
St Michael's Anglican Church

North Carlton

ANNUAL REPORT

Ministry and Business Reports

Tuesday November 17, 2015



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VISION

This report comes almost 9 years since I was inducted as vicar of the parish. This is the last leg of the third cycle of vision/action plans administered in my time. Therefore, the Parish Council for 2016 will be called upon to work with me to produce a vision/action plan that spans the next 3 years. Please pray for the Lord's guidance and resources for us to move ahead with new and godly initiatives and to continue to develop those good things we have begun.

As we look back over 2015, some important goals and elements of the current vision/action plan have, with God's grace, been realized, others reshaped, and some were not able to be realized. Just a few of this year's highlights initiated through our vision/action plan worthy of thanksgiving to God include:

- Introduction of new, intentional 'welcomers' at church services and other events to assist the congregation to give a warm and meaningful welcome to all newcomers.
- Employment of a half-time assistant curate with responsibilities for ministries to children and families through to Feb. 2017 with the hope of extending that position further.
- Increasing our contact with and inclusion of families with young children in our ministries and services.
- Foundations and funds for a "Bible Garden" in the North-west corner of the property as an attractive and reflective space open to the general public as sign of our welcome and our desire to serve others as the bible calls us to.
- Encouragement, teaching and assistance for parishioners to become more confident and better equipped to share their faith with other people.
- New and better ways to improve communication and feedback between parishioners and parish council and staff.
- A live music event (soon to be) held in a venue in the inner north of Melbourne giving opportunity for parishioners to invite friends and neighbours who might not be used to coming to a church service or event.
- Various Pop-up Groups (short-term mid-week topical small groups) to assist parishioners in applying sermon series materials to life.

PARISH COUNCIL

A report about the parish council (formerly Vestry) can be read below. I would, however, in my report like to thank the parish council members who have served with me in the past 12 months in governing the life of the church's ministries and business. Many thanks go to: Brad Watson, Cindy Shay and Su-Hsien Kuan for their time as churchwardens, and to Sharyn Young, Shelley Knight, Lawrie Smith, Leanne McCoy, Rod Kelly, Peter Alsen, and Don Holmes. We give particular thanks to God for the work Shelley Knight has done over 4 years to reform our budgeting and reporting and management of finances in her role as treasurer.

STAFF

St. Michael's has an ethos and culture that encourages the priesthood and ministry of all believers and features a high level of participation in public ministry by its members. To help continue this pattern we have an operational staff team made up of part-time paid and voluntary members to assist and strengthen the ministries of our parishioners.

New faces on the team this year are Callum Goldby, Ann-Michel Greenwood and The Rev'd Chris Appleby.



Callum is new to St. Michael's and working to establish a new foundation for youth ministry in our church and under the supervision of Penne Webster, young people are meeting monthly at events centred on making music together and learning about God through worship songs and small group sessions.

Ann-Michel has been a regular worshipper at 5.30pm services and a member of a small group and recently offered her time to encourage people to take part in the ministries of the church, to administer and organise the Sunday afternoon services, and to assist with pastoral care in the congregation.



Chris Appleby recently retired from parish leadership after many years as vicar at St. Thomas's Burwood. Chris and Di are now living close to the parish and worship at our 10am services regularly. Chris will assist me in preparing and administering preaching, teaching and training in the parish.

They join me in fortnightly meetings with others on staff: Hannah Craven (Assist. Curate and Children's & Families minister), Roslyn Loader (Authorised Lay Minister for pastoral care), Penne Webster (Youth Ministry Coordinator), Hilary Toppin (Coordinator of Welcoming Ministries), Greg Davies (Assisting Priest) and Emma Sugars (Office Secretary).

Hannah Craven will be ordained a priest in the Anglican Church at a service at St Paul's Cathedral on November 28. She will preside at Holy Communion at our 10am service for the first time on Sunday December 13. Hannah is half-time and has a major responsibility for children's and family's ministries in the parish and as an ordained minister, she will have more involvement in assisting me as vicar in the general pastoral leadership of the parish in the coming year.

We are blessed to also have other clergy who, though they work in other ministry contexts during the week, give their time to be part of various Sunday ministries, including Melanie Lamb and Mark Lindsay.

Early in 2015 we said "thank you" as Sam Edmonds concluded his role as part-time youth minister after 6 months in the job. Sam had begun his time on staff in the hope he could balance his other work and life commitments, however in time his other paid employment at Parkville's Youth Justice Centre became more demanding and Sam made the decision to finish his staff role, but he continues as a member of the congregation and involved in our

music ministries. We are grateful to God for Sam's ministry to young people during his time on staff.

Recently we said "thank you" to Lyn Paul and saw the conclusion of her role on staff which spans many years of various paid and unpaid roles in the church. During my time as vicar Lyn has had paid staff responsibilities for coordinating our hall hire arrangements and for cleaning as well as voluntary roles as sacristan and website assistant. Lyn is continuing as a member of our congregation and we thank God for the many hours and years of service she gave to the parish and the local community.

This year we included a ministry student in our staffing too. Elizabeth Murray in her final year of pre-ordination education and formation joined us for a 4 hour per week placement from Trinity College in Parkville. Elizabeth has been involved at both Sunday worship services and has preached two sermons, led a several services of worship and led public prayers on other occasions. Many thanks to Suzy Davies and a number of parishioners who supported Elizabeth this year and thanks to Elizabeth for the manner in which she ministered to and cared for people in the congregation. Elizabeth will conclude her time at St Michael's on November 22. She will be made a deacon at the ordination service next February at St Paul's Cathedral and will go on to another parish to take up a position of assistant curate. We pray God's blessing upon her and those she will minister to.

PREACHING AND TEACHING

We are blessed with many competent preachers and teachers in the parish and benefit from a wide range of styles and approaches to our aim to present the "whole counsel of God" from the Bible and address contemporary issues with God's wisdom. Preachers this year have included: the vicar, Mark Lindsay, Melanie Lamb, Dianne Shay, Hannah Craven, Elizabeth Murray, Greg Davies, Kara Martin, Wei-Han Kuan, Kylie Loneragan and Chris Ward.

Themes for preaching this year included:

- Foundational learning from 2 Samuel in a series called "God, Us & Mercy" exploring issues of the right and wrong use of power in God's eyes.
- Priorities in theological thinking from the Prophet Haggai in a series called "Put God First".
- Ethics for Christian Living in a series called "The Good Life" considering how to be a "good" person in a society that has redefined "goodness".
- Guidance for Christian action in a series called "Living on Purpose" that called people to reject the common call of the global economy to covet more, compile more and compete more and set a better, biblical framework for decision making and planning.
- Biblical teaching about person and work of Jesus Christ in a series called "Jesus is the Way".
- Teaching about the church in a series about "Community", and
- A series about reaching out with the Gospel over 8 weeks called "The Harvest is Plentiful" and including guests Wei-Han Kuan and Kara Martin.

Pop-up groups associated with two of our sermon series' this year were well attended and helpful in applying the teaching more directly and personally. Materials related "2 Samuel" and to "The Good Life" were used by some of our small groups for greater application of the teaching in life and ministry.

LOVING THE ALIEN

Our annual live music community concert this year was held in October and creatively worked with the theme of supporting refugees.

The music performed by members of St. Michael's and some friends from other places was a tribute to the works of David Bowie whose career spans more than 5 decades. The 2 hour performance was held in the Williams Hall on October 17 to a gathering of nearly 150 people.

The most encouraging outcome was the high percentage of guests who were intentionally invited by parishioners to attend the gig. The concert picked up various social and ethical themes.



The quality of musical performance was once again very high thanks to the preparation and production undertaken by Graham McCoy and the hard work and talent of Kyria Webster, Jonathan McCoy, Christine Hutchinson, Rory Hutchinson, Micah Edmonds, Sam Edmonds, Bryn Weightman, Peter Bohmer, Penne Webster and Leon Di Stefano. Many thanks to Greg Bond and Lachlan Ward on lighting, Catherine Ward on the door, Franco and Maz Di Stefano on catering, Kate Melzer and Lani Garrett on hair and makeup, Dan Williams and Tony Jones on setup and a number of others who assisted in set up and pack up. Great encouragement comes from the stories told of people taking their guests out to dinner after the concert and



holding conversations about faith and involvement in the life of the church. Nearly \$1000 was raised in donations given to TEAR Australia to assist refugees.

A second concert is to be held on December 8 at Bar 303 in Northcote and will extend an opportunity to invite those who may not feel so comfortable coming onto a church property.

CHURCH WEBSITE

The website was migrated to Wordpress early this year. This has provided the office with better tools to publish material to the website, making website maintenance much easier and more effective. If you have suggestions for content, please send them through to the office.

NBN

Princes Hill is one of the early adopters of the National Broadband Network and the church office has been connected recently giving new high speed access to the internet and telephony.

MAINTENANCE & RENEWAL

Picket Fence – There is need for the picket fence surrounding the whole site to be replaced as it is near its end due to rotting timbers. The Bible Garden project gives opportunity to



renew the section of pickets in the North-west corner of the site as a start. We will soon be asking for donations from church members to help replace the picket fence in sections.

Bible Garden Renewal - Plants have been removed to make way for the new garden. In preparation we have engaged a plumber to review the pipe layout where the bible garden will be.

Williams Hall - The heating system in the Williams Hall has been broken for most of the year, making it unusable during winter. The wardens are investigating options, including solar heating and timer heating. However, there are also considerations for cost, possible kitchen renovations & catering options.

Signage - A new street sign has been erected to replace the old sign that was built some 18 years ago and is now rotted – see photo.

Cleaning - During the year the robot vacuum was purchased, replacement batteries for the lawn mower and a steam cleaner for the kitchen area.

Other emergency maintenance works include blocked drains obstructing Williams Hall door, church heaters, re-plating chalices for OH&S



reasons and leaks in the church space and Williams Hall.

We've had some trouble with the office computers this year as the main server and back up failed mid-year. We are grateful to Doug Ferris who was able to retrieve most of the files, and work resumed fairly easily! We now have one new computer with Windows 8 and Microsoft Office was purchased to replace the failed server.

Plans for Summer and on into 2016 are as follows: completion of the Bible Garden, fixing the picket fence, repainting toilets, and repainting the office.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

STEVE WEBSTER

Under the new governance act that was adopted in the 2014 meeting of the synod of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, the most obvious change is in nomenclature – now called Parish Council, formerly called Vestry. The new act gives greater clarity and guidelines for governance in parishes to meet a contemporary context for our church's mission.

This year meetings of parish council have been held every second month. Brad Watson has chaired meetings on a bi-monthly basis this year with each parish council member nominating a particular "portfolio" of ministry to take action with.

Some examples of ministry focuses are: Refugee support, mentoring, children's and family's ministry, 5.30pm service development, finance, building maintenance, governance, and communications.

Churchwardens were Cindy Shay, Su-Hsien Kuan and Brad Watson. Parish Council members were: Leanne McCoy, Lawrie Smith, Rod Kelly, Shelley Knight, Sharyn Young, Peter Alsen and Don Holmes. Many thanks to Shelley for her work as treasurer over the past 4 years.

LICENSED LAY MINISTER'S REPORT

ROSLYN LOADER

STAFF

These annual reports are a great and important time for reflection. Since our women's retreat this is also a personal reflection. As an honorary staff member I am feeling like a "senior active" and that is different and as yet undefined. But that space is good! My link is strongly with the 10 am congregation, in growth phase at each end of the age range! Staff meetings bring varied talents and experiences, an overall



perspective particularly in the development of new ministries. The cross overs of skills and passion are important.

PASTORAL

Steve and I meet regularly as we share pastoral concerns and plans. We know there is lots of pastoral work happening in small groups and within friendships. As our welcome program has strengthened there are links made quickly. Not everyone shares easily and however busy we may look, Steve and I are available.

WORSHIP

The thematic approach to our teaching program is a joy to work within. Each person on the roster makes that central, so it is a powerful experience to lead or take any part in those rosters.

MISSION

The messy notice board is the visual part of this role as are the prayers in the weekly bulletin. It's not really clear how much impact these have but certainly our visitors talking about their roles have a great impact. The Harvest is Plentiful series has certainly expanded this. All this challenges us to take our witness beyond Sunday worship.

WOMENS GROUP

The women's group spans both congregations. Our February planning session, a craft night, a walk and the retreat are the mainstays of our program. A less rather than more approach works well and is low maintenance with a designated leader for each. New ideas always welcome.

OUTREACH

The well-established outreach programs provide regular contact, friendships and a way of reaching out to new members, neighbours and friends. Each group relies on a committed core and members comfortable with the aims and format. If you have a passion consider talking about making that an outreach program.

WALKING GROUP

The walking group is another of my great joys at St Michael's; a great example of outreach and friendship. We meet every Tuesday at 7am, unless that is Christmas Day! It is low maintenance and flexible and responds well to the needs of the walkers on that day.

OFFICE

STEVE WEBSTER

This year our church office has opened on Tuesdays and Thursdays with Emma Sugars (office secretary) present to manage the phone calls, emails, mail, hall hire request, walk-ups, visitors, meetings and other business that comes her way. Tuesdays have been focused on communications in the parish, majoring on getting information clear and fresh on our

website and informing people of the parish with what they need for their various ministry roles and responsibilities. Thursdays are devoted to getting Sunday services ready with preparation of video clips, slideshows, running sheets, music sheets, notices, handouts and more as the main work. Fortnightly on Thursday afternoons the parish staff meets at the office too.

10AM SERVICE

STEVE WEBSTER



During 2015 the 10am services continued the pattern of celebrating the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays. On other Sundays services were more informal based on the service of "Praise, Prayer and Proclamation" in the Anglican Prayer Book. These other services were often driven by the theme of the Scripture readings for the day and included opportunities for testimonies, interviews, kids talks, interactive

times of prayer or discussion and the like.

Attendance numbers on Sundays continue to fluctuate wildly as in 2014 with a great number of our members indicating anecdotally that they find it difficult to attend worship weekly or regularly due to a wide array of time pressures. Overall attendance numbers have increased over 2014 and membership numbers have remained about the same as newcomers have taken the place of others who have moved on to other locations and communities. A wide spectrum of age groups are present on Sundays giving a truly all-age experience for worshippers.



Many thanks to Bob Lile who coordinates the ministry rosters on a quarterly basis to help our members take on a wide range of ministry roles to help all 10am ministries function well. We are thankful for Cindy Shay who has continued to coordinate the many music groups who offer their talents and lead the people in great songs of praise each Sunday. We thank God too for the many parishioners who participate in ministries month to month such as: serving morning tea, reading the Bible in church, public prayers, service leading, mowing the lawns, ushering, welcoming, teaching children, and adorning the space with beautiful flowers.

MUSIC

CINDY SHAY

Music is an inherent part of any society. In the bible the first reference to music is in Genesis 4:21 "his brother name was Jubal; he was the father of all who played stringed instruments

and pipes...” There are many people at St Michaels who assist us with music and to them we say thank you.

We aim to have a variety of music brought to us by teams of dedicated musicians across both services who reflect on the readings, and sermon series and select music to enhance our worship and teaching. We walk the line between music that is familiar but also stretches us and aim to provide an encouraging environment for those who put themselves out there. One of the lovely memories I have of this year was a Sunday when the music ministry team was two mothers and their respective sons (or maybe it was two sons with their mothers) – great to see ministry modelled across generations.

It is not without its pitfalls as a gust of wind when the louvres are open or someone walking past an instrument may blow your music away, the words on the screen occasionally may be different to the ones you are singing, or the tune you thought was familiar clearly isn't on that day but with God's grace it come together. We thank the congregation for gathering with us in a spirit of encouragement and community and hope that through our music we assist you in drawing closer to God.

Kyria Webster coordinates bands and musicians taking part in 5.30pm services. Leaders of bands at 10am services this year have included Cindy Shay, Dianne Shay, Steve Manders, Steve Webster, Greg Bond, Sue Robinson, John Young, Janette Allen and Hannah Craven, Christine Hutchinson.

5.30PM SERVICE

STEVE WEBSTER AND ANN-MICHEL GREENWOOD

The past twelve months has seen some change in faces at the 5:30pm service. We've said goodbye to some familiar loved families, welcomed some new friends and celebrated a couple of marriages. Numbers are reasonably stable week to week at around 20-25 worshippers. Overall there are still around 45 people who associate with the 5.30pm service.

With smaller numbers in church on Sundays comes the opportunity to worship in a more relaxed, intimate manner and the evening congregation has quite a point of difference in style and feel to the morning services.

Leanne McCoy has served as the evening service representative for the past 12 months and held some feedback sessions to ensure the members had a voice in the way the service was being structured. We thank Leanne for representing us at Parish Council and for the different ways she has served us over the year.

The evening service has employed panel discussion and Q&A sessions in place of traditional sermons during the year. Small group discussion and small prayer groups take place most weeks during the service with good participation in both. Evening service congregation members were well represented at the various pop up groups that have happened at various times during the year.

During the year we celebrated Digory Watson's baptism and he has become a much loved and welcome member of the congregation. Zara is our only other little person and we pray that other young families will find their way to our service and be able to make the time of day work for them.

We enjoy the talents of our musical members and thank them for their service in leading worship each week under the coordination of Kyria Webster. Bands led by Kyria, Sam Edmonds, Graham McCoy, Jonathan McCoy and Steve Webster have helped us to praise and thank God in song. It's fantastic to share with new worship teams and Callum Goldby has recently begun involving our youth in leading worship with great success.



Being in community is important to a number of worshippers and a few informal dinner groups have started meeting regularly after Church each week.

Ann-Michel Greenwood has recently been appointed the 5:30pm Service Coordinator. Ann-Michel has been a worshipper and a member of a small group for the last few years and began leading services in the past 12 months. Ann-Michel enjoys a more

relaxed worship style and believes storytelling is an important part of sharing faith and doing life. Ann-Michel will be looking for other members to share stories and life during services and will also encourage people to step into new ministry roles.

Very generous members of the church provide afternoon tea from 5pm to provide a great sense of welcome to all who arrive for church.

The preaching themes at 5.30pm services follow similar sets of bible readings and sermon titles to the 10am services. However, preachers usually prepare quite a different sermon for 5.30pm borne from the same biblical preparation. Sermons at 5.30pm often include application suited to a different audience. They include a variety of interactive methods of delivery. Occasionally, the congregation engages in questions "from the floor" to the preacher on the topic of the day or sometimes on random topics.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

HANNAH CRAVEN

2014 finished on a high with our Christmas Fiesta/Carols on the Lawn and Kids' Christmas Day service. These were loads of fun, and were well-attended by playgroup and community families not otherwise regular members of St. Michael's.

Sunday morning Kids' Church has continued to have small numbers and is mostly pre-school children. A great team of volunteers (Sharyn Young, Shelley Knight, Janette Allen, Jacqui



Wagner, Bethany Allen, Christine Hayward and Tom Craven) shares leadership of this ministry, providing simple play and story-based lessons to disciple our young people. In 2015 we have learnt about David; the miracles of Jesus; Jesus the Light of the world; Elijah; Peter; Elisha; and we will finish the year with a focus on the Christmas story. Leanne McCoy has overseen some activities and lessons for children at our 5:30 pm service.

Our PPP service on the first Sunday of each month has become a shorter, more family-friendly service, with all-age appropriate worship, shorter sermons, and no communion. Some highlights include an all-age Palm Sunday service with Godly Play storytelling by Greg Davies; our October Harvest Festival with a musical and interactive lesson on the parable of the Sower; and our "Body" service exploring different learning styles. Though challenging, we are aiming for true 'all-age' worship that is able to engage people of different ages, stages of faith and learning styles.

After my ordination, and completion of CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) at the Austin hospital in the first half of the year, I transitioned from part-time children and families minister to Assistant Curate, with responsibility for children and families. This is a larger role which also includes opportunities and training for my wider responsibilities as an Anglican priest.



Please join me in continuing to pray that God will add families and children to our community at St Michael's.

PRINCES HILL PLAYGROUP

HANNAH CRAVEN, CATHERINE MERRY, TOM CRAVEN

Princes Hill Playgroup is an unstructured group, providing opportunities for children to learn through play and to practice social skills. Importantly, playgroups also provide support for parents in a challenging time. We aim to provide a warm, friendly, and hospitable space, with a focus on developing relationships of mutual support.



Playgroup carried on splendidly during my absence for the first half of this year. Special thanks go to Catherine Merry, Tom Craven, Erin McCoy, and Lucy Watson for taking up responsibilities.

Our usual space – the Williams Hall – was out of action in the winter months after the heater broke, so we moved to the Nickson Hall. This was cosy, but a little small! It is great to be back outside on the lawn and using the playground now that the weather is warming up again!

The group continues to grow and we now have 35 or so families involved, with an average weekly attendance of around 10-12 families. Carers include dads, mums, grandparents and nannies from Carlton and surrounding suburbs. Only three of these families are regular attendees at St. Michael's.

Playgroup is a real missional opportunity for our church – an opportunity to show Christian love and hospitality, and to nurture faith and spirituality in families and children. We greatly value your prayers for this ministry and for the adults and children who attend.

As we approach the end of the year, we will begin to explore the Christmas story, and hope that many of our families will attend one of our Christmas events.

Under consideration for development in the future are: parents social events; a parenting course; the purchase of new resources and equipment; new cupboards. I also hope to build a larger team of church members who can be involved with hospitality at the group.



YOUTH MINISTRY

PENNE WEBSTER

2015 has been a year of change. Sam Edmonds resigned his position as youth minister after 6 months due to expanding responsibilities in his other employment. In the second half of this year, after another search for staff, Callum Goldby was appointed as the parish youth minister, part-time.

The number of teenagers in our congregation has diminished significantly in the past 2 years, but not our commitment to serve those who are among us. The past few months has been a time of planning for the development of a new youth ministry and connecting with young people beyond our congregation.

Penne and Callum have been planning for a new framework for the ministry based around music and worship as there is a keen interest in playing instruments and singing in our current cohort, and interest from those outside the church too. This initiative (yet to have a formal name) is aimed at youth and young adults and seeks to assist those who attend to develop their involvement and appreciation of corporate worship. It is hoped that it will bring young people who love God and love music to come together, from among our parish community and beyond to people around us in the schools and universities close by.

We look forward to seeing this ministry develop and to seeing many young people form a new community with the enjoyment of music and worship.

SMALL GROUPS

STEVE WEBSTER

After more than 8 years of coordinating small groups in the parish Roslyn Loader has handed that responsibility back to the vicar and will concentrate her ministry more fully on pastoral visiting and care in the parish. Small groups provide a great opportunity to nurture a greater sense of belonging and partnership in serving others, good opportunities for learning together from the bible and praying for matters in day-to-day life.

This year some changes took place in groups. 6 small groups based around bible study and fellowship met in 2015 with about 60 people in total in groups with a wide range of age groups represented. Many thanks to our group hosts and leaders, including Steve and Sam Asquith, Hannah and Tom Craven, Julian McCoy and Hannah Young, Mary Lyttle, Su-Hsien Kuan, and Bob and Audrey Lile.

Other groups have met from time to time, such as pop-up groups, mentioned in other reports. There have also been some dinner groups operating this year for those who cannot attend small groups regularly. We have also seen two book groups continue to meet regularly during the year. In conjunction with these and the walking group there are a substantial percentage of our church members involved in regular connections related to growing in faith.

WELCOMING

HILARY TOPPIN

This year we have welcomed quite a number of new folk at our services. I would like to thank our team of Welcomers who greet everyone on arrival. Thanks are due, also, to the congregation who makes sure that everyone, both "old" and new, are greeted either during or after services. People involved in welcoming people to church at 10am have included: Hilary Toppin, Noelene Horton, Roslyn Loader, Grant MacKenzie, Cindy Shay, Liz Jungwirth, Christine Hutchinson, Marilyn Di Stefano, Melanie Lamb, Suzy Davies, Barry McGaw, Tony Jones, Peter Hutchinson, and Lwin Thida. In evening services, welcomers have included Catherine Merry, Fred Batterton, Su-Hsien, Penne Webster and Ann-Michel.

This year, we have introduced a Welcome card for the use of anyone at a service to give us contact details, if they wish, or to ask questions or make comments. We would welcome any feedback you may like to give about these cards.

In September, a Coffee and Dessert evening was held for people who had recently come to St Michael's.

I hope that we will continue to make our church a place where all feel welcomed and accepted.

NOVA NITES MOVIE GROUP

GRANT MACKENZIE

Did you know that about half our congregation enjoy movies, coffee and conversation so much that they have been to a Nova Nites movie group evening at least once since its inception 4 years ago?

Even more exciting is the fact that so many of our congregation bring friends – both Christian and non-Christian, with them.

This emphasises the group's purpose as a form of outreach to our friends by initially building community and then introducing them to the Christian community at St Michael's.

So if you haven't been to one of the movie nights yet, why not join the 20 or so of us who meet on the first Wednesday of the month at Nova Cinemas in Lygon St to see the movie of your choice followed by the shared long table experience in the upper room at Trotter's Bistro.

It is always a great evening and an easy way to build a bridge to the wider community.

ASYLUM SEEKERS SUPPORT

PETER ALSEN

In 2015, our congregation has supported the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in various ways. Every month we have collected food and other goods while three members of St Michael's have volunteered in different capacities. We want to thank Christine Hayward, Catherine Merry and Peter Summers for supporting the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

St Michael's is looking forward to continuing our support of refugees and asylum seekers next year. Jesus teaches us to reach out to our neighbour. He especially teaches us to include foreign people, everyone who is in need for the basics – for peace, justice, freedom and a loving and welcoming community. In the next few months, the Parish Council will be looking for ideas on more ways to reach out to those who are new in Australia.



Discussions over the past 12 months raised the possibility of a Biblical plants feature in the north western perimeter of the St Michael's grounds. The concept became part of the 2015 Vision paper, under the section, 'Outreach and Evangelism' that stated, "create a Biblical plants garden on the site open to the public for quiet reflection and peace." In expressing it this way the garden encompassed the notion of developing a community space. The concept of a Bible garden is not unique and many examples can be found and most notable the one established by adjacent to Parkes Avenue in the centre of Canberra developed by the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture.



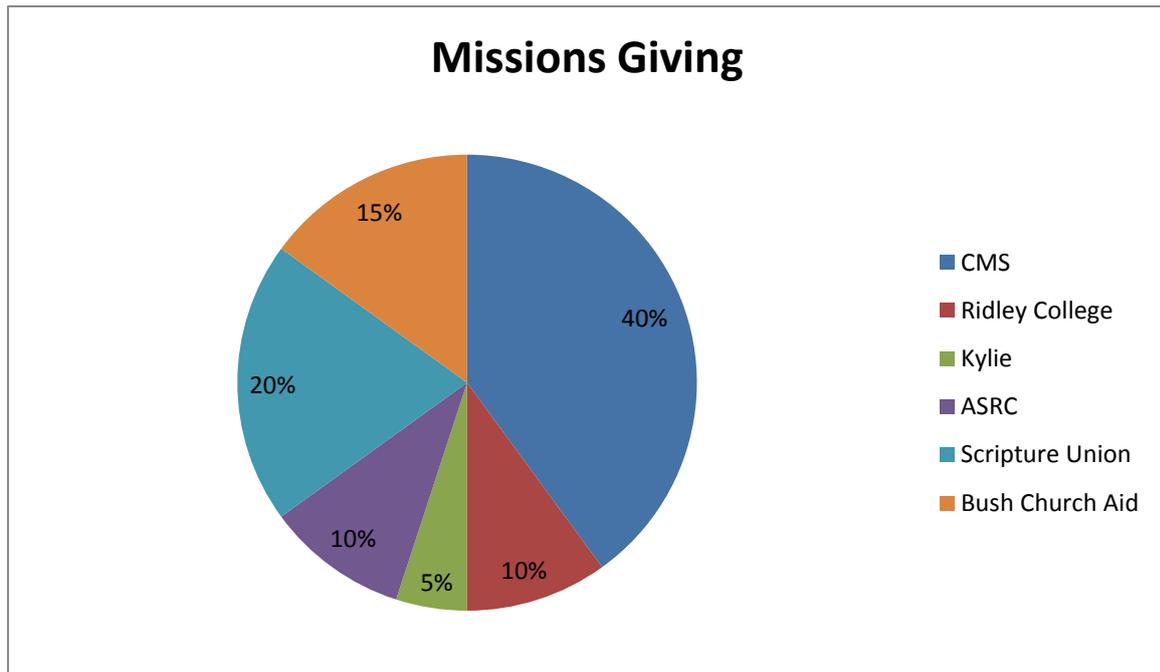
Under the direction of Lawrie Smith, (Parish council with responsibility for grounds) and Greg Davies and the help of 12 volunteers at a successful working bee on September 19, the site was mostly cleared with the remaining objects (Yucca tree, notice boards and gate) to be removed when logistically possible. However, in the most northerly section and the paved spaces planting has begun of a grape vine and annuals (herbs).

The garden will take at least 12 months to establish and then over time, the full impact will be evident as the main tree species mature in about 5 years. The success of the project will require the presence of a custodian to bring it all to fruition so that it will complement the main lawn and garden and so continue its function as a welcoming community space. Funds have been donated for the long term maintenance of the garden.

Apart from the intended aspirations that it will have a community, educational and ministry element, a sub theme will be that most of the species will have intrinsic usefulness. Members of St Michael's will be able to enjoy the herbs and fruits that will be available in season. In the long term the space will provide opportunity to sit and pray in the tranquil space under the shade of a spreading fig tree resting on the existing blue stone seat.

In setting up the project, donations were sought for the establishment and ongoing maintenance of the garden. So far upwards of 13 members have donated time and money raising \$1500.

It has been a great joy to be involved in this project and to be supported by the members of St Michael's.



6.5% of our income is allocated to Missionary Support, namely:

- Church Missionary Society Australia 40%
- Ridley College 10%
- Kylie (in the Middle East) 5%
- Asylum Seeker Resource Centre 10%
- Scripture Union 20%
- Bush Church Aid 15%

These allocations are reviewed by parish council each year or by a sub-committee responsible to council.

In addition to those outgoing gifts, people of St Michael’s give to TEAR Australia, Anglicare and other worthy agencies and people through various fund raising activities through the year and occasionally to other causes as needs are presented to the parish council.



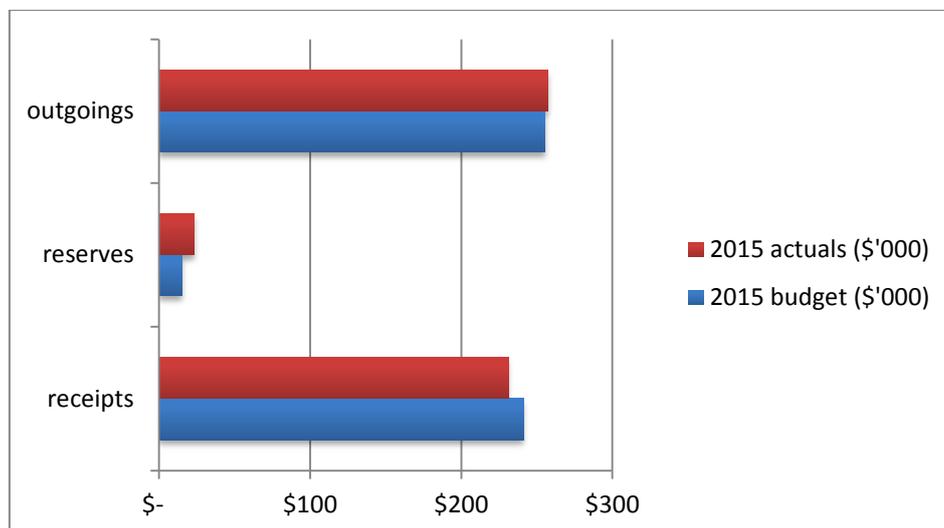
FINANCIAL YEAR 2015 ACTUAL RESULTS

The objectives of the past 12 months were to continue focussing on delivering our Vision and Purpose

- To appoint a suitable candidates to fill the family & children ministry and transition leadership of youth ministry.

- To transition building and hall hire management to a different operating framework to eventually improve hall utilisation.
- To develop building maintenance program of work.

The actual results for FY2015 are as follows:



	2015 budget	2015 actuals	Variance %
Receipts	\$241,238	\$231,293	-4%
Reserves	\$15,442	\$23,299	51%
Outgoings	\$254,592	\$256,681	1%

The actual receipts were marginally unfavourable as a result of shortfall in hall rental caused by unbudgeted building amenities breakdown, offset by the delay in payout of LSL payments to Cinti, the Prisoner Chaplaincy. In order to fund our vision and associated outgoings for the year, the Parish Council agreed to draw down on Smith Fund building renovation reimbursement and Children Family ministry seed funding reserve (\$53k) from prior years. The actual draw down was significantly more than budgeted due to unplanned changes to our resourcing plan during the year.

The actual outgoings were only 1% over budget.

Our ADF building loan to fund the glass foyer stood at \$58k as at 30/09/2015. It is anticipated that the loan is to be repaid by September 2019.

FINANCIAL YEAR 2016 PROPOSED BUDGET

In the final meeting of the Parish Council for the year, it was agreed that in FY2016 our church giving and hall rental target to be \$234k through open giving, direct giving, hall hire

fees, and from church cash reserve, in order to match our proposed expenditure to enable the continual support of our vision in Family and Children ministry in 2016.

This represents a 3% increase in open and direct giving from congregations to enable family ministry, and full draw down of \$30k in reserves from prior years.

The proposed outgoings are dispersed per the following allocations:

- 60% of monthly income shall cover employment costs of FT Vicar supported by PT staff of Youth Worker, Office Secretary, and Family & Children Minister.
- 6.5% of our income to be allocated to Missionary Support, namely
 - Church Missionary Society Australia 40%
 - Ridley College 10%
 - Kylie 5%
 - Asylum Seeker Resource Centre 10%
 - Scripture Union 20%
 - Bush Church Aid 15%
- 6% goes toward ADF church foyer loan repayment (interest and principle).
- 6% to cover church and vicarage utility costs.
- Approximately 11% to go towards ADOM.
- The balance goes toward church insurance, maintenance (including church cleaning), bookkeeping, supplies, and miscellaneous items.

It was also agreed by the Wardens that 25% of hall hire income should be set aside for building maintenance going forward to ensure that our buildings are cared for.

The table provides the actual breakdown of our FY2016 budget.

	2015 budget	2016 budget
Income	\$'000	\$'000
Offertory - Open AM	\$13.35	\$12.36
Offertory - Open PM	\$2.20	\$0.70
Offertory - Direct	\$161.65	\$167.28
Donations from Playgroup		\$1.00
Hall Rental	\$31.70	\$22.41
C. Joule Robinson	\$32.34	
LSL Payment		
Total receipts	\$241.24	\$203.75
Cash from prior years	\$15.44	\$30.39
Expenses		
ADOM Parish Assessment	\$31.33	\$24.84
Church Utilities	\$10.00	\$8.02
Cleaning & Bathroom Supplies	\$3.00	\$6.00
Employment Expenses	\$121.44	\$138.83
Cinti	\$32.34	
Bookkeeping	\$4.84	\$4.80
Insurance	\$4.40	\$4.55
Interest & principle on ADF Loan	\$14.26	\$14.26
Maintenance	\$8.08	\$5.60
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$8.00	\$10.00
Mission Giving	\$13.58	\$11.72
Vicarage Expenses	\$5.41	\$5.52
Total Outgoings	\$256.68	\$234.14