
St Michael's Anglican Church
North Carlton

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

Ministry and Business Reports
Tuesday October 11, 2016



- 3. Vicar's Report | Steve Webster
- 5. Church wardens | Cindy Shay & Su-Hsien Kuan
- 7. Parish Council | Su-Hsien Kuan
- 8. Authorised Lay Minister's Report | Roslyn Loader

- 9. 10am Service | Steve Webster
- 10. 5.30pm Service | Ann-Michel Greenwood
- 11. Children's and Families Ministry | Hannah Craven
- 12. Youth Ministry | Steve Webster
- 12. Welcoming | Hilary Toppin

- 13. Small Groups | Hannah Craven
- 13. Walking Group | Ray & Alesia Shaw, Roslyn Loader
- 14. Nova Nites | Grant MacKenzie
- 14. Women's Group | Roslyn Loader
- 14. Book Group | Hilary Toppin
- 14. Asylum Seekers Support | Steve Webster
- 15. Reconciliation Action Group | Noelene Horton
- 15. Alpha | Sharyn Young
- 16. Bible Garden | Lawrie Smith & Greg Davies

- 16. Office | Steve Webster
- 16. Hall Report | Emma Sugars & Steve Webster
- 17. Sports Chaplaincy | Steve Webster

- 18. External Mission Giving and Support | Julian McCoy
- 19. Financial report | Julian McCoy
- 20. National Trust Report | Stephen Manders

As I approach the end of the 10th year as vicar of the parish, I am currently engaged in a review process that is prescribed for all licensed incumbents when they reach this period of tenure. There is a provision for clergy to request an extension of incumbency by 5 years at a time. I have formerly put my request to the bishop, as Penne and I would love to stay on and continue being part of the St Michael's community. Soon, our bishop will call the incumbency committee together, which includes the elected representatives of the parish, to discuss and then decide whether I can continue as vicar at St Michael's. All being well, I look forward to moving forward into the next part of the journey of growing a healthy Christian community in this part of Melbourne.

VISION

Our continuing vision from the previous years saw some further development of key goals this year, including:

- Supporting 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,
- Preparation and development of a reflective space called the "Bible Garden" in the North-west corner of the property, open to the general public as a sign of our welcome,
- Encouragement, teaching and assistance for parishioners to become more confident and better equipped to share their faith with other people through courses and pop-up groups,
- New and better ways to improve communication and feedback between parishioners and parish council and staff,
- A live music event held in a public 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.

A new vision statement is being prepared and soon to be presented to the conversation in the life of the new parish council.

GOVERNANCE

I would 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 (see the Parish Council report in this document). In particular, I'd like to thank those who are retiring from parish council: Brad Watson (Brad and Lucy and Digory have moved to the USA for work), Cindy Shay, Franco Di Stefano, Lawrie Smith, Shelley Knight, and Leanne McCoy. I'm grateful for Brad's work on governance policy and as chairman of parish council in his time and very thankful for Cindy Shay's work as the vicar's appointed churchwarden (especially in her management of property and maintenance matters). Special mention goes to Shelley Knight who helped our finance management move from profit and loss mode to an accruals analysis of budgets and expenditure. She has also mentored Julian McCoy as he took up the mantle as treasurer this year.

STAFF

Every fortnight this year a group of ministry coordinators had met with the paid staff to help connect ministry operations with the vision goals set out by parish council. 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, so there is no sense of hierarchy intended. Instead, this group has sought to help the vicar strengthen the work of members of the church as they serve in many different ways. Attendees at this fortnightly meeting this year have included Roslyn Loader,

Ann-Michel Greenwood, Emma Sugars, Hilary Toppin, Callum Goldby, Penne Webster, Hannah Craven, Elizabeth Murray, Chris Appleby and Greg Davies.

Our ministry student of 2015, Elizabeth Murray moved on in February to become assistant curate at the Albert Park parish after her ordination as deacon. She enjoyed and benefited greatly from her time serving at St Michael's as part of her field education and formation for ordained ministry and we really enjoyed her company and were blessed by her ministry. She has done well at Albert Park this year and sends her greetings regularly to us.

Many thanks go to Roslyn, who has continued to serve the parish as an honorary pastoral worker. She is authorised by the archbishop as a lay minister for this purpose. She has, for more than a decade and a half, visited, encouraged, counselled, and practically served many parishioners and many people in the wider community on behalf of St Michaels and continues in that role into the next year. I wish to thank the clergy who are members of the parish and have other ordained ministries to carry out during the week. Having already mentioned Chris and Greg above I wish to also thank Melanie Lamb and Mark Lindsay (the latter now ministering at Trinity College and other places on most Sundays).

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, Melanie Lamb, Chris Appleby, Dianne Shay, Hannah Craven, Elizabeth Murray, Greg Davies, Carolyn Alsen, Chris Ward, and Greg Davies.

Highlights in our preaching themes this year included:

- Women in the Bible, a study of 4 controversial women in the bible who challenged our view of salvation in Christ.
- Radical Christianity, based on John Stott's book (The Radical Christian), encouraging a serious approach to discipleship.
- Everyday Church, a series challenging our view of Sunday-only Church, and urging a day-to-day focus for Christians together in their own neighbourhoods and workplaces, and based on a book of the same name by Chester and Timmis from the UK.
- Satisfaction, as series based on the Book of Ecclesiastes and challenging our simplistic presumptions about God's love and about blessings in life.
- Life Lived Well, a series based on the Letter to the Philippians, helping to construct a healthy approach to living out the Christian life.

CONCERTS

Our 2015 live music community concert was repeated in December, but this time in a public venue off-site. The band, comprising Graham McCoy, Steve Webster, Kyria Webster, Jonathan McCoy, Christine Hutchinson, Rory Hutchinson, Micah Edmonds, Sam Edmonds, Bryn Weightman, Peter Bohmer, Penne Webster and Leon Di Stefano, played 303 High St Northcote presenting the music of David Bowie to an audience of about 60 people. The audience was a good mix of people from St Michael's, their invited friends, and even some people who walked in off the street. On July 15 this year we presented two concerts, in the round, in the church space, with a live reproduction of Carole King's acclaimed album from the 1970's called Tapestry. About 120 people attended, with a high percentage being guests/friends. The wonderful musicians included, Graham McCoy, Jonathan McCoy, Bryn Weightman, Rory Hutchinson, Grace



Chandler, Kyria Webster, Christine Hutchinson, Leon Di Stefano and Steve Webster. Many thanks to Penne Webster who managed many of the decorations, stage layout, production values and lighting. Thanks too to Sam Edmonds for looking after the front of house tickets and seating arrangements. Special thanks to Rob Chandler who made video and audio recordings of the concerts

SYNOD

I extend my thanks to Dianne Shay and Grant McKenzie, for their roles as synod representatives and to Tony Jones as the alternative rep.

PRAYER

While prayer doesn't get its own report in this document, I wish to thank those who have led our public prayers in worship, those who pray diligently in our small groups, and those who intercede privately and regularly for the world, for the life of the parish, for me and other ministers at St Michaels, for missionaries in the field and for the needy in our midst. Prayer is part of the warp and woof of the life our community. Prayer during the 5:30pm services has, this year, included regular opportunities to receive prayer for many needs.

GENEROSITY

St Michael's people are tremendously generous in their service and in their giving. One of the most obvious evidences is in Christmas giving. Donations to TEAR and Anglicare and to the ASRC were larger than ever this past Christmas. There are, of course, many causes and charities and agencies supported by individuals beyond the giving you will see in our external missions report below. It was great to acknowledge the work of the Barbara May Foundation this year through the personal involvement of Sam Hargreaves and several parishioners have assisted in this cause. We are a church thankful to God for all we are blessed with.

EVERYDAY CHURCH

This terminology of "Everyday Church" has begun to find its way into our church vocabulary after a sermon series and pop-up groups this year. We have been able to make more transparent and then to celebrate the many small gatherings of our member on days other than Sunday that are expressions of real church mission and fellowship. Beyond small group meetings we have seen people connecting creatively with their friends, neighbours and workmates or co-students and acknowledging events and actions as "church". Examples range from garage sales for charity fund-raising to the Oxjam fund-raising music festival, to a street book-swap project, and more. We hope to make more and more examples visible in our Sunday meetings so that we can encourage more and more real church connections during the week in the year ahead.

WARDENS' REPORT

CINDY SHAY, SU-HSIEN KUAN

It has been a privilege for the wardens (Su-Hsien and Cindy) to work in ministry at St Michael's this year. The role of a warden is quite broad and this year we have focused on the new vision work for St Michael's in addition to the role of wardens. In essence the role and how we have undertaken it is as follows:

Responsibility	2015/16 work	2016/17 onwards work plan
Care and maintenance of property and grounds. Reporting alterations & repairs	Spread mulch and provide soft fall. Interim fence repairs to child gate locks New water pipes in front garden. Removal of unconnected piping	New fence \$25k (2017)

	New heating Williams Hall (\$7k) Signage for grounds A number of clean up working bees have been held Trialled instant turf in shaded areas Bible garden commenced	
Worship centre is in fit and proper order including property	New photocopier Repainting toilets Trialling of different ways to serve tea in the foyer (hot water alternatives) Replacement seals for Nickson Hall oven All heaters serviced Copper piping that was stolen replaced	Repainting office (2017) Upgrade of Williams Hall kitchen \$45k Floor boards Williams Hall 2018 Upgrade of floor covering toilet facilities (2017) Cupboards for play group (2017)
Worship centre is in fit and proper order as is the worship	Consistent use of authorised service arrangements	Long term planning for the font
Public worship seating and offerings	Continue to encourage electronic giving	Encourage those who give electronically to also take the plate when passed
Compliance with laws	Updated the tracking of Working with Children checks and police checks All equipment electronically tested	
Ensure leave is taken by the vicar		
Report serious misconduct or wilful neglect of duty	None	

During the year the facilities have been used less than normal. This was in part due to the heating problems in Williams Hall which meant it could not be hired for a period of time. Additionally our arrangements with the Victorian Youth Orchestra came to end.

Over the next few years we will have a number of expensive maintenance items that we must deal with to ensure we remain effective stewards of the facility. To assist with planning for that our aim was to work towards a policy that 50% of hall rental be put aside to cover maintenance and facility upgrades. With our current financial situation we have not been able to achieve that.

We would like to thank those who assist us in our roles; in particular the gardening team, Bob Lile for all things sound related, Chris for lock fixing, Emma for hall management, David and Jacqui Wagner for all building matters, those who roster themselves on for tasks and especially those who see something that needs doing and just "do it".

We thank Shelley Knight and Julian McCoy acting as our Treasurers.
We ask that you join us in praying that we may be faithful servants at St Michaels focused on proclaiming Christ, serving others, building community and sharing hope in the new year.

This year's Parish Council comprised of Franco DiStefano, Cindy Shay, Su-Hsien Kuan, Steve Webster, Julian McCoy, Bethany Allen, Peter Alsen, Shelley Knight, Lawrie Smith and Leanne McCoy. The Parish Council together with the vicar decide on the spiritual direction, policy and administration of the church. The Parish Council met 8 times this last year to discuss a new vision-action plan for St Michaels, key ministry matters and budget plan. Each Parish Council member assumed portfolio responsibilities as follows:-

- Julian: treasurer and 5:30 home group
- Beth: to be confirmed
- Leanne: children and families
- Peter: asylum seekers and website
- Franco: attracting families, children ministry, and asylum seekers
- Shelley: mentor of treasurer
- Brad: governance, chair of PC and encourage 5:30 services
- Su Hsien: mission, evangelism, communications strategy
- Lawrie: to be confirmed
- Cindy: music ministry, building program

Parish Council met in January and February to discuss a new vision/action plan for the parish. The aim was to establish a draft vision/action plan that had detailed items for the next 2-4 years with goals and objectives and also might look beyond to future years in less detail.

Our enduring mission statement of "Proclaiming Christ, Building Community, Sharing Hope, Serving Others" remains our driving motivation and clarifying instrument of purpose. However, during this vision process it became evident that clear alignment of new ideas with each pillar of the mission statement was difficult to achieve.

The vision/action plan that is taking shape before our eyes has a distinctive new focus borne out of our collective reading and discussions. We believe that God is leading us to build our church around two axes:

- Our witness to Christ and service to people via our site in North Carlton and its services and events, and
- Our witness to Christ and service to people in our various neighbourhoods through relationships and activities in our daily work, study and households.

Through our reading of *Everyday Church* by Tim Chester & Steve Timmis, we believe that our traditional models of church do not work anymore and we need to adapt to a society where less and less people have any intention of every attending church. We need to find out how to effectively reach people in the context of everyday life and take hold of the opportunity to develop communities focused on Jesus. During our vision-action planning day we came up with many suggestions for:

- encouraging our community through prayer, hospitality and better communications,
- looking at alternatives to CRE and Youth group ministries,
- how we proclaim Christ,
- growing small groups, and
- practical help to those less fortunate than us.

For 2016, we have identified a number of actions to progress which includes:

- "Alpha" and "Life Lived Well" pop-up group
- Sermon series on *Everyday Church*
- Reconciliation Action Group

- Christmas in July
- Short courses for parents of young children (Tuning In To Kids)
- Encourage many parishioners to attend SUTS 2017 for growth and encouragement

Communications of the Vision/Action Plan is being developed as an ongoing activity.

This year, after a break of a few years, we ran an Alpha pop-up. There were 10 to 18 attendees. This was a good opportunity for us to refresh our understanding of the foundational Christian beliefs and encourage each other in our Christian journey. We had some good discussions, especially on topics like forgiveness where there were some differences in opinions. We spent a day at St. Andrews Hall learning about the Holy Spirit and praying for each other.

A major point of discussion at Parish Council was the current status of the Youth Ministry. We agreed that trying to maintain collegiality with the 10 youths had proven to be challenging, despite taking differing approaches with the aim of meeting the individual needs. We recognised that the youth today have so much on in their lives that attending to church youth activities would not naturally be top on the priority of their time allocation. We agreed as part of the Vision/Action plan we need to investigate & try new strategies. We want to thank Callum and Penne who have put considerable effort and thinking into this ministry.

We were very much encouraged by the continued growth of the Children's and Families Ministries at St. Michaels. In 2016 this ministry has explored new territory.

Hannah Craven trained as a facilitator of 'Tuning into Kids' at University of Melbourne, with a view to offering the 6 week emotional coaching of children course to parents who attend the playgroup, live in the neighbourhood and/or attend the various sessions held in the St. Michael's hall. There was an average of 12 parents attending, and throughout the course friendships were readily formed, as people shared their common experiences of parenting young children and trialling strategies to build empathy, understand anger, name emotions and problem solve etc. within their families.

We had delicious supper contributions from 10am members and the group was keen to gather again in a couple of months to re-cap on coaching techniques.

The support that St. Michael's Children and Families Minister has offered local people in this common life stage was very much appreciated and favourably builds a foundation for Everyday Church in North Carlton. We thank Hannah & Tom Craven and Leanne McCoy for their continued leadership in this. The successes of playgroups and "Tuning into Kids" have opened new opportunities for ministry consideration.

We celebrated the progress of the Bible garden. We thank those who have participated in the gardens works and donated plants. With spring underway, we look forward to the new growth in the garden; and we pray that it will be a source of encouragement for the church members and visitors.

We would like to thank the Parish Councillors who served this year. We have valued your feedback, thoughts and advice on the matters discussed.

AUTHORISED LAY MINISTER'S REPORT

ROSLYN LOADER

I began a personal journey at our Women's Day Together in 2015, which was sometimes painful, as I had to deal with some unresolved issues and over the last year changes have begun to emerge. The best I could say earlier was I would like develop a "senior active role" Now I can put some more content to that. The October Annual meeting seems a stepping stone indeed

STAFF MEETINGS

Our fortnightly staff meetings (Steve, Hannah, Chris A, Greg D, Ann-Michel, Hilary and I) are very valuable. They keep us in touch with the challenges and development of our areas of work and keep us conscious of our shared vision and sense of being a team.

MEETINGS WITH STEVE

These meetings on a fortnightly basis have provided space for reflection, planning and priorities. We bring different strengths and trust has developed with these regular sessions. Sharing of pastoral concerns in a confidential situation is very helpful. These sessions have also provided increasing clarity for my changing role.

PASTORAL WORK

Pastoral work happens on lots of levels at St Michael's: small groups, friendships, particular groups (e.g. musos, pop up groups, book groups, reconciliation activities and many more) and through members of staff. Crises situations are often a great catalyst to deepen relationships. My prayer and hope is that we can continue to develop our diversity, in fact, to increase our diversity, so we can all feel we belong and have a contribution to make, and are growing and challenged in our Christian walk.

MISSION COORDINATION

This is a real challenge. I feel very much in touch with the various people and programs we support. There are many individuals at St Michael's who support particular people and projects. But communicating and encouraging our prayers, our knowledge and participation is hard. My aim is to find a greater variety of ways of doing this.

PARTICIPATION IN WORSHIP ROSTER

This is an important part of my life at the 10am service. It is encouraging to have some new members, to find some people attending more regularly, to be blessed by great preaching and generous service to each other. I am conscious that we have a long way to go as we develop our role towards "everyday church" and care for those amongst ourselves as we face changes in many aspects of our lives, retire, age and deal with grief and loss.

EVERYDAY CHURCH

This idea is both scary and exciting. It demands change, which not everyone thrives on! We have all sorts of things happening, as St Michael's members interact in their families, work places, neighbourhoods and in community outreach activities. How do we learn to talk more openly about what we believe in a way which starts with common ground and develops trust? How do we encourage each other by sharing our small or large ventures? How can we develop our language so we can talk more openly and effectively? We are on the brink but that is only a beginning but I know change only takes place incrementally.

10AM SERVICE

STEVE WEBSTER

This year's 10am Sunday services have continued the long tradition now of Holy Communion on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays of the month using varying orders of liturgy from A Prayer Book For Australia 1995 (APBA), and more informal non-communion services on the 1st and 5th Sundays based on the Praise, Prayer and Proclamation service also from APBA. The orders of service for Holy Communion have been printed to simple service handouts for each of those Sundays. This year, on those 1st and 5th Sundays we have taken the opportunity to forego using an



order of service on paper and to encourage a more informal and flexible feel and practice. Those Sundays also have provided more space for involving interviews and testimonies, baptisms, interactive discussions in groups, and the like.

The 10am services are well served by many music groups, involving dozens of members of the church. Music at 10am services is coordinated by Cindy Shay. We thank those who have coordinated and/or led bands, including: Dianne Shay, Cindy Shay, Greg Bond, Sue Robinson, John Young, Stephen Manders, Steve Webster, Janette Allen, and Hannah Craven.

Many thanks to Bob Lile for his continued service on Sundays recording sermons for uploading to our web site, and for coordinating our rostering of 10am ministries.

As has been the case for many years, 10am services involve many of the congregation in ministries such as: serving morning tea, reading the bible, leading public prayers, caring for the grounds, welcoming people, acting as ushers, counting offerings, preparing flower decorations and more. Those who have been leaders of worship this year have included: Nicola Reynolds, Noelene Horton, Roslyn Loader, Chris Appleby, Greg Davies, Melanie Lamb, Hannah Craven, Dianne Shay, Cindy Shay, and Carolyn Alsen.

We have been blessed with a number of new people choosing to join us as regular worshippers at 10am services this year, and welcoming and hospitality are an important feature.

Average attendance figures and numbers of special services will be presented at the annual meeting and recorded in the minutes.

5.30PM SERVICE

ANN-MICHEL GREENWOOD

Praise God for a great year for the 5:30pm Service. We've seen an increase in regular attendance and lots of great energy and fellowship as the year has passed.

We've welcomed a number of new regular attendees and often have visitors join us to worship. We sadly farewell Brad, Lucy and Digory as they left for an adventure in Texas, James and Vivian were married and started a new life together in Ferntree Gully while Adrian continues his life away from us in Cambodia. We remain in contact with them and remember them in our prayers and update them on the goings on at St Michaels.

A number of people have answered a call to serve in our ministries at 5 30, we have new worship teams, new service leaders, new afternoon tea teams and new readers. Every regular member is now on the welcome team as we all have excellent smiles and are able to cheerfully greet people at the door.



Thank you to all of the people who so willingly give up their time to help us join in our worship and develop our understanding of God and His word. Our speakers develop additional content and develop application relevant to our congregation and we thank them for taking on this additional preparation. We hold small group discussion every week and we always welcome participation and questions from the congregation.

We enjoyed the challenging series on Ecclesiastes during the winter and found it a great opportunity to strengthen relationships and walk together during some often difficult subject matter. We have entered into the new sermon series with great energy and enthusiasm and the pop up group is being well attended by members.

Hannah and Julian have guided us through our walk towards reconciliation and led a very well attended pop up group studying the impacts of decisions made by successive governments on our indigenous population.

We are a very dog friendly congregation at 5:30 where well behaved dogs are welcome to join us during the service. We've had a number of fur friends join us over the year and we love the way they make our service more relaxed and friendly.



We're really excited about the work of the Spirit at the 5 30pm service and look forward to another year where we grow in faith together.

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

HANNAH CRAVEN



Many thanks to all those who have continued to serve in our children's and families ministries here at St. Michael's.

Sharyn Young, Shelley Knight, Jacqui Wagner, Bethany Allen, Christine Hayward and Tom Craven have ably and creatively led our children on Sunday mornings.

This year we have looked at the first few chapters of Genesis, the story of Joseph, Jesus' parables from Matthew, some stories about Paul from Acts, Ruth and Jeremiah.

Playgroup continues to grow, meeting each Tuesday in the Williams Hall. Catherine Merry and Tom Craven provide welcome, hospitality, and friendship to the parents and children who attend. Each week we provide morning tea, and this year we have started a brief time of music and singing on the mat.

Tuning in to Kids is a new initiative for St. Michael's in 2016. I was trained as a facilitator early this year, and we have run courses in Term 3 and Term 4. The course runs for 6 weeks on Wednesday nights, with 12 participants. It teaches parents skills in 'emotion coaching' so as to build emotional intelligence in children. The course has been popular. Some participants connected through playgroup, or other activities that run in our halls, others come just through posters and website advertising. Feedback so far has been very positive. Leanne McCoy was a valuable co-facilitator, bringing wisdom and experience and friendly hospitality. Thanks to all those who delivered fresh baked goods each week!



As we approach Christmas we are planning again for our Sunday afternoon family Fiesta (11th Dec). Thanks to the many members of the parish who volunteered in so many different ways – from face painting, to slaving over a bbq, to making terrariums - for this event in 2015, making it a real success: Shelley Young and Caitlin McCoy (face-painting), Andrew Allen & John Young (BBQ), Jean Tan, Roslyn Loader & Shelley Knight (Devonshire Tea), Janette Allen & Beth Allen (craft), Greg and Suzy Davies, Di Appleby (market), Steve Webster & Graeme McCoy (Music), Bill Toppin (OHS), Catherine Merry, Fred Batterton, Hannah Young, & Julian McCoy (Photo booth and decorating), Leanne McCoy, Ann-Michel

Greenwood, Dianne Shay, Tom Craven, Lucy and Brad Watson (many and various things.....), and my apologies to those I've left off.

We will also repeat the Advent calendar packs 'Advent Adventures' as well. These were made available to playgroup families and others, providing a fun and easy way to explore the Christmas story.

In 2016 we were also pleased to celebrate three baptism services, for Charlie, Luke, and Imogen. It was a pleasure to welcome the families and guests to our 10am congregation.

Plans for 2017 include possibly starting a new Thursday morning music group (Mainly Music), a mid-week study/discussion group, and further Tuning In To Kids courses. We will need to continue to build teams of people to support these activities with hospitality and welcome.

YOUTH MINISTRY

STEVE WEBSTER

We began this year with enthusiasm about trialling some new models of ministry to gather teenagers together for learning about Christianity and growing in faith. We were blessed to have Callum Goldby on board as a part-time paid youth minister who had great experience in Christian youth camps and music ministry. After several attempts to draw together teenagers from our parish families together with other teens from around the area in new and innovative meetings it was apparent that progress was going to be difficult. A lack of a critical mass of youth, changes to the way young people interact through social media and around their own school agendas and the general tide moving against youth involvement in church in the wider community all combined in some way to thwart our progress.

We wish to acknowledge the long service of Penne Webster who has coordinated youth ministry for the past 10 years and helped to manage our various youth ministers over that period. We are also thankful to Callum, whose role concluded in July this year when it was clear that our strategy to have a paid worker was not fruitful for the reasons explained above.

We now believe it would be best to offer pastoral care and encouragement to the teenagers in our church families through visits and contact from members of the parish, under the direction of the vicar. Penne will still be involved in this manner, as will some other members of the church who have gifts and experience in this ministry. If and when the time arises that a large group of teenagers is present in our membership and/or we find a need to serve a group of teenagers in our local parish area (not currently apparent) we will reconsider our staffing and ministry arrangements.

Meantime, parish council will discuss other ways to serve our existing families with teenagers and we will explore ways to promote the Gospel among youth in and through school programs such as Mustard and summer missions run by Scripture Union.

WELCOMING

HILARY TOPPIN

Welcoming is always an important part of worship at St Michael's. This involves the members who volunteer and are rostered to greet everyone who enters the church doors, and also the members of our congregation who meet people both during and after the services. 10am welcomers have included Di Appleby, Noelene Horton, Cindy Shay, Peter Hutchinson, Suzy Davies, Suse, Roslyn Loader, Barry McGaw, Liz Jungwirth, Tony Jones and Hilary Toppin. At the 5:30pm service, welcomers have been Catherine Merry, Fred Batterton, Su-Hsien Kuan, Cathy Wilson, Micah Edmonds, Chris Ward,

Leanne McCoy, Steve Asquith, Anthony Lockstone, Hannah Young, Rhonda Edmonds, Ann-Michel Greenwood, Graham McCoy and Penne Webster.

We have continued to use the Welcome cards which are proving to be an excellent way to get contact details from newcomers as well as an avenue for comments/questions for the vicar and parish council members. Newcomers are generally followed up with an email, phone call or visit. Small packs containing information about St Michael's and its different activities, are now available near the front door in the foyer and are given to newcomers.

A lunch for newcomers to both the morning and evening services was held in June.

Thank you to all who make St Michael's a place of welcome and acceptance.

SMALL GROUPS

HANNAH CRAVEN

After many years in the role, Roslyn Loader stepped aside from coordinating small groups at the end of 2015. We thank her for her work and energy, and her care and support of our leaders and members.

Groups continue to meet on different schedules in different places and for different purposes, but all with the same mission of building community and sharing hope.

Currently, around 50 people meet regularly in six different groups. Leaders (or designated contact people) are Bob and Audrey Lile, Mary Ann Lyttle, Roslyn Loader, Hannah Young and Julian McCoy, Franco and Mariyln DiStefano, and Hannah and Tom Craven.

Groups meet together to learn from the Bible, to discuss topics of interest, and to provide care and support for one another. Topics for 2016 have included such things as the Alpha Course, Everyday Church, the books of Ecclesiastes and Habakkuk, the movie *Spotlight* and discussions around abuse in the church, Indigenous Reconciliation, near-death experiences and the afterlife.

Many members of St Michael's have also enjoyed our pop-up groups meeting at the church on Tuesday nights for short term periods (4-6 weeks). These groups have worked well for those who are interested, but unable to make an ongoing commitment. Topics for pop-up groups in 2016 included Indigenous Reconciliation: Sharing Our Story, Philippians: Life Lived Well, Lent and Alpha.

WALKING GROUP

RAY AND ALESIA SHAW & ROSLYN LOADER

The walking group was established in 2002 by a small group from St Michael's with the definite aim of developing relationships amongst our members and to reach out to the community whilst getting some valuable exercise. At present we have 21 people on our active list with about half being from the general community. We walk every Tuesday morning, rain hail or shine, and have not missed a walk in over 10 years.

Each walk is led by a volunteer from within the group with the locations varying widely from along the numerous creeks and rivers through to laneways with their street art and to areas of architectural and historical significance. The group members typically range from mid-60s to mid-70s in age and both a long and short walk are included each week to cater for some longer term and temporary frailties. Following the walk there is always time for coffee and snacks and stimulating conversation amongst a diverse group who all lead active lives with a wide range of interests. Ex-members commonly retain email contact and intermittent attendance from those still working, relatives and visitors is welcomed.

In a year when one of the ministry themes has been what it means to be an “every day church”, a great expression of this has been the Nova Nites movie ministry.

The group meets in a neutral, safe and accessible space at the Nova Cinemas in Lygon St Carlton, followed by supper upstairs at Trotters bistro. Friendships can be built over a shared interest in movies, coffee and conversation.

Around 20 people meet on the first Wednesday of every month, although we hit ‘peak Nova’ in January when 40 people attended.

An important and encouraging feature is that up to half of those who attend each month are not from St Michaels. Regular attendees, whether from St Michaels or not, are encouraged to bring friends and neighbours with them.

So if you like watching and discussing movies, meeting new people and want to help build St Michaels’ community, please feel free to join us.

WOMEN’S GROUP

ROSLYN LOADER

An open invitation (somewhat belatedly) to a review and planning meeting started our year. We had a lively meeting and some new relationships to establish - that was good! We have a no-nonsense way of organising our events, which are usually inclusive of males! The program is set, an organiser volunteers and arranges the plan and the PR. We have had a pub night, a pamper night (all proceeds to TEAR), a walk, and a trip to Bendigo Gallery for the Marilyn Monroe Exhibition.



Our Women’s Day Together with Reverend Megan Curlis-Gibson will be on October 15. This very popular event always has a very active planning group and has been greatly assisted this year by the skills of our office secretary, Emma. Needless to say St Michael’s women are deeply engaged in all aspects of our parish and outreach activities. Thank you to all.

BOOK GROUP

HILARY TOPPIN

Book groups have continued to provide a place where friends and neighbours can listen to each other’s opinions about books they have been reading and share ideas about values and life. Hilary and Bill have also established a “little library” in their front yard as a community library box, where anyone can take a book, give a book or swap a book entirely for free.

ASYLUM SEEKER SUPPORT

STEVE WEBSTER

The support of asylum seekers who are members of the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre (ASRC) in Melbourne has continued strongly this year through donations of food and supplies on the first Sundays of the month at church and through financial and practical ways. The ASRC asked to make a reference to St Michael’s in their annual reports due to their sense of gratitude for the levels of support given. It is encouraging to know that the ASRC has a positive view of the church’s help, but most importantly, our donations have assisted to ease the challenges faced by some of the most vulnerable people in our city.

Towards the end of 2015 the Vicar and Parish Council agreed with the request that St Michael's explore the issue of reconciliation. A group was formed, the first meeting was held on 18th December and, with the aim of raising '*consciousness in the parish of St Michael's North Carlton of the need to bring about reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and non-Indigenous Australians; and to commit to reconciliation through education and events*', we committed to a number of actions.



What events took place?

We began with a special Sunday morning service on 6th March to coincide with the national Close the Gap celebrations; on 17th April a parish group visited the Melbourne Museum First Peoples exhibition; on Sunday 6th June for National Reconciliation Week our services incorporated the Land Game interactive exercise, and the same afternoon we offered a cultural walk of significant Aboriginal sites around Dights Falls; and from 21st July over eight weeks there was a pop up series of four episodes of Australians Together.

What connections have we made?

We met with people from the North Carlton Community House reconciliation group, who were then invited to join in our Dights Falls walk, and St Michael's is welcome to participate in any of their events. Another meeting has been with the Indigenous Hospitality House in North Carlton, a relationship that we hope to grow. Resources available both locally and beyond have been investigated by members of our Reconciliation Action Group, including from the City of Yarra, the City of Darebin, TEAR Australia, the Koorie Heritage Trust and Concilia.

What else?

The Welcome cards have been encouraged as a means of passing on thoughts and suggestions. Some of these thoughts are displayed in the foyer together with other reconciliation information. A St Michael's prayer for reconciliation was written to be used every Sunday.

What next?

Further events are scheduled for October. Our target is to complete this stage of the journey of reconciliation by the end of 2017. We are pleased to report that the group has achieved almost all of the goals set to date. From the start the challenge has been for the members of the parish to decide how to put into action our own commitment to reconciliation, both now and for the foreseeable future. We pray for guidance as we seek God's will for St Michael's.

Thanks go to all who have participated in Reconciliation Action in any way this year and special thanks to the group members: *Janette Allen, Andrew Allen, Carolyn Alsen, Di Appleby, Ann-Michel Greenwood, Noelene Horton, Mary Ann Lyttle, Julian McCoy, Jacqui Wagner, Penne Webster, Hannah Young, Sharyn Young.*



We began planning for an Alpha Course in 2015 and it was realised in term 2 of 2016, April through to May. Although the course had a few extra people at the beginning, the core group of participants were young adults and with Laurie and I representing the elders. We were blessed with prayer support coordinated by Su-Hsien and a several cooks contributed to make

the hospitality special. Laurie, Hannah and Tom Craven, Steve, Su-Hsien and Ann-Michel joined in the training sessions before the course and helped lead discussion groups around the tables after listening to the talks. We utilised various Alpha teaching videos, including Jamie Haith's talks, and completed the course over 8 weeks including a Saturday. Whilst there were no non-Christians in our course it proved to be an opportunity for a new generation at St Michael's to experience Alpha and I hope this will lead to further Alpha courses with more input from younger leaders.

BIBLE GARDEN

LAWRIE SMITH & GREG DAVIES

In the twelve short months since our initial working bee to clear and prepare out garden bed, soil reconditioning was commenced with compost and mulch. Plantings have occurred and following solid winter rain, all species are now well established. A four year period to maturity of the tree species is envisioned. Additionally a planter tub with herbs has been planted and also a red grape vine attached to a timber frame on the northern church wall. A water drip system keeps up moisture levels during warmer months. Members of the congregation are encouraged to utilise the herbs and to provide any feedback on this project. To further enhance the aesthetics of our garden, we are proposing to construct a brick border around the garden edge. Bricks have been donated and a "brick cleaning" morning will be held to get them into a work-ready state.



Enquiries have been made of a number of sign/garden suppliers to establish what will be the best permanent labelling system we can use. Following Greg's recent visit to the Butchart Gardens, he will no doubt have many ideas that we can draw upon. To Gillian, thank you for watering our garden in Greg's absence!

This project has now passed its initial stage. We say thank you to all our volunteers and to all at St Michael's for their prayers, support and encouragement. As mentioned in last year's annual report, the success of the project will require oversight of an individual to see this project integrate and harmonise with the existing lawn area and gardens, thereby continuing the intended vision of a calming and welcoming community space available to all.

OFFICE REPORT

STEVE WEBSTER

The Church office has opened weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays this past year with Emma Sugars, our office secretary, at the desk. Many administrative and pastoral tasks are undertaken week by week at the office, following up email and telephone and "welcome" card enquiries or requests, preparing for Sunday services, producing study materials, dealing with hall bookings and more. Changes to equipment, including an upgrade of printers, has made the administrative tasks easier this year. In addition, the office is also the space used by staff and other ministers of the church to write sermons, prepare small group and children's ministry materials, meet with parishioners and study. It is also a place for prayer and discussion on many occasions.

HALL MANAGER'S REPORT

EMMA SUGARS & STEVE WEBSTER

Each week we host four regular groups in the Nickson and Williams Hall. These groups are:

- Mini Maestros – a music and singing class for babies through to primary aged children. Classes run in the Nickson Hall on Wednesday mornings, Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings.

- St Jude’s Women’s Bible Study – a small Bible study group for women from St Jude’s who would usually meet on site at St Jude’s but are unable to due to the fire in 2014. They meet on Thursday mornings.
- AMS Dance (formerly Kinder Ballet) – a dance school for children aged 3 and up. AMS uses the Williams Hall on Wednesday and Friday mornings and hopefully on Monday afternoons as well in 2017
- Step Into Life – a weekly group fitness class which runs on Tuesday evenings.

Although these groups meet every week and sometimes several times a week, we’ve also been able to hire the hall out for many other events this year. There have been numerous children’s birthday parties, a trivia night for the Railway House, a supporter dinner for AFES, training days for Street Pastors, local council elections, a retirement village AGM, funerals and wakes, even a Fringe Festival show, and interest from a few Victorian film crews!



With all of these events happening there is a lot of organising to be done, keys to be lent and chased up, money to be transferred, documents to sign, and importantly, connections to be built with the local community.

The majority of these events are local community groups or families who so appreciate being able to use the space. Accordingly, part of our job is to be helpful, hospitable and flexible so as to serve them as best we can. This, we hope, builds a sense of community and also creates a great way for people to step inside a church building for something other than a Christmas Day service.

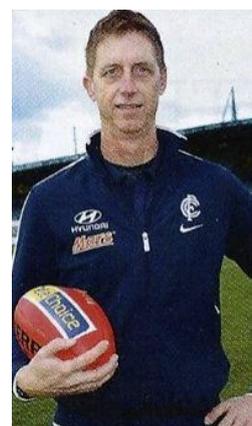
Since January, hall hire has brought in about \$14,000. Most of this comes from our regular groups, who pay \$28 per hour for the use of the hall. This is supplemented with the other events that happen sporadically, such as birthday parties, throughout the year, and generally on weekends wherein the fee is \$48-\$58 per hour. With a slight increase in the use of the hall, we anticipate that this may increase to \$20,000-\$25,000 annually.

In 2017 we hope to establish an ongoing partnership with Hot Dish catering, which is based at Ridley College in Parkville. This would mean a general understanding and ambition to collaborate on events, wherein St Michael’s would provide the venue (Williams Hall) and Hot Dish would provide the catering. In doing so, we hope to establish key bonds within the community, but also create a steadier source of income through the use of the hall.

SPORTS CHAPLAINCY

STEVE WEBSTER

At the beginning of my time as Vicar at St Michael’s I was already acting as a volunteer chaplain to the Carlton Football Club. As St Michaels has a long tradition of encouraging their vicars to have an outside interest in ministry, so I was encouraged to use some of my weekly time towards this outreach ministry. I am connected to Sports Chaplaincy Australia (SCA) who train and supervise honorary chaplains in sport nation-wide. I spend 10-15 hours per week engaged as a sports chaplain, which includes participating in football training sessions to help build relationships with young footballers and football staff, meeting with coaches and welfare staff re the wellbeing of players, one-to-one occasional conversation and counselling, and speaking at various churches and other groups about sport and Christianity. The connection between faith and



sport provides a great opportunity to connect the ministry of the Church with many people in the wider community.

WHAT DOES ST MICHAEL'S GIVE?

St Michael's gives **6.5%** of its budgeted income to missional causes dedicated to spreading the Word. For FY 2015/16, this was **\$11,596.74**.

WHO DO WE GIVE TO?

MISSION	% ALLOCATION	\$
Church Missionary Society Victoria (CMS)	40%	\$4,638.70
Ridley Theological College (Ridley)	10%	\$1,159.67
Kylie Lonegran (OM)	5%	\$579.84
Scripture Union (SU)	20%	\$2,319.35
Asylum Seekers Resource Centre (ASRC)	10%	\$1,159.67
Bush Church Aid (BCA)	15%	\$1,739.51
Total	100%	\$11,596.74

HOW DO WE DETERMINE THE RECIPIENTS?

Mission giving recipients are nominated by a committee comprised of SMNC parishioners, with a desire for alignment with SMNC Mission Values (Proclaiming Christ; Building Community; Sharing Hope; Serving Others), and addressing both local and international interests.

WHAT IS PLANNED FOR 2016/17?

Recipients for 2016/17 have been approved as follows:

MISSION	RATIONALE	%
CMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align with Proclaiming Christ value; Internationally focussed; SMNC's support for Summer Under the Sun's activities 	40%
Ridley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align with Proclaiming Christ value; Locally focussed; SMNC's support to their interest raising events. 	15%
SU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align with Building Community and Proclaiming Christ values; Locally focussed; Voluntary activities. 	20%
BCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align with Building Community and Proclaiming Christ values; Locally focussed. 	15%
BMF (Barbara May Foundation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align with Serving Others value; Internationally focussed, supporting two hospitals in Africa. 	10%

Absent from the FY 2016/17 plan are Kylie Lonergran and ASRC. The rationale for their removal is:

- Kylie is now back in Australia to take a break and to work out her next steps; and
- SMNC has supported the ASRC since its inception when they were largely under-resourced. In the last 10 years, the ASRC has significantly raised its profile and support base, hence a reduced need for financial support from SMNC.

Many key points regarding our finances were previously reported by Steve on 25 September. To provide an updated summary:

- For FY 2016, we operated at a loss of \$5.9k. However, this actually necessitated a lower draw on cash from previous years than budgeted.
- After a call by the wardens for an increase in giving this year to move towards sustaining our current staffing, direct giving via electronic means did not increase.
- Open giving in the offering bowls did increase (including an increase in giving at 5.30pm services).
- Some large unexpected costs relating to property and equipment had to be met this year (e.g. heating in the hall, emergency plumbing for flooded entrances). Furthermore, there was an unbudgeted expense in a significantly delayed payment to Cinti Robson (funds owing to her for youth justice chaplaincy, and provided originally by Anglicare, held in our accounts).
- Some regular users of our halls moved on to different venues thus reducing our income from halls in this financial year. We are building a new base of donations for hall use, but we had reduced income from hall hire this year.
- Some generous one-off gifts at the beginning of 2016 helped us to meet most challenges and come close to our budget target.
- Our cash reserves are now at around \$33k.
- The balance of the ADF loan used to fund the glass foyer stood at \$47k as of 30/09/16. On current tracking, the loan would be paid in full around 2020.

In summary, the actual vs budgeted results for FY 2016 are as follows:

	2016 budget	2016 actual	Variance
Receipts	\$ 203,750	\$ 241,902	19%
Cash from previous years	\$ 30,390	\$ 5,850	-81%
Outgoings	\$ 234,140	\$ 247,753	6%

Full, audited financial documents are available at our annual meeting and upon request.

BUDGET FOR FY 2017

In the final meeting of Parish Council for the FY 2016, it was agreed that our projected income would be \$210k through open giving, direct giving, hall hire and other fees. This is a conservative estimate that does not fully cover our projected outgoings of \$228k, creating a discrepancy of \$18k.

As ever, our most significant cost is associated with staffing, accounting for approximately 56% of our budgeted expenses. As previously reported, we need a sustained increase in regular giving to carry out our ministries effectively with our current level of staffing, and management of our properties in the coming years. We need all St Michaels' people who earn a regular income to prayerfully consider an increase in their giving, and if they don't already, to move to direct electronic regular giving to the church's ministries and mission. It is worth noting that income from hall hire must also increase significantly in the next year to help meet budget, requiring new, regular users to be found and increased use from current clients.

IMPLICATIONS

If we do not see evidence of increased giving and overall increases in income in the first quarter of the new church financial year (began Oct 1 2016), cuts to staffing will have to be considered. Parish Council will regularly report our progress to the congregation. It is our prayer that we can, together, increase our financial base as a church and keep moving forward in our mission to Proclaim Christ, Build Community, Share Hope and Serve Others. Indeed, we have already seen a positive response from parishioners to this call in the last few weeks. Praise God for this generous provision!

The following is a detailed breakdown of our FY 2017 budget:

	2016 budget	2017 budget
Income		
Offertory - Open AM	\$ 12,360	\$ 16,342
Offertory - Open PM	\$ 700	\$ 900
Offertory - Direct	\$ 167,280	\$ 161,671
General Fund Raising		\$ 1,500
Donations from Playgroup	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,700
Hall Rental	\$ 22,410	\$ 25,020
Tuning in to Kids		\$ 1,800
Total receipts	\$ 203,750	\$ 209,933
Cash from previous years	\$ 30,390	-
Expenses		
ADOM Parish Assessment	\$ 24,840	\$ 24,840
Church Utilities	\$ 8,020	\$ 6,500
Cleaning & Bathroom Supplies	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,100
Employment Expenses	\$ 138,830	\$ 128,530
Bookkeeping	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,800
Insurance	\$ 4,550	\$ 5,074
Interest and principle on ADF Loan	\$ 14,260	\$ 14,260
Maintenance	\$ 5,600	\$ 9,206
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 10,000	\$ 12,000
Vicarage Expenses	\$ 5,520	\$ 5,000
Mission giving	\$ 11,720	\$ 11,629
Total outgoings	\$ 234,140	\$ 227,940

NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

STEPHEN MANDERS



NATIONAL TRUST of Australia (Victoria)
Tasma Terrace
4 Parliament Place
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Statement for the Month Ending
30/09/2016

St Michaels Church Organ Appeal
Attn : Mr Stephen Manders
228 Amess St
NORTH CARLTON VIC 3054

744 St Michaels Church Organ

<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Balance as at</u> <u>30/06/2016</u>	<u>Current Year</u> <u>Transactions</u>	<u>Closing Appeal</u> <u>Balance</u>
Revenue				
6504-744-54	Donations	28,285.23	0.00	28,285.23
6551-744-54	Bank Interest	471.06	0.00	471.06
		28,756.29	0.00	28,756.29
Expenses				
7801-744-54	R & M Buildings	2,915.00	0.00	2,915.00
7803-744-54	R & M Collection	24,039.00	0.00	24,039.00
8302-744-54	Administration Fees	1,041.41	0.00	1,041.41
		27,995.41	0.00	27,995.41
Result				
	BALANCE	760.88	0.00	760.88

FUND STATEMENT AS AT 30/09/2016