014/15 Budget.

Move that amended report be accepted.

Moved by Simon Foster Seconded by Phil Stacy Carried

Meeting records it's thanks to Flora Whittington and Rob Brennand for their work in preparing and auditing the financial reports.

Election of Auditor

Move that Rob Brennand be appointed as auditor.

Moved by Mark Armstrong Seconded by Don Cottell Carried

Report by incumbent on entries in the registers of the Parish was presented.

Elections

Churchwardens:

Geoff Klouth Mark Armstrong

Vicar's Appointed Warden

Wendy Caramarco

Parish Council:

Katherine Burn, Emily Clements, Don Cottell,
Alan Phillips, Steve Whittington Michael Williams

Vicar's Appointments to Parish Council

Max Langshaw, Phil Stacy Annette Swaffield

Incumbency committee:

Noel Sprague Alan Phillips

All declared elected

General Business

Nil

Meeting closed at 8.22pm with the Grace

St Mary's Anglican Church Sunbury - Executive Summary - 2015/16 Budget

2015/16 Budget Draft v6 (29/10/2015)

Item	Description	Budget 2014/15	Budget 2015/16
Income			
Collections	Open Plate & Electronic Giving	197,500	200,000
Donations - General		2,000	1,050
Weddings & Funerals		8,000	4,000
Activities - Other Fundraising		2,000	2,100
Interest		1,500	1,700
Hall Rental		18,000	18,000
Solar Power Income		-	180
Uniting Church grant		12,600	12,600
Community Store		130,000	147,600
Less Extraordinary Income - Bequest			
Total Income (A)		371,600	387,230
Expenditure			
Staffing			
Vicar (Gavin)	Stipend/Super	72,880	70,632
	Vehicle	10,225	10,560
Assistant Minister (April 2016- September 2016)	Stipend/Super Full Cost \$41,104	-	20,553
Associate Minister (Kim)	Stipend/Super	46,073	51,572
	Vehicle	7,889	8,512
	Housing Allowance	13,885	17,535
	Utilities	2,032	2,400
Ridley Student		4,800	3,000
Locum	(Ernest)	2,915	-
Training Coordinator (Ros)	Salary/Allowances	7,773	10,368
	Superannuation	719	984
Parish Administrator (Narelle)	Salary	29,981	32,712
	Superannuation	2,848	3,108
Other employer expense	relief staff	1,000	-
Workcover		147	1,092
Accounts Officer	Salary	10,050	-
	Superannuation	955	-
Total staffing costs		214,172	233,027
Mission			
Parish Council Giving Allocations		15,000	15,000
Community Store Mission giving		38,000	34,500
Total Mission		53,000	49,500
Property costs			
Insurance	Buildings	6,132	8,100
Church building	Maintenance/repairs/utilities	3,497	4,100
Vicarage	Maintenance/repairs/utilities	6,814	6,200
Parish house	Maintenance/repairs/utilities	2,062	1,500
Parish Centre	Maintenance/repairs/utilities + other costs	5,893	4,800
Contract cleaner		4,245	6,300
Total Property Costs		28,643	31,000

St Mary's Anglican Church Sunbury - Executive Summary - 2015/16 Budget

2015/16 Budget Draft v6 (29/10/2015)

Item	Description	Budget 2014/15	Budget 2015/16
Ministry Costs			
Furniture/equipment	Small Office, Hall & Church Equipment	866	750
Conferences/Staff professional Development		2,000	1,550
Office running costs	Stationary & Software	5,000	5,100
Telephone & Internet		4,174	2,650
Music & Copyright licences	CCLI, Broughtons etc	800	1,050
Church Service Supplies	Wine/wafers/envelopes/name tags/magnets	1,400	1,400
Baptism & Confirmation		435	400
5pm Service	Speakers, Hospitality, Resources,	2,630	2,000
Books & Training	Ministry resources	750	750
God's Gang & Youth United	God's Gang & Youth United	1,133	800
Police checks		125	400
Hospitality	Hospitality after services	2,575	2,100
Pathways	Kim's Mission Action Teams	2,266	2,000
Playgroup		500	200
Kid's Hope		1,236	1,000
Ecumenical Services	Good Friday & Christmas on the Green	1,500	1,500
Parishioner Hospitality & Welfare	Pastoral Care, Special Hospitality, Gifts	773	800
Funerals & Weddings	Catering & other expenses	2,060	500
Vicar's hospitality/assistance		1,500	
Total Ministry Costs		31,723	24,950
Other costs			
Community Store	Running costs & staff welfare	16,000	17,000
Parochial Assessment		30,000	30,500
Book-keeping	External Diocesan Bookkeeping Services	-	5,400
Media costs	TMA Subscription	1,000	1,000
Fundraising expenses		-	-
Other costs	Auditing, insurance + other payments	1,716	300
Asset Purchases	Microphone & Projector Upgrades	4,700	-
Total other costs		53,416	54,200
Total Expenditure (B)		380,954	392,677
Operating Surplus / (Deficit) - (A) - (B)		(9,354)	(5,447)
<i>If an assistant minister were not included in the budget</i>			15,106
Planned Reserve Funds			
Leave fund non clergy		3,068	3,000
Maintenance Reserve		1,000	1,000
Asset Replacement Fund		2,575	2,500
Community Store Investment Account		10,000	1,000
Total Transfer Funds		16,673	7,500
Surplus/Deficit (After Extraordinary Items)		(26,027)	(12,947)
<i>If an assistant minister were not included in the budget</i>			7,606
2015 Building Fund		Budget 2014/15	Budget 2015/16
Income			
Community Store		12,000	18,000
Donations - Buildings		55,000	32,000
ADF Building Fund			
	Interest received	30,000	30,000
		97,000	80,000

Community Store – Budget 2015 - 2016

INCOME **\$147,600**

OP/Run 11.52%

Petty Cash	1,450	
Cleanaway	3,800	
Coordinator's Allowance	3,600	
Miscellaneous	1,000	
Staff Appreciation/Welfare	3,300	
Store Maintenance	1,000	
Gas, Electric, Telephone	2,850	<u>\$17,000</u>

Transferred Funds 25.81%

Diocese Assessment	8,000	
Diocese Insurance	600	
Repairs to Church Buildings	1,500	
Approved Building Fund	18,000	
RDF Investment (CS)	10,000	<u>\$38,100</u>

Salaries 35.23%

Assistant Minister, Locum, Lay Family Minister,
Parish Administration **\$52,000**

Missions/Charities 23.37%

Anglicare – Victoria	4,000	
Bible Society	1,000	
Careworks	8,000	
Sunbury Pink Ladies	2,000	
Children First Foundation	1,000	
C. Store Grants	2,000	
Mission to Seafarers	2,000	
Peter Mac (Cancer)	2,000	
RC Sunbury Family Community Kitchen	4,000	
State Emergency Service	2,000	
Sunbury Chaplaincy	5,000	
World Vision	1,500	<u>\$34,500</u>

Parish Centre 4.07%

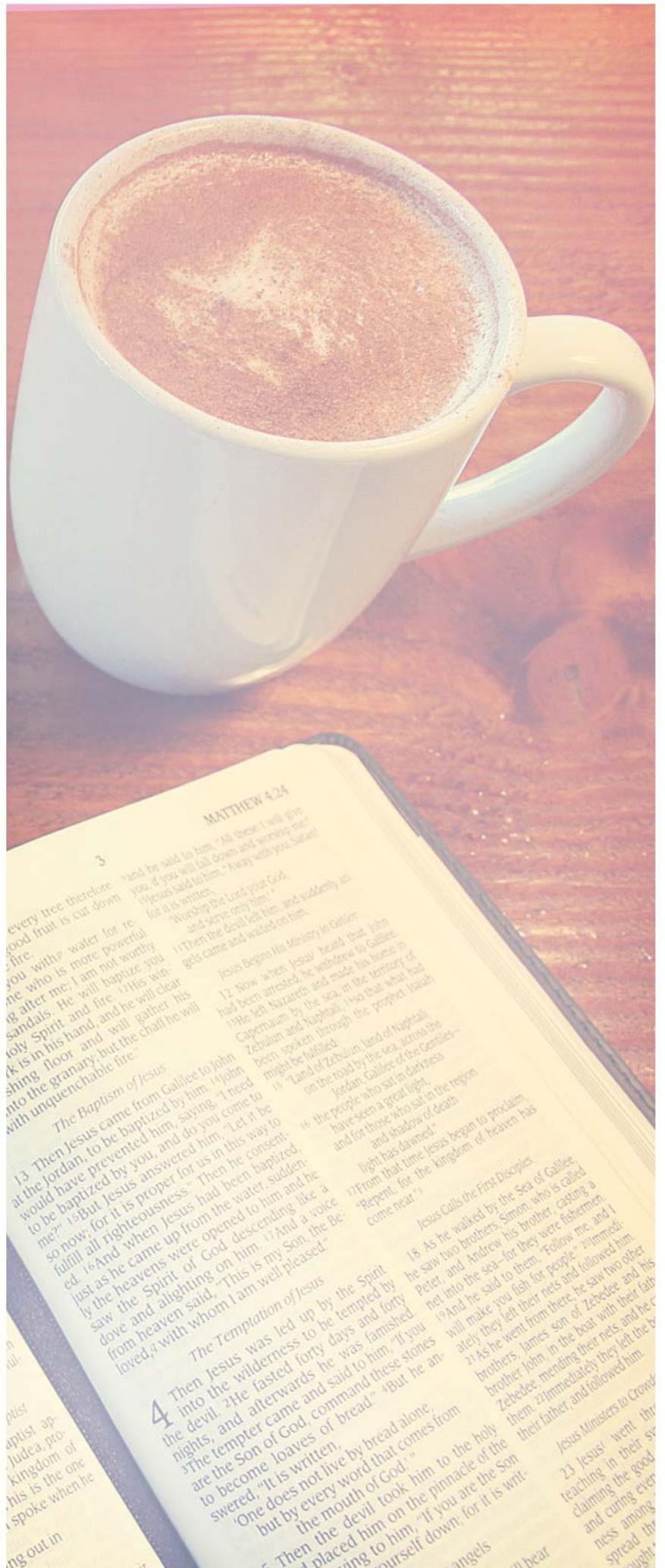
Photo Copier	6,000	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE **\$147,600**

Excess funds at the 30th September 2016 to be distributed as follows:- \$5,000 Management Committee Balance to St. Mary's General Account – Management Committee to be advised of the dispersal.

Passed by the Management Committee on *15-10-15* Parish Council Approved on

Signed.....*M. Langan*.....



MATTHEW 4:24

3 every tree therefore good fruit is cut down
you with water for re-
ne who is more powerful
g after me, I am not worthy
sandals. He will baptize you
oly Spirit and fire. 11 His win-
rk is in his hand, and he will clear
shing floor and will gather his
into the granary, but the chaff he will
with unquenchable fire.

The Baptism of Jesus
13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John
at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14 John
would have prevented him, saying, "I need
to be baptized by you, and do you come to
me?" 15 But Jesus answered him, "Let it be
so now; for it is proper for us in this way to
fulfill all righteousness." Then he consent-
ed. 16 And when Jesus had been baptized,
just as he came up from the water, sudden-
ly the heavens were opened to him and he
saw the Spirit of God descending like a
dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice
from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Be-
loved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Temptation of Jesus
4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit
into the wilderness to be tempted by
the devil. 2 He fasted forty days and forty
nights, and afterwards he was famished.
3 The tempter came and said to him, "If you
are the Son of God, command these stones
to become loaves of bread." 4 But he an-
swered, "It is written,
'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from
the mouth of God.'"
5 Then the devil took him to the holy
place and said to him, "If you are the Son
of God, throw yourself down; for it is writ-
ten, 'Angels will bear
you up on their hands, so that you will not
strike your foot against a stone.'"
6 Jesus answered him, "It is written,
'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"
7 Again the devil took him to the pinnacle of
the temple and said to him, "If you are the
Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is writ-
ten, 'I will command my angels concerning
you, and they will lift you up on their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against
a stone.'"
8 Jesus answered him, "It is written,
'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"
9 Again the devil took him to a high mountain,
and showed him all the kingdoms of the world
and all their glory. 10 And he said to him,
"All these I will give you, if you will fall
down and worship me." 11 Jesus said to him,
"Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"
12 Now when Jesus had heard that John
had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.
13 He left Nazareth and made his home in
Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of
Zebulun and Naphtali. 14 So that what had
been spoken through the prophet Isaiah
might be fulfilled:
15 "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the
Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
16 the people who sat in darkness
and shadow of death
light has dawned."
17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim,
"Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven has
come near."

Jesus Calls the First Disciples
18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee,
he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called
Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a
net into the sea—for they were fishermen.
19 And he said to them, "Follow me, and I
will make you fish for people." 20 Immedi-
ately they left their nets and followed him.
21 As he went from there, he saw two other
brothers, James son of Zebedee and his
brother John, in the boat with their father
Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called
them. 22 Immediately they left the boat
and their father and followed him.
23 Jesus went through
teaching in their synagogues,
claiming the good news
and curing every
disease and every
illness among the
people. 24 His fame
spread throughout
the surrounding
region.