



St Mary's Grapevine

Building
for the Future
ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, SUNBURY
AUGUST 2019

Gavin's Grab

Greetings everyone,

Wow! What an amazing night we had on Saturday 3rd August in the Memorial Hall for our Parish Dinner. Over 150 members of our St Mary's Parish family were there and we had a great time catching up. Wasn't it wonderful to all be in the one place at the one time and to get a sense of how large we are?

If you weren't able to join us, or would like a reminder, I'd like to update you with what was shared on the evening so that no-one misses out.

After main course, and before dessert, there were a few presentations made and this Grapevine covers the essence of those presentations.

Celebrating St Mary's 200th

I began by saying the following:-

Let me take you on a journey.

It's early November in the year 2067. The world has changed but some things remain the same.

- The 206th Melbourne Cup has just been run and won

- King William the 5th is the English Monarch
- Australia holds the Ashes
- The 20th movie in the Star Wars franchise is due for release at Christmas
- Mick Jagger has just turned 124 and is the last remaining member of the Rolling Stones (can you believe that?)
- Australia has just voted in our first Indigenous female Prime Minister, a very popular woman from Western Australia
- England are still dealing with the consequences of Brexit
- The Tasmanian Tigers are the new AFL premiers, preventing Essendon from winning 4 in a row

Closer to home, Sunbury's population has just gone over 110,000 with housing estates stretching to Clarkefield; to Riddells Creek; to Diggers Rest and to Bulla.

Multiple shopping centres, with primary and secondary schools serve these estates.

Jacksons Hill is now an arts precinct with cafes, markets and a new Secondary School and we're still waiting for our Hospital to be built.

IMPORTANT ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Please note that we were given an incorrect BSB when preparing our building brochure.

The correct BSB number is
703 122.

Account number remains the same- **05004990**

Traffic is quite an issue but has been relieved by a new rail crossing from Jacksons Hill onto Vineyard Rd and the Gap Rd rail crossing has also been fixed. Drivers are now enjoying the new roundabout on the corner of Gap Rd and Horne Street!

Sunbury is a hive of activity and yet it still retains its semi-rural community feel. This is because the Churches of Sunbury, along with many community groups and service organisations, continue to serve the community by providing multiple events and activities.

Continued on page 2

Gavin's Grab

continued from page 1

And so, in early November 2067, the Wardens of St Mary's (Joshua Fisher, Olivia Smith and Nicholas Rae) have a meeting with a couple of the more senior parishioners (Meg Riley and Nathanael Armstrong) to put the final touches together for St Mary's 200th Celebrations. As they do they reflect on some of the key aspects of this Celebration:-

- To give thanks to God for and acknowledge the original custodians of the land St Mary's is built on being the Gunung Willam-Balluk people of the Kulin Nation;
- To give thanks to God for the Clarke family, in particular William Clarke who:-
 - petitioned the Government for the Land on which St Mary's was built;
 - was Chairman of the Committee who organised the building of St Mary's; and
 - who was generous in providing funds for the building of St Mary's and paying the stipend of the first vicar for a number of years.

They paused to reflect on what a huge undertaking that was for this committee back in 1867 and the foresight they had to build a church which was far bigger than their immediate needs but that would serve the community for over 150 years.

This organising Committee then reflected on the wonderful St Mary's ministries into the community for the first 150 years including for example:-

- ministry to residents of the Asylum on Jackson's Hill;
- the formation of the Sunbury Cricket Club, (which was eventually handed over to the Sunbury Community to run);
- the conducting of Deb balls and various dances in the Memorial Hall for the community;
- Involvement in the Sunbury Show, Sunbury Town Fair and Sunbury Streetlife;
- Providing church services for those in Aged Care facilities;
- Face painting at various locations;
- Kids Hope at Sunbury West Primary School;
- Camps for Young Adults, Teenagers and senior Primary School aged children;
- Youth United and Games nights in the Parish House;
- Music Playtime for young children;
- The Winter Night Shelter;
- Organising the Annual Sunbury Carols, with other churches; and
- Support for Careworks and Chaplaincy in Sunbury Schools.

They reflected on the vision and efforts of parishioners to build the hall, the kitchen, the offices, the Vicarage and then the Community Store, which is still serving the community so well. The purchase of a new Vicarage in Jacksons Hill was remembered as a great decision by the Wardens back in 2007.

The Committee then decided it was important to give thanks to God for all involved back in 2019 to take the bold step and generously support the building of the new Worship Centre, including updated auditorium, meetings rooms and a café.



In particular to give thanks to God for the generosity of Anne and Jack Telford that enabled the possibility of this work to take place. As Nicholas aptly put it "What a wonderful gift that has been to St Mary's and the Sunbury Community. Look at what has happened over the past 50 years:-

- Local schools are now regularly using the auditorium for end of year presentation nights and concerts;
- Local theatre companies have also been able to use the auditorium for their performances;
- Various community and sporting groups have continued to use our hall and facilities;
- We have been able to gather together as a Parish (all 500 of us) to worship God together (as we will for our 200th Celebration Service);
- We have had many marriage and parenting courses, sometimes run concurrently;
- We have developed a wonderful counselling service, utilising our various meeting rooms;
- We have become a Training Centre for the Anglican Church on this side of town;
- Our Women's, Men's, Children's, Youth, Senior Citizen and Parish activities have grown through the use of the new café and kitchen facilities;
- The expanded offices have been able to house our growing staff team;
- Our regular Children's Holiday Programmes, using the flexible space of the auditorium, are very popular;
- Our stage has been a huge benefit for Carols on the Green and other community events who have been able to use it through the open doors leading onto the Village Green;
- We have been able to develop a wonderful mentoring programme for young people;
- Many people have been able to develop skills and find employment through training in the café;
- The café has also enabled parents and children to sit in the sunshine; have a coffee and play in a safe environment;
- We have been able to conduct Alpha Courses and other events and activities simultaneously in our expanded facilities;
- We've had a number of massive funerals where the Sunbury community has been able to gather under one roof to mourn and farewell loved ones;
- Our ministry to the homeless and those struggling in the community has grown through the availability of safe places and spaces for them;

Gavin's Grab *continued*



- We have been able to be very creative in our worship of God at all our services on Sundays and throughout the week; and
- The great thing is that the old bluestone St Mary's Building is still used regularly for Church services, weddings, prayer meetings and healing services. Doesn't it look great!

Before they moved on with the specific planning for the 200th Celebration Service, the Wardens (Joshua, Olivia and Nicholas) along with senior citizens Meg and Nathanael paused and gave thanks to God for the generosity and vision of those who had proceeded them – especially in 2019. "It's just like the Clarke family and that first Committee back in 1867 – Building for the future – giving to future generations." – noted Joshua.

"Don't forget" said Meg, "that we're hosting the Choir from Chibobo Secondary School to our 200th Celebration Service. We need to finalise their billeting arrangements as they arrive in 2 weeks."

Can you imagine that scene?
Can you see St Mary's and the possibilities for what those in the future will be able to remember and celebrate at our 200th Celebration Service?

Café possibilities

I then had a brief chat with Norman Palumbo from Just Planet Café who has been providing us with ideas and possibilities for our café. Norman may or may not be involved but he is willingly assisting us and is very supportive.

Some of the possibilities are:-

- Training Café for those who are disadvantaged in our community (including but not exclusively) those from Distinctive Options, Indigenous groups, unemployed folk, parents trying to get back in the workforce after children have gone to school etc;
- Gateway into St Mary's by providing meals, functions, hospitality etc;
- Café in Sunbury for parents to enjoy the sunshine on a deck while children play safely in the playground; and
- Place for people to take small steps towards engagement with God.

Encouragement from the Community

Councillor Leigh Johnson gave the gathering encouraging words as a representative of the Sunbury Community. He indicated that this was a very exciting project for the Community and that St Mary's, which is held in high esteem in the community, ought be congratulated for this innovative project of providing space for worship and ministry as well as for the community. He indicated he will do what he can to support the project.

Conclusion – Building for people and Ministry – not for a Building itself

Psalm 127:1 says "Unless the Lord Builds the House, those who build it Labour in vain"

When I met the Wardens for the first time back in 2006, Max Langshaw asked me what I thought about a Building Project. He indicated there had been a number of plans and ideas for years surrounding the need for a new building.

Inwardly I groaned as my focus in ministry is always people.....however when God steps in we need to pay attention.

In 2014 I was on a safari with Ken and Gill Garth in Bostwana, following a visit to Chibobo. My phone rang and it was Narelle, advising me that we had received a bequest from Jack Telford of a substantial sum of money. I sat down and shed a tear because I knew it was God stepping in and clearly saying to us:- "Here's a kick start for the new Building that I want you to build for my purposes. Now get on and do it"

From that date on we have received a second bequest from the Telford Estate (the total bequest being around \$1.2 million) and just in the last 3 weeks we have received a very generous donation of \$250,000 from Sir Rupert and Lady Susannah Clarke towards our new building. Such is their excitement and support for what we are doing.

God continues to encourage us to get on do it.

This new building is clearly of God and it will be used for His purposes and greater glory. All God asks us to do is to follow Him.....to get on Board with what he's already doing.

I encourage everyone to prayerfully consider how God might be calling each of us to get on Board with what He is doing.

Gavin Ward
Vicar

Noel Sprague-

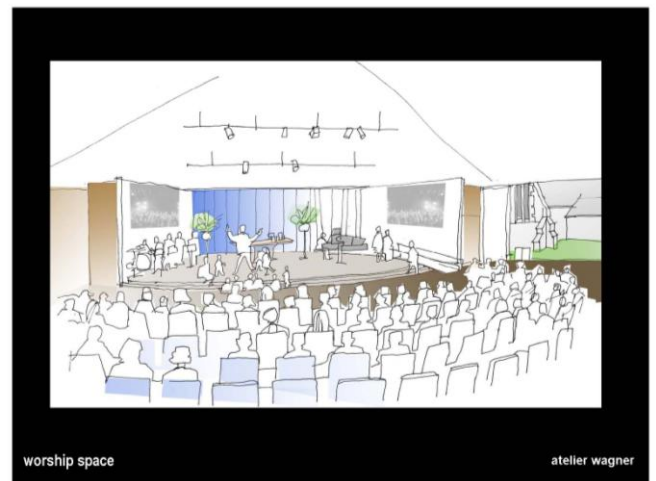
Building Committee

The building process began with our first 10 year plan, which we put into place shortly after Gavin arrived. We revisited this plan after 5 years and it was really encouraging to identify God's work within this plan, with our focus being on growing people in Christ. Although we did purchase a replacement Vicarage which freed up the current parish house for some of our programs and for the wider parish use. Building a new church was a clear nonstarter at year 5 and something we could only commit to prayer. But then God surprised us all.

With Anne and Jack Telford's generous bequest we could now begin the process of planning a new worship centre. We initially looked at a blank canvass exploring options to purchase land and set up another church in Sunbury. The costs were far too high and this eventually led us back to our present site in the town centre.

The journey thus far has involved multiple consultants, several designs, removal of what was lovingly described as the Sunbury water tank, no offence to our architects, to a wonderful practical design we have now arrived at. The building committee has worked in the background with mechanical, electrical, structural, acoustic, communications and environmental consultants reviewing multiple designs to allow tender documents to be produced. Along the journey we have always been cost conscious and when the final estimates were provided, we then embarked upon a cost cutting exercise to reduce the overall cost to a manageable level of \$3.3M. All of these omitted items can be added later if our finances permit. So here we are tonight seeking your support for what I believe is God's plan for St Mary's.

I personally hold fond memories of Anne and Jack who lived very simple environmentally friendly lives, long before these became issues in society. Their example and generosity remind me often of what a wonderful and generous God we worship.



Meg Riley

My Church, My Town,
My future



I'm a third generation member of the St Mary's congregation, my family have been worshipping here for more than 50 years! I was baptised by Rev. Kev in the marble font at the back of the church in November 2000, and last year I confirmed those promises of faith for myself at my Confirmation with Bishop Philip Huggins. My faith and knowledge of God has grown and developed under the guidance of Gavin, Kim Beales, Cath Fisher and Matt Browne, and through my time spent at God's Gang, Youth United and now as a member of the Young Adults Home Group. In 2016 I was part of the St Mary's Mission trip to Chibobo, and each week I worship and serve God at St Mary's with the 5pm Congregation.

Having lived in Sunbury for all 19 years of my life I have seen the town grow, expand and change. New housing estates and schools have gone up, electric trains have arrived, Sunbury has had two versions of Bunnings, we now have two woolworths supermarkets, BUT STILL NO KMART! Everyone told me the traffic lights would be in place before I got my licence but I battled the Horne St roundabout replacement works for the entire time I was learning to drive, and they are already replacing the Galaxy Land playground that I grew up on!

One thing that really hasn't changed much is St Mary's, and in some ways that's a good thing. I love the traditional feel of our gorgeous heritage church. I love how familiar it is, and how it just feels like HOME whenever I walk through the door.

But if I'm also really honest, the building we currently have is a little bit frustrating!

One of the ways that I have been serving God and the people of St Mary's this year is by leading a creche at the 5pm service for all the pre-school children- I'm rostered on every second Sunday, with Nathanael Armstrong and Ellie Priest doing the other two Sundays, and its our way of making sure that their parents get a chance to concentrate and hear the sermon and bible readings and prayers. We cant do creche in the church because there isn't space, so the parents bring the kids over to the Parish house before church starts, and then we walk the kids back over to the church in time for the final song. In the middle of winter its cold, and its dark, and sometimes its raining, and its definitely not ideal for any of us! It also means that as young people in the key development stages of our faith, those of us who are running creche aren't hearing the sermons. I work some Sundays too..... so there have been months where, although I'm at church and serving, I've only heard one sermon for the entire month. Don't get me wrong, I'm not complaining- but I cant wait til we have our new building with the cry room where Nathanael, Ellie, Jemimah and I can still run the creche but we can also see what's going on in church and hear the sermon!

One of the other things about the new building that I'm excited about is the café.... and not just because I'm from the millennial generation that spends their lives in cafes! Although the idea of meeting my friends in a café that is directly connected to MY church and being able to show them around and make an instant connection to the building defiantly makes evangelism and invitations to church easier! In fact- I was so passionate about that as an idea that I based an entire year's VCE study around it! Last year when I was completing year 12, one of the subjects I studied was "Visual Communications". I based my entire design folio on a hypothetical café attached to a church on the Sunbury village green, which I called the "sower" café (the name being derived from the Parable of the Sower.) I researched the church history, studied demographics, looked at cafes in the area and what they offered (and didnt offer) designed logos, planned menus, researched environmentally friendly products for the café, and drank lots of hot chocolates and coffees with my Mum in the process (purely for research purposes!). When you spend an entire year working on something like that, you can become pretty emotionally invested in it, even if it's just plans on paper, so I can totally understand where the building committee are coming from! They have invested so much in this project already!

I'm really excited about how this new building will be used for our worship services. When the 5pm service was held in the St Andrews building we had flexibility for our set up and how our services were conducted that we don't have in the current St Mary's building, just because of the fixed pews, no podium or stage things like that. We used to meet in the foyer for coffee before the service and then we would have dinner after the service, and I hope we can go back to doing that and other creative things

Continued on Page 6

My Church, My Town, My Future Continued from page 5

I'm also excited to see how our Young adults group will meet for our home group studies each week in the new rooms and how the Youth Group will decorate their spaces!

Just yesterday morning I was thinking about how this new space will help us to serve the community so well. My Grandfather and my Mum and I were all doing the morning shift at the Winter Night Shelter together, and there had been 8 homeless people stay overnight. Our current hall is so tiny for that many people to try and sleep comfortably. One of the guests had been snoring really loudly and kept the other guests awake, and I was thinking how in our new building we'll have so much more space for them not to be having to sleep literally in each others pockets, and they'll probably be able to wake up and have the dignity of a shower if they want it. I don't know if this new building will be ready in time for next years winter Night Shelter.... But I certainly hope so. I'm really excited that tonight we finally get to hear how we can be a part of actually making this happen!



Wendy Caramarco (Warden)

How Can I get involved? –

It's time to get excited because this is really happening ☐

This excitement is like a first home owner - but the repayments have to be made on the loan!!

As a Parish family we will use a Pledge process to arrive at a committed amount that we must have to take to the Diocesan Building Committee for formal approval. They will only approve us to take the next step to build once we can convince them we have the finances in place (ie the up-front amount we will contribute and the ability to pay off whatever loan we will need to take out.)

Without this information we cannot move forward.

We have provided pledge slips to assist the Wardens in understanding what people are ready to commit. The pledge slip is designed to cover a range of personal, preferred payment scenarios which provide us with the information we need. All the information is confidential (and can be anonymous). It's really between you and God. We just need to know the amount for our budgeting purposes.

There are two parts to the slip:-

1st The slip asks for an indication of what one-off amount you might be willing to pledge. This amount will assist us in knowing how much we will have to contribute to the building and therefore how much we might need to borrow.

You may like to consider Tax returns or unexpected windfalls in this one-off amount.

2nd The slip then also provides options for people to contribute a regular amount (weekly, fortnightly, monthly or annually) to the Building Fund. This can be in addition to a one-off amount or instead of it, depending on your circumstances. This figure will help us determine what size loan we will be able to service.

How Can I get involved? continued

You may also like to consider leaving a bequest. Please speak with the office if you would like further information.

Pledges can be made at anytime and placed in the white box on the table near the font at the entrance to the church but specifically we will be providing an opportunity for everyone to lodge their pledge at Services on Commitment Sunday 18 August and Wednesday 21 August. Gavin will be preaching on the theme "Building for the Future"

After Commitment Sunday, we will let all Parishioners know what the Pledge amount is and what the next steps are. It would be most helpful if pledges were received by Wednesday 21 August so we can move forward.

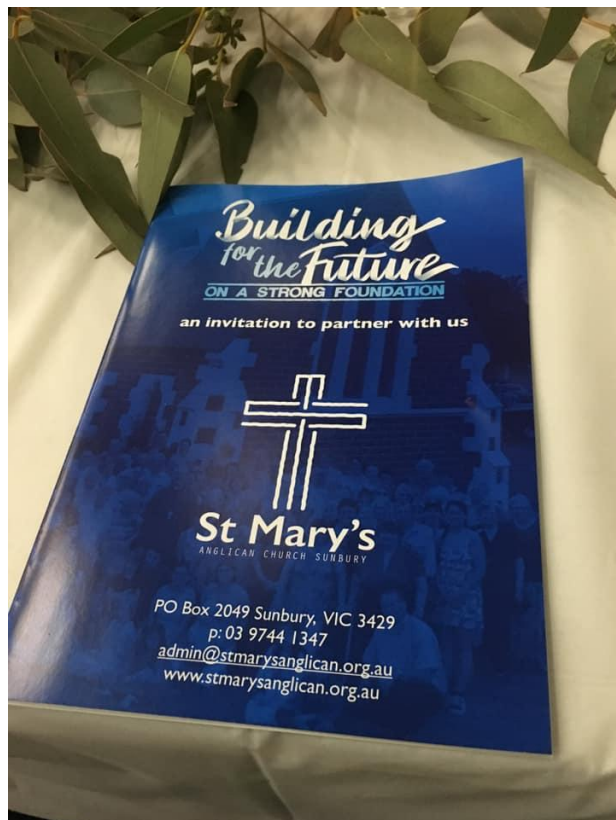
The actual funds can be received over the next few months or as your circumstances allow.

We are also investigating other sources of funds, including community grants etc

As an indication of the support from the leadership of St Mary's the 2018 Parish Council, and staff, provided a rough pledge of \$230k towards the new building project.

In addition, Gavin has provided us with the wonderful and encouraging news of the \$250k Pledge from the Clarke family.

I commend the pledge slips to everyone to prayerfully consider how you might be involved in this exciting building project.



Financial Breakdown of the New Building Project

Estimated cost:- \$3.3m

To be paid by:-

Funds already available:-

Telford Bequest:- \$1.25m

Clarke Pledge:- \$250k

Total \$1.5m

To be raised:- \$1.8m

This money will be raised through:-

Pledges*

Grants (including from the Diocese)

Loan from the Anglican Development Fund

*Pledges can be a one-off amount or regular giving to the Future Building Fund (according to your personal circumstances).

Contributions can be lodged at any time into the Future Building Fund but we would ask that one off amounts be given, if possible, by October/November. It would be very helpful if regular contributions could begin in September.

The Details for your contributions are:-

Account Name:- St Mary's Anglican Church Sunbury

BSB: 703 122

Account: 05004990

A final word from our Building Committee.....

A long standing parishioner recently remarked to me that they hope they live long enough to see our new worship centre built. Just in my time at St Mary's I have seen 3 different proposals to either expand our original church or build additional facilities. I am confident that we are now aligned with God's plans for St Mary's.

On Saturday August 3 we officially launched our building project with a view to raise enough finances to commence building in 2020. We are in debit to the Telford's for their bequest which allowed us to commence planning for a new worship centre. God has indeed been working in people's lives to enable this new worship centre to move from concept through planning, Hume Council approved our planning application in April 2018, to now seeking to commence building. We are in exciting times and our architects have worked hard to produce documentation to enable us to seek tenders for construction costs. At present we have an estimated build cost of \$3.3M, until we are able to test the market this is only an estimate.

The planned facilities include seating for over 300 people in the worship centre with room to seat another 120 in the foyer area adjoining, at this stage it is far too large for our current needs. Just as those who built our current church planned for the future, we too look forward to a future where God's love is shared with others who may not have any life experience of Christianity.

Our new facilities will allow us to provide additional programs that are family focussed and attractive to those who are unchurched. We have always been limited by available space, the entire new facility will exceed 1200 square metres, by way of comparison the average Australian house size is 180 square metres. Our facilities will allow us to offer hospitality services before and after services without people having to move from the foyer area, with toilet facilities within easy access of this. It will provide meeting spaces for all age groups from the very young to those amongst us who are senior. Parking for mobility aides will be directly outside the entry enables us to be inclusive to all comers. All areas will be disability accessible. A community focus with outreach programs possibly providing hospitality training for youth and refugees with a commercial kitchen and café providing family friendly surroundings.

We continue to pray for God's plans to be fulfilled for St Mary's, we will need support to do this both monetarily and physically with volunteer labour assisting with delivering our new facilities for a strong future presence of God's love in the Sunbury community.

*Noel Sprague
Building Committee*

