
St Michael's Anglican Church
North Carlton

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

Ministry and Business Reports
Tuesday November 12, 2019



CONTENTS

PAGE	REPORT	AUTHOR/S
3.	Vicar's Report	Steve Webster
8.	Assistant Minister	Kim Messieh
9.	Churchwardens	Chris Reynolds & Ann-Michel Greenwood
12.	Parish Council	Steve Webster
12.	Children's & Families Ministries	Catherine Ward
13.	Playgroup	Catherine Merry
14.	Welcoming	Hilary Toppin
14.	Women's Retreat	Kathrine Houghton
15.	Walking Group	Ray and Alesia Shaw
15.	Nova Nites Movie Group	Grant Mackenzie
15.	Book Group	Hilary Toppin
16.	Reconciliation Action Group	Denise Nichols
18.	Hall Report	Emma Sugars
19.	Sports Chaplaincy	Steve Webster & Kim Messieh
19.	Finance	Peter Summers
21.	Missions Communication	Roslyn Loader
21.	SMMAC	Chris Reynolds
23.	Bible Garden Report	Greg Davies
24.	National Trust Report	Stephen Manders
25.	Synod Report	Dianne Shay
26.	2019 Nominations	

At tonight's annual meeting we celebrate the near completion of the 134th year of St. Michael's Church, North Carlton. We are more than ever mindful of the freedom and privilege of meeting on this site. The impact of settlers upon first nations people who are the traditional custodians of this land is now more clearly understood. We are clearly beneficiaries of the displacement of aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of the past. Our commitment to reconciliation action is 2 years into a 3-year plan. We have learned much, but there is much learning to do, including how best to engage in meaningful and costly actions that promote reconciliation.



In December I will have held a licence as Vicar in the parish for thirteen years. It continues to be a great privilege to serve in this role and such an encouragement to live and work in this faithful and creative community of faith and I look forward to future years of fruitful ministry with you all.

Vision/Action Plans

In our previous vision/action period (2014-2017) the major priority was encouraging our members to practice hospitality, show mercy and engage in respectful relationships in the places we live, work, study and play. The wonderful responsiveness of our parishioners resulted in an increased reach, and an increasing number of people visiting our site on weekdays, leading to a much-expanded network of people who associate with St Michael's in a positive way.

With such fertile ground prepared, the parish council of 2017/2018 prepared a new vision/action plan for 2018 – 2021 with a bold vision to create new pathways to facilitate faith among the many we now have in our orbit. This plan included the recruitment and employment of a full-time assistant minister suited to making connections between church and the wider community.

It was a great answer to prayers to find someone so suitably gifted and experienced and with a close alignment to the position vacant that we advertised (even if that recruitment came about indirectly via that person's interest in sports chaplaincy!). Kim Messieh, and husband Hany, joined our congregation in May, and Kim was duly commissioned as Assistant Minister with a focus on mid-week relationship building. Kim's report will reveal the flavour of her engagement with people on-site on weekdays and the possibilities that are emerging already. But here it's important to record some important facts related to her appointment.

- Kim has been made an Authorised Stipendiary Lay Minister (ASLM) by the Archbishop of Melbourne in our parish for the next three years.
- She has been offered by the parish a two-year contract, for four days per week, with the hope of extending to three years.
- We received generous one-off financial gifts in the past two years in support of this new venture. These funds were marked in our cash reserves as available to be deployed as needed to help us reach the new levels of regular giving needed to support more staff costs over the 3 years of the vision/action plan.
- Kim's first three months were devoted to "listening" and "watching" all that takes place, particularly in the weekday contact with many people on site. She made a report on her

findings recently to Parish Council. Next steps include the formation of a team of “ambassadors” to work with Kim during the week to build relationships and to be part of any new ministries that emerge organically along the journey.

The year to come promises to be an exciting time of exploring organic and agile approaches to helping people grow in faith and understanding. In the past we might have applied programs we were familiar with (such as Alpha), however, we are keen to listen and collaborate with those we are getting to know to fashion ministries and activities that best meet them where they are at.

I look forward eagerly to see what “church” might look like during the week for many of the new people in our orbit who are not naturally attracted to traditional Sunday gatherings or home groups. Of course, Sunday gatherings and regular small groups and many other ministries will continue to be important as they have been, but increasingly our church site is becoming a 7 day per week meeting place. We have opportunity from this transformation for new ministries of many kinds to emerge. In the same manner, we will continue to work on strengthening the faith of our members as they worship together and as they bear witness to Christ through their words and their lives wherever they reside, work, study or play.



Parish Council

In Anglican Churches, elected representatives from the congregation partner with the vicar to see that evangelism, discipleship and pastoral care take place in healthy and effective ways. The churchwardens as part of that team focus on responsibility for finance, facilities and good governance. It’s been a pleasure to work closely with this year’s PC. Every member has contributed something valuable and I’m grateful for the commitment and energy of the group. In particular, I’d like to thank Peter Summers (Treasurer) for his detailed and diligent work on recording and reporting our finances to the churchwardens. I’m grateful to our retiring churchwardens, Ann-Michel Greenwood (chair of Parish Council meetings) and Chris Reynolds (chair of St Michaels Maintenance Action Committee or SMMAC), for their collegiality, collaboration, support, and sacrifice of time. John Sewell worked many hours to help us comply with new regulations associated with the incorporation of the diocese and we now have our first ever asset register and internal controls manual. I also wish to thank Kenya Kala and Barry McGaw for their service as they conclude their time on Parish Council.

Staff

Kim and I meet weekly for ministry planning and “staff” team meets twice per month and has included along with Kim and I: Chris Appleby (preaching/teaching), Hilary Toppin (Welcoming), Roslyn Loader (Authorised Lay Minister), Stacey Slater (Student Minister), Catherine Ward (Children’s Ministry Assistant) and Emma Sugars (Office Assistant). Roslyn Loader has continued to act as Mission Partner Prayer Secretary and regularly extends pastoral care to people in her capacity as an ALM. Greg Davies, in his capacity as an ordained priest, has begun a ministry under my supervision this year of pastoral visits to men of the parish.

Stacey Slater has concluded her time as a Student Minister, having completed the hours required for her accreditation at Ridley College. It’s been great to have her with us this year involved in a variety of

ministries including: preaching, worship leading, bible studies, pastoral care, and more. I'm grateful to Peter Alsen for coordinating Stacey's field committee for feedback and support during the year and to those who took part in the gatherings to encourage Stacey in her ministry formation. This year also saw the first ever "Prayer as Worship" services in July, a visionary project conceived by Bill and Hilary Toppin.

Hannah Craven, who was previously on staff as half-time Assistant Curate, has been offered an extended stay at St Andrew's University in Scotland. She and Tom and Liam and Amber are, by all reports, loving living overseas and are all doing well.



This year we said "farewell" to Melanie Moore, and husband Russell. Melanie has been part of St Michael's for a long time, having been a member here before becoming a Student Minister during her studies at Ridley College, and a part-time Assistant Curate after her ordination. Melanie continued as a member while working in a chaplain's role at Northern Hospital and during that time met, and married Russell. She and Russell live in Epping and are close to the Plenty Life Anglican Church which operates a little differently to St Michael's, employing a "missional communities" model. Melanie and Russell, after prayerful searching, decided that they would say farewell to St Michael's for the purpose of taking on ministries in this exciting church plant in the expansive growth corridor of Mernda in Melbourne's North-East. Mel was a regular preacher, often led worship and presided at Holy Communion, and Russell was a regular leader of worship at 5.30pm service. Both will be greatly missed, and we pray God's blessing on them and the mission of the church they have joined.

Playgroup

This ministry has grown more and more in significance as over the past 5 years a huge number of local families have taken part and been blessed by this amazing operation. Special thanks must go to Catherine Merry for her continuing sacrifice of time, week in, week out, on Tuesday mornings as Coordinator of our Playgroup ministry. She leads a wonderful team of volunteers and is joined by Catherine Ward and Kim Messieh (and me most weeks) to serve around 35 kids and their parents, grandparents or carers. The reputation of our church as a place of welcome, service and care in association with this ministry has great reach and influence.

Markets

Suzy Davies coordinated another excellent community market this year and these great days on the church site have over the past few years helped us in further extending our reach into the wider community. Suzy has decided to retire from this role, and we won't be holding other markets in the near future. We agreed that they have served us well to increase our contacts; now it's time for other ministries to take place that help our many new contacts find pathways into participation and in faith and Christian community. A small amount of surplus funds remained from income received at stall run by St. Michael's at all markets. After discussions with Suzy and other key people involved in the operations of our markets, it was agreed that such funds should be used for the purpose of enhancing our community engagement (as this was the purpose of the markets). Parish Council set aside \$3,500, with the agreement of the market team, will deploy it to renovate the children's playground equipment in our church grounds. The work will be done over summer.

Preaching and Teaching

Preachers since our last AGM have included: the vicar, Melanie Moore, Chris Appleby, Dianne Shay, Hannah Craven, Greg Davies, Carolyn Alsen, Roslyn Loader, Chris Ward, Stacey Slater, and Bp Genieve Blackwell. Highlights from our preaching themes this year included: ~ Praying With Paul – a study of several of the Apostle’s prayers over 4 weeks ~ Resource Map for Christians – studies in 1 Thessalonians over 6 weeks ~ Living the Trinity ~ Trending on Twitter Part II ~ God’s Wake-up Call – Studies in Malachi over 6 weeks ~ Believe.Live.Love – studies in 1 John over 6 weeks ~ The Revolutionary Cross – our Lenten series based on a book by NT Wright and incorporating the B.E.L.L.S. model of discipleship developed by Michael Frost ~ The Lord and His Prayer – a six part study of “The Lord’s Prayer”.

Worship Services

We continued that now well-established tradition of 10am and 5.30pm services on Sundays this year. In keeping with last year’s model, the preaching themes coincided for most of the year with a brief period of alternative topics for the 5.30pm community. The style of delivery and engagement differs a little between the two services, as does the music and liturgical rhythm of the services. For example, 10am has three communion services per month, 5.30pm only the one. The gathering at 5.30pm services breaks into groups to engage in discussion or prayer more often and has a more informal style and structure to appeal to different needs and wants in worship.



The number of people present for Sunday worship services has remained similar, on average, to the year before (stats will be published in the Sunday bulletin in December when submitted to the diocese). Many of our 150 ‘regular’ Sunday worshippers don’t attend Sunday services weekly, but in patterns that fit with busy city lifestyle demands. Connectedness to corporate worship is tricky in this age, but communicating to the wider group via email regularly and encouraging use of bible and prayer apps and catch-up audio recordings of sermons can help.



People involved in leading worship at 10am, along with staff, have included: Dianne Shay, Cindy Shay, Nicola Reynolds, Greg Davies, Noelene Horton and Di Appleby. Those leading at 5.30pm have included Ali Brown, Samuel and Sarah Abdelsayed, Alex Pierce. There are many musicians involved every month. At 10am services bands have been led ably and creatively by Greg and Sue Bond, Dianne Shay, Cindy Shay, Julie Bryson, Chris Appleby, Steve Manders, Janette and Andrew Allen, Heidi Duncan, and Christine Hutchinson.

At 5.30pm the leaders of bands have been led with no less creativity and energy by Kyria Webster, Sam Edmonds, Graham McCoy, Samuel and Sarah Abdelsayed. Of course, each of these



bands incorporates a number of other parishioners, making the total number involved a huge group indeed who contribute so much joy and encouragement to our congregations as we give praise and thanks to our God.

In addition we have so many who participate in the important fundamental roles that help Sunday services to be filled with grace and encouragement, including: intercessors, welcomers, readers, FOH/ushers, kids church leaders, morning/afternoon tea servers, flower arrangers, sermon recorders, communion assistants, and more.

Safety for the Vulnerable

Responding to two major Royal Commissions in the past couple of years has been of the highest priority across the diocese. At St Michael's we are actively working to put in place new protocols and to build a strong culture that promotes greater safety for children and vulnerable people in relation to any of our ministries and facilities. The *Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP)* requires all Anglican parishes and entities across the diocese to complete and submit its 312-questionnaire to assess and report safety by 30 November 2019. Kim and I will submit this survey and will soon report the findings to the Parish Council.

We intend to keep working towards best practice, not just as a matter of compliance, but to promote an ever-improving culture of safety and respect. We want to let the wider community to see that God's Church takes the matters exposed in the recent royal commission seriously and wants to provide the safest possible environment for children and vulnerable people in all our undertakings. The survey will help us to identify much of the good work done so far, but will also highlight very detailed improvements still to be attended to. Kim Messieh previously worked for Baptist Union Victoria and trained church leaders in professional standards and child safe policy and practice in alignment with CCYP recommendations and requirements. Kim's assistance in helping to improve the culture and practices will be welcome indeed!



In seeking to respond well to another important royal commission in recent times, I attended training with the diocesan program for *Prevention of Violence Against Women* on Saturday November 9, held in our own parish centre. The training was excellent and will also help me to set in place some new policies and practices. Another session will take place at St Michael's in February 2020 and I will encourage all staff to take part. Parishioners might also consider booking in for the training when it's announced so that we can work together to build an even stronger culture of respect and responsibility towards women in the parish. Let's keep seeking to learn from those who advocate for and have expertise in helping the most vulnerable people in the wider community.

Many thanks

Let me close my report with a general word of thanks to the many who take responsibility for a great variety of ministries in a congregation that has an extremely high participation rate in active service, on the church site, and in the wider community. Those ministries include: Sunday worship leading, small groups, external missions, administration of rosters, flowers and decorations, garden maintenance, musicians and singers, reconciliation action, intercessory prayers, welcoming, 'front of house' and ushering at worship services, children's church, playgroup, morning and afternoon tea on Sundays, prayer meetings, outreach activities and gatherings, walking group, book groups, Nova nights, retreats, maintenance to our church properties and grounds, pastoral visiting, markets, ASRC food collections, TEAR Australia gift shop, Maundy Thursday meal, carols services, and the Kids Fiesta. Beyond these, we know that many church members serve through other agencies and organizations. I never forget in my prayers to thank God for the largely unseen and quiet witness to Christ that takes place regularly through our members in their families, where they live, work, study and play.



ASSISTANT MINISTER'S REPORT

KIM MESSIEH

My first five months have seen me immersed into many areas of life in and around St Michael's. I've begun to absorb through all my senses the sights, sounds, tastes, smells and physical location that makes us who we are: from Sunday services, playgroup, music sessions, dog walkers, neighbours walking in, tutu-clad ballerinas, bare branches to budded limbs and the constant flow of learner drivers. Many days I stand amazed at what God is revealing through conversations and the opportunities that present themselves. It's truly a privilege to be part of this journey. I'm hopeful and excited about the future Pathways being paved and restored that will allow love, grace, reconciliation and salvation to flow.



My week has ebbed and flowed as I've tried to balance set requirements with new opportunities as they appear Monday to Thursday, and I'm conscious of finding sustainable rhythms. Across four midweek sessions 150 ballerinas float through the doors accompanied by a parent, grandparent or nanny and many younger siblings. Playgroup happens every Tuesday morning, and Mini Maestros Wednesday and Thursday mornings and these also bring families of similar numbers. I've enjoyed connecting with the sessional staff who hire our facilities and see my role to support them.

Hany and I have felt incredibly welcomed as a couple into the life of St Michael's. We regularly attend both Sunday services and have enjoyed meeting and getting to know everyone. I'm learning the Sunday rhythms and have been actively involved in many services through leading, bible readings and prayers.

Each week Steve and I meet and twice a month the staff gather to share, learn and pray.

Some of the activities and life of St Michael's I've been involved in include: Nova Nites; Vox Populi concert; AMS ballet performances; a tour of the bible garden; lunch, dinner, coffees, drinks including Guess Who's Coming to Lunch?; Christmas in July; Daylight Savings Picnic for 5.30 church; met some of our neighbours; and photographed the emerging Spring garden.

My initial brief was to observe, listen and report on what was happening in and around St Michael's. In early October 2019 I presented my report to the Parish Council and it was great to be able to share what I'd observed and experienced. These coming months of late spring and early summer will see us prepare ourselves and our community for the season of Christmas with end of term concerts, performances, Kids Christmas Fiesta and Carols.

I'll keep doing what I'm doing by being present in the relationships I have already formed, as well as continue to meet and build new connections.

I look forward with anticipation to this season and the year to follow.

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

ANN-MICHEL GREENWOOD, CHRIS REYNOLDS

Chris Reynolds and Ann-Michel Greenwood were the wardens for the year 2018/19. We have enjoyed working together, with Steve and the Parish Council, over what has been a busy, constructive, and we think, significant year, not least being the addition of Kim Messieh to the staff team!

Most of our "wardenly" concerns, though, are much more mundane, mostly revolving around the smooth running of the church, care and maintenance of the facilities, and oversight of the finances – we will try to make the following summary of the year's activities seem much more interesting though!

The Garden is looked after by a team of caring individuals, both rostered and clandestine! Maintaining the garden through changing climate, and increased use of the grounds, is challenging.

The incorporation of the Indigenous garden, and repairs to the playground, will give us the opportunity to assess our current use and develop a masterplan for our grounds, hopefully including water harvesting via a tank etc. Our garden is a great asset, not only for us, but also for those who live around us. No significant alterations have been made to the church property this year, just a lot of repairs & maintenance, summarized as follows:

- We have done a lot of business with Zip water heaters this year, with both the unit in the Williams Hall kitchen, and the foyer needing a lot of attention, with both ultimately requiring replacement.
- The major and minor leaks in the main church roof which proved to be very persistent, have now been solved. This has hopefully meant better sleep for the Vicar.
- The leak from the bell tower in the Williams Hall has been mostly stemmed from an inspection and repairs earlier in the year. A further inspection will be undertaken, and likely application for a full restoration will need to be made.

- With the bell tower leak mostly curbed, the floor of the Williams hall has had its much-needed sanding and recoating. This is important for our hirers and increased use.
- The oven in the Williams Hall kitchen has been replaced, and the very heavy old one removed!
- The cracking to the church building, particularly in the corner behind the musicians, has been investigated. It is thought to be a combination of groundwater and lack of suitable foundations – neither easy issues to solve – so it may have to be lived with, and come up with a clever way to disguise. It will be monitored in the meantime.

For Future Property Plans it is hoped that a sustainability plan will be developed for the property that will incorporate potential for solar power as well as the harvesting of water from our roofs.

For this year, the care and maintenance of vicarage has involved the painting of the new fence, which was given plenty of time to ‘season’, and the renovation of the vicarage laundry, which has finally been specified and will be undertaken in the New Year.

We have all benefited from the new projector that was kindly donated. And the musicians have a new system to control their sound in situ that was similarly donated. This has contributed greatly to our worship experience.

With the increased use of the church facilities, and the Hall Hire Operations in particular, a review, and some added resource is needed to be put to the regular cleaning and maintenance.

A lot of work has been done in the area of compliance with laws, OHS & Professional Standards over this past year. A Child Safety Officer (Catherine Ward) was appointed, and to further support making St Michaels a safe place for children, a CCTV system has been installed, ensuring that children’s learning time activities remain visible in the church. A system to ensure that any visitors to the church property are identified and orientated to the property and its activities has also been put in place.

We had a visit and assessment undertaken by a representative from the Diocese Risk Team in February, which acted as a spur on a number of fronts:

- A review has been undertaken of our emergency exits and evacuation procedures and compliance.
- The electrical switchboards have been replaced and upgraded.
- The SMMACers are developing an ongoing maintenance and compliance program.
- Along with the need to install some compliant door hardware for evacuation purposes, the Master Key system for the church has required replacement. This has afforded the opportunity to reconfigure the system to better suit the way the various spaces are now accessed.

A major overhaul and specification of the church’s internal financial controls was undertaken as part of preparing for the annual financial review that is now required. This was a major piece of work undertaken by John Sewell, and has ensured that we are both compliant and efficient in this area.

A consequence of this has been looking for a solution to the efficient, compliant, and safe handling of monies from the various activities that now take place on the church property. John also undertook the establishment of an assets register for the church, and a review of our insurance cover.

As wardens we also oversaw the development of a new 'gifts' policy for the church, a policy and procedure for pastoral giving and the use of surplus funds from church events (which we got to implement thanks to the very successful community markets!), as well as the review of St Michael's mission giving.

Another of our jobs was to ensure that Steve took an appropriate amount of well-earned annual leave during the year, which he did, in December 2018, February, May, and November of this year.

And finally Finance. The Finance Report will be presented separately, but it is the wardens' role to keep an eye on finances, and to approve their use. We have been very fortunate during our tenure that we have had such healthy finances to work with, and have been able to use our time on constructively using them, rather than finding them! These have been so well kept in order by our treasurer, Peter Summers, and while we would have preferred to approve more spending on things other than maintenance, we have been blessed that we have had the means to do so!

From the proceeding I hope you can see that our regular monthly wardens' meetings were never lacking for agenda items, but were always interesting, enjoyable, and vital.

The above is a summary, and there have been many minor things that just get taken care of by people! We have a wonderful property to steward, and to use for God's purposes, but it is old, and a bit fragile, so will need our care in an ongoing way, and a bit of our budget! St Michael's also has a wonderful staff team with Steve, Emma, and Catherine, capped off with the arrival of Kim! But also Greg and Roslyn, and all who give their time with playgroup and on rosters etc., and just chip in when they see something is needed. This all has made 'wardening' on your behalf so much easier and fulfilling, and purposeful.

We remind ourselves that all of the above is done in the hope that it will contribute to God's purposes for St Michael's, and in the expression of his love for the community both within and around us.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

STEVE WEBSTER



Parish Council (PC) is formed each year at an annual meeting by way of nominations of members of the congregation to be elected for a period of twelve months. The diocesan governance act (2013) sets out the way these representatives of the church work with the vicar to set, guide and support the vision/action plans of the parish. Ann-Michel Greenwood (warden), Chris Reynolds (warden), Peter Summers (Treasurer), Gillian Baker, John Sewell, Emilie Franklin, Jack Verdins, Katja Wagner, Barry McGaw, Kenya Kala, and Mary Ann Lyttle, with the vicar, made up this year's PC.

Some of the big items discussed and decided included: recruitment of a new assistant minister, internal financial controls, child safe practices, paying off the loan for the foyer, professional standards, priorities for the new ministry budget, mission partner support, facilities management, and more.

The group met monthly in the Nickson Hall, chaired by Ann-Michel Greenwood.

A group of parishioners submitted a letter to the PC in July regarding challenges to communications in the church community. Their concerns were discussed at the September meeting of PC, including important matters of gaps in information available to church members and new visitors to our church alike. The PC has made some recommendations to the staff and a "comms review" team will be soon formed to report recommendations to the new PC addressing the matters raised.

CHILDREN'S AND FAMILIES MINISTRY

CATHERINE WARD

Children's and Families ministry has continued to grow and flourish this year with the help of many wonderful volunteers and staff.



Kids' Church has continued to make use of the excellent *Adventure: Kids at Church* resources by CEP, working through the Old Testament learning about God as the creator and covenant maker, and then God's faithfulness in Exodus. This term the kids have moved into the New Testament to learn about the early church. The dedicated Kids' Church leaders Dianne Shay, Jacqui Wagner, Shelley Knight and I have been devising engaging lessons including craft, baking, puppets and dress ups at various points throughout the year! We have had fairly steady numbers of kids on Sunday mornings this year, with between 4-7 children in Kids Church each week.

Some great developments were seen in child safety in 2019, including the installation of a camera in the Nickson Hall to enable adequate sight lines between kid's activities in the hall and the congregation. Additionally, I was appointed to the position of Child Safe officer for St Michael's, becoming a visible point of contact for any concerns around the safety of kids at the church.

Playgroup coordinator Catherine Merry also underwent additional Child Safe training provided by the Commission for Children and Young People, and I will undertake it presently, continuing to enhance the skills around creating a safe environment for children and families at St Michael's.

Playgroup ministry is still a much loved activity at St Michael's, welcoming many families every week with toys, games and conversation. In addition, many conversations have been had this year about how to welcome the many children and families who use the space every week for other activities such as Kinder Ballet and Mini Maestros. This has been greatly aided by the appointment of Kim Messieh who has spent invaluable time getting to know the families who interact with St Michael's and its spaces during the week.



In 2019 St Michael's has continued to grow its focus on hospitality to both the kids and families in the congregation and those welcomed through the doors of the church every week.

PLAYGROUP

CATHERINE MERRY

We are blessed to be able to offer a weekly playgroup to local families. 2018-19 has been busy and relaxing at the same time: busy because we have welcomed an average of 29 children and their carer (mother, father, grandparent and/or nanny) each week; relaxing because we have thoroughly enjoyed their company.

In the past 4 months the numbers have grown to an average of 35 per week, and I am grateful for the extra staff that have joined us this year. Di Appleby, Hilary Toppin, Janette Allen and Margaret Sewell are regular volunteers, with Cathy Wilson helping out when needed. Catherine Ward has again been my right hand woman and it has been a pleasure working with Kim Messieh in her new role as assistant minister.



Each volunteer contributes using their strengths and abilities. Last week Janette had 20 kids and parents banging drums, shaking bells and singing nursery rhymes. Di and Margaret provide much loved cakes and slices for the carers, and Hilary and I welcome families especially when they come for the first time.

Setting up and cleaning up is a shared duty and some of the parents and children help us at the end of a playgroup session.

Our most important role is to listen to and talk with families, making them feel really welcome and wanted. Kim's skills in this area have been invaluable. There have been many instances of deeper friendships being formed between us and the families, and between the families themselves. New families to the area find they have a ready-made cohort that they can link up with in the week, supporting each other while they parent their children.

When families leave it is usually because the child has been enrolled in child-care and/or the parent is going back to work. If the work is part time many of the parents try to leave Tuesday as one of their 'home days' so they can still attend playgroup.

Because of the obvious activity in the foyer, quite a few parents have asked about the ASRC support we give and about our role with Indigenous peoples. It's great to be able to tell them about the church's involvement in these areas. Prior to Christmas many of the families bring new toys for the Anglicare gift collection.

Over the summer we will sort and clean the toys and equipment so that all is ready for the New Year. Before that, all playgroup families past and present will be invited to the Christmas Fiesta and the Christmas Day services. Please say hello to them as fellow St Michael's regulars.

WELCOMING

HILARY TOPPIN

An integral part of our worship at St Michael's is the welcome we give to all, regular members and newcomers, alike. All members of the congregation, as well as those who welcome at the front door of the church, are involved in this ministry. Rostered Welcomers at the 10am service have included Noelene Horton, Liz Jungwirth, Di Appleby, Suzy Davies, Hilary Toppin, Lorraine Thompson, Cindy Shay, and Jean Tan.

At the 5:30 service, welcomers have included Catherine Merry, Rhonda Edmonds, Kenya Kala, Steve Asquith, Graham McCoy, Leanne McCoy, Cathy Wilson, Su-Hsien Kuan, and Russell Moore.

The Welcome/Contact cards on the back of the pews are useful for contact information from newcomers as well as communication with the Vicar, Parish Council and Staff. Newcomers who use the cards are usually followed up with an email, a phone call or a visit. Thank you to all who continue to make St Michael's a welcoming place of worship.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

KATHRINE HOUGHTON

Another silent retreat for St Michael's women was held on Saturday 7 September 2019 at Wellspring, Ashburton. 4 people attended - a significant reduction from the 9 that attended the previous year and also the year before that. This suggests that a silent retreat run on a minimalist basis by me does not have much appeal.

And while I found it an empowering experience and would be very happy to attend any further women's retreats, it is time for me to step aside. Perhaps one or two other women may be interested in reimagining it. Or perhaps it is time to let it lie for the moment.

The walking group continues to be active every Tuesday, having missed only one morning over the past year.



The numbers vary and the group has lost some members and gained some new ones over the past year. We have also introduced having both short and long walks to cater for the different capability of the members, as injuries, illness and age have slowed some of us down at times.

We continue to explore both the natural areas along the many Melbourne waterways and the architecture and street art of the city environment. Two recent standout walks were a private tour of the new Peter McCallum Cancer Hospital, which is an amazing place, and the walk from Ivanhoe to Kew along the recently completed path over the Darebin Creek and Yarra River.

Over the past winter there have also been a number of local walks with an emphasis on some exercise and social interactions over coffee at one of the many local cafés. The walks continue to be at 7am on Tuesday mornings apart from over winter where we have moved to a 7:30am start to better fit with sunrise.

One of the four ministerial statements listed on the church's front wall is 'building community'. An example of this is the Nova Nites movie group that meets on the first Wednesday evening of each month at the Nova cinemas in Lygon St Carlton.

This brings together members of the church and their friends who enjoy watching the latest movies. And more importantly, immediately after the movies finish, we gather upstairs at Trotters Bistro for coffee and conversation together. This is a great opportunity for us to join with old and new friends to talk about the movies we've seen and other topics of interest.



The purpose of the group is to build community, with the intention of building Christian community, in a neutral non threatening space. Why not join us one month to help build the church's community?

The Women's Book Group continues as a monthly discussion of a book we have recently read. The books can be of different genres, recent publications, classics but each has been suggested by a member of the group. Different opinions offered often help us to understand, and perhaps appreciate, a book and its author in a new way. Discussion also allows us to share our experiences, values and beliefs with a very supportive and caring group of friends.

Reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples has been at the forefront of Australia's national conversation again this year. The first Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon. Ken Wyatt MP was appointed by the Prime Minister following the Federal election in May. Two documentaries, *The Australian Dream* and *The Final Quarter* both featuring Australian Rules footballer Adam Goodes shone the spotlight on the racism that our First Nations community experience on a daily basis. The Uluru Statement was put back on the table as the Federal government announcement a new consultation process to bring forward recommendations for recognition of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islanders in the Constitution. This national agenda is one of St. Michael's Reconciliation Group's impetus to seek justice and reconciliation that our Christian faith requires for our First Nations peoples.



St. Michael's RAP Group recognises the contribution of many other groups such as Common Grace, the Grasstree Gathering and TEAR who provide resources that we have used during the year to fulfil our vision to promote respect, understanding and action by parish members towards reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The Reconciliation Action Group worked towards implementing this vision through four pathways: Engagement, Partnership, Learning and Advocacy.

Engagement

Our goal in 2019 was to deepen our engagement with Indigenous and Torres Strait Islanders communities both locally and in remote Australia. Our local Indigenous Hospitality House through Teish and her team has welcomed our continuing relationship through their Learning Circles, worship and our financial support of their work providing hospitality to people visiting Melbourne for hospital and medical care. We connected to the Wurundjeri Elders Council through Ms Charley Woolmore, Coordinator of Special Projects and are working towards establishing an indigenous garden as a point of welcome to Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander communities in our area. We have had consultations with the St. Michael's community and provided ongoing updates through e:newsletters, church news sheets, web site & Facebook Page. It was hoped this project would be ready by October 26 but due to changes in direction by the Wurundjeri Elders it has been postponed while ongoing discussions are held.

To begin our connection to remote Australia four members of St. Michaels joined in a 10 day



Pilgrimage to Northern Territory remote communities led by Bishop Genieve Blackwell. They reported back to St Michael's about their experience. There was a deep learning both personally and in their understanding about the intersection of and challenges in how aboriginal belief systems, cultural and social systems intersect with a western mode of thinking, secularism and Christian beliefs in the majority culture of Australia.

Other members visited the newly declared World Heritage site at Budj Bim National Park near Warnambool, significant sites in the South Gippsland area and four members attended the Garma Festival of Traditional Cultures in northeast Arnhem Land celebrating the cultural traditions of the Yolngu people.

Learning

St. Michaels celebrated NAIDOC week with the theme of Voice, Truth and Treaty with a display of local organisations and events highlighting the Year of Indigenous Languages, the work of SNAICC representing the situation of indigenous children in out of home care and the Aboriginal Housing Association. The display attracted many comments from the groups who use St Michael's during the week.

Church members filled another Melbourne Songlines Bus Tour to indigenous historical and cultural sites in and around the city of Melbourne; attended a major event at St. Kilda Town Hall initiated by St. Kilda Baptist RAP group to hear author James Boyce speak on his book 1835: The Founding of Melbourne & the Conquest of Australia.



Budj Bim ranger, Sean Bell explains the 60,000 year old techniques for eel fishing and the engineering behind the fish traps now recognised as a World Heritage site.

Partnership

The launch of the Wandiligong Fund by Kathrine Houghton at Whitley College was well supported by St. Michael's members. The Fund was established through a bequest by Kathrine's father, the Rev. Robert Houghton to support theological education for Indigenous Christian leaders. St. Michael's Parish Council allocated \$500 to express our support for this significant venture.

Advocacy

Through the many opportunities for first hand experiences and a deepening understanding of the need for truth telling of historical events and current situation for our first nations people the RAP group committed to putting our voice forward to support the 1Voice Campaign calling for Voice, Truth and Treaty. A letter box drop highlighting the Uluru Statement was carried out by the 5:30 congregation during NAIDOC week; church members supported the petition of the 1Voice Campaign and we made a submission to the Senate Enquiry on the Uluru Statement.

Each week St Michael's hosts over 400 parents, guardians and children, who use the space for various activities for kids. These activities are:

- St Michael's Playgroup – 10am-12 noon on Tuesdays, the building is bustling with a weekly gathering of parents, guardians and kids from the local community, who come along for some fun, food and conversation with each other, and also with the vital volunteers from St Michael's, who make this play group possible.
- 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. Mini Maestros runs twice a week: Wednesdays 9:15am-12:15pm and Thursdays 9:00am-12:30pm.

- AMS Dance – a dance school for children aged 3 and up. AMS uses the Williams Hall on Monday afternoons, Wednesday and Friday mornings
- Vox Populi Choir – a community choir led by Christine Hutchinson each Tuesday evening (pictured)
- 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. I receive many emails and calls from people in the local community wanting to hire out the hall, garden and often foyer space too for children's birthday parties, wakes, milestone birthday parties, film shoots, and drama practices, as well as diocesan information and training events. Many locals feel a strong connection to St Michael's as their "local church" even if they don't attend regularly. Moreover, most people who hire the Williams Hall can't help but comment on how lovely the space is, and are thrilled to be able to use such a nice venue, and at a very reasonable cost. The garden is also a great addition to the buildings as it allows parents of young children a safe place to let the kids run amok during their event, if the weather permits!



When we hire out the hall, we try to make the experience as no-fuss as possible, giving our hirers the choice of room (Williams Hall, Nickson Hall, the garden or the foyer) for their event, making the spaces varied and versatile, and ensuring they have everything they might require for an event. This is helped particularly by the great kitchen and kitchenettes we have in the Williams Hall and the foyer respectively. The industrial dishwasher and the plentiful supplies of crockery and cutlery in the Williams Hall make hiring and cleaning up easy for those using the hall.

From Kim:

I'm delighted to be able to report that in August I was officially welcomed as a Chaplain to the Women's Football department (VFLW/AFLW) at the Carlton Football Club. I started this journey of Chaplaincy with Steve back in January, and it has been a blessing to see how God has opened doors and created opportunity along the way.



As one of the first chaplains in women's Aussie Rules football, I've experienced the favour given because of chaplains within the men's elite teams over many years.

As a lifelong Carlton supporter, and lover of people and sport in general, I'm excited to have this opportunity to walk alongside the staff, players and families associated with the club. I've been

welcomed in unreservedly and although some haven't heard of or experienced having a Chaplain before, they are keen to find out and positive when they do.

On average, I'll spend around 8-12 hours a week at training, matches as well as formal and informal events each week.

From Steve:

I'm entering my 16th year as chaplain to the Carlton Football Club and each new season brings new possibilities. This past year was no exception with an exciting development in being asked to lead regular parenting education sessions for coaches and players. These sessions have facilitated greater trust and bonds that make for many opportunities to offer emotional and spiritual support for staff and footballers.

I have also had a role this year in convening regular breakfast meetings gathering other chaplains to elite sports from across Victoria for encouragement, support and prayer.

I continue to attend two football training sessions per week and I'm also present in the players rooms on game day (for matches in Melbourne), unless the schedule clashes with Sunday services.



FINANCE REPORT

PETER SUMMERS

Our income this year was \$290,320, of which approximately 80% was direct-debit giving, 10% was the Sunday offertory and 10% was hall hire.

Our expenditure was \$263,290, of which approximately half was for staff. Other expenses included our 6.5% gift to other agencies and missionaries with whom we partner and 13% as contribution to the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, as is the common responsibility of all parishes, to support the wider mission of the Church.

We made a net profit of \$27,030 and held \$125,123 of cash in the bank at 30th September 2019. In summary, our financial report for the financial year 2018/2019, actual vs budget, results were as follows:

	FY 17/18 budget	Actual	Variance
Receipts	\$272,808.00	\$290,320.26	6.4%
Outgoings	\$271,851.00	\$263,290.34	-3.1%

Hall hire income was 10% below our budgeted figure, direct-debit giving, 2% above, and the Sunday offertory, 68% above.

On the expenditure side, parish assessment was 40% above budget due to catch-up payments from the previous year and we had an unbudgeted capital cost of \$11,295 for an upgrade to the church

switchboard. We had four months of our assistant minister, Kim, which was less than expected as the appointment took longer than we had planned for.

This year, we transitioned our reporting against budget to the bookkeeping online software (Xero, implemented the previous year), which has greatly simplified reporting to the parish council and allowed monthly reports.

We paid out the ADF loan used to fund the glass foyer as we had more than adequate cash reserves and it saves us 5% pa on interest.

The full financial report to be submitted to the diocese will be available at the annual meeting and on request after that meeting. Our budget for the coming year includes twelve rather than four months of our assistant minister, Kim, who commenced in May. Staff expenses will therefore be higher and we expect to draw \$3600 from our cash reserves to help fund this. The budget also includes an required increase of \$8,721 (5%) in giving.

The summarised budget for the 2019-20 financial year is as follows:

Income:

offertory	\$261,330.14
hall rental	\$ 27,536.94
playgroup	\$ 1,978.49
interest	\$ 888.77
drawdown from savings	\$ 3,600.00
increased giving	\$ 8,721.09
Grand Total	\$304,055.43

Expenses:

vicar	\$ 82,439.80
assistant	\$ 72,051.82
diocesan assessment	\$ 34,767.00
admin	\$ 15,900.97
secretary	\$ 15,699.35
missions	\$ 14,438.49
church utilities	\$ 13,219.30
maintenance	\$ 13,000.00
insurance	\$ 12,534.57
Children's ministry	\$ 8,362.09
cleaning	\$ 8,348.65
vicarage utilities	\$ 5,931.85
events	\$ 3,361.55
student minister	\$ 3,000.00
reconciliation	\$ 1,000.00
Grand Total	\$304,055.43

My mission partner communications role is more challenging than I expected! It basically relates to our mission partnerships as determined by Parish Council, setting up the process to respond to a review, and setting up the new system, if that is necessary.

Currently our partners are CMS (Roslyn), Scripture Union Victoria (Roslyn), Barbara May Foundation (Sam Hargreaves), Ridley College, Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (Hilary) and TEAR (Steve Asquith). In the foyer there is a very stylish connection to these and others via modern technology.

We also support these groups financially, currently allocating 6.5% of our income from offerings to external mission partners with the current breakdown as follows:

- Church Missionary Society - 40%
- Scripture Union Victoria - 20%
- Bush Church Aid - 15%
- Ridley College - 10%
- Barbara May Foundation - 10%
- Asylum Seekers Resource Centre - 5%

My hope for the future is to make sure that each partner has a link person so information for prayer is constantly updated, and the St Michael's website is regularly updated. The Mission notice board is a constant challenge. Such dreams are easily vanquished. Brochures from our partners are obsolete other than being useful for my information gathering. Are we pray-ers? If there is not constant prayer then we are not availing ourselves of our ever available God.

As Jude verses 24 and 25 remind us: "To Him who is able to keep us from falling and to present us before His glorious presence, without fault and with great joy. To the Only God our Saviour, be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore Amen."

This committee was formed in July 2018 to be responsible to the Parish Council for the management and planning of remedial works on the church facilities, and has continued on with its work through 2019, mainly due to maintenance issues being ongoing!

The SMMAC reports to Parish Council, thereby alleviating the PC from having to discuss a lot of the detail surrounding maintenance issues.

The SMMAC'ers for this year were John Sewell (project manager), David Wagner (architect), Katja Wagner (next generation architect), and Chris Reynolds (roustabout). The committee met on an as needs basis, kept in regular contact, with individuals taking on the oversight and resolution of distinct issues as summarised below (you can just read the words in bold to get a quick idea of the range of issues that have been dealt with this year, if you prefer!):

A major achievement for the year has been the resolution of the persistent **water leaks** that had been occurring throughout the church buildings. It took a long time to both settle on a solution, and find someone to undertake it, particularly regarding the slate tiles on the main church roof. It was with much relief that the repairs passed the first decent test of rain – which took a while given the dry conditions! Hopefully this now means that Steve doesn't need to rush to the church at the sound of rain!

Various other **plumbing issues** have also been resolved over the course of the year. A leak here (office wall), a leak there (foyer ceiling), and various leaks elsewhere!

A section of **louvres** high up in the lantern of the church were unable to close properly, resulting in an occasional sprinkling for front pew sitters! A relatively simple fix, but very difficult to access!

As part of our commitment to providing a child safe environment, a **CCTV system** has been installed, making it possible for parents to see what is happening in Children's Learning time via a discrete screen in the main church. This is also a very visible sign that we take children's safety seriously.

There is no easy solution to the **cracking in the external walls** of the church. The combination of nineteenth century footings, and an active groundwater system means that seasonal movement is inevitable. For now, we can only monitor, and consider future aesthetic solutions. Some repairs are required in the Wells room, where some plaster has dislodged from the peak of an arched window.

The **leak from the bell tower** onto the floor of the Williams hall was investigated, and an attempt made to repair. It was discovered that the metal of the dome is badly corroded, and the likely long term solution will be a complete restoration. Some preparatory work towards this will be undertaken early next year. With the leak from the bell tower largely being stemmed, we were able to have the Williams hall floor sanded and recoated.

Also related to the hall, the main **oven in the kitchen** failed. After lengthy investigation into repairs and replacement, and a couple of false starts, a replacement oven was found and installed in time for the annual Maundy Thursday event – phew!

The **Zip water heaters** in both the Williams hall kitchen, and the foyer coffer station have failed over the course of the year, requiring replacement.

The **glass doors to the foyer** have required maintenance – they get a lot of use, and maybe a little punishment!

Both church **electrical switchboards** have been upgraded, and sundry other electrical work undertaken, to ensure that all things electrical are functioning well and compliant. The spur for this was an assessment by the Diocesan Risk Management Compliance program undertaken in February. Also, as a consequence to the Diocesan visit was a review of our emergency evacuation procedures, compliance, and signage. The installation of some new door hardware will result from this.

Separate to this, the **Master Key system** for the church is facing obsolescence. This has required a review of all locks on the property, but has also given us the opportunity to configure the keying to better suit the way the various spaces are now used. This work will be carried out in December.

The progress of installing a **water tank** adjacent to the church hall was stymied by the requirement for a planning permit. This initiative will now be revisited as part of the planning for the indigenous garden.

After the successful conclusion to the Community Markets, there were some funds leftover. These will be applied to the **renovation of the children's playground**, and maybe the provision of some seating in the garden.

After a couple of false starts, a quote has been accepted for the renovation of the **vicarage laundry**, which will be carried out next year. And stage one of the vicarage fence project has been completed, with the painting of the new fence having recently been undertaken.

To round out the year, SMMAC will formalise the development of a **regular maintenance schedule** for items that were identified by the Diocesan Risk Management Compliance Assessment referred to previously. This is timely, given that a number of the gas heaters seem to be ailing.

Much other minor work has been undertaken by members of the church community, because that is the kind of community St Michael's is! For this we are very grateful. I think we have a strong sense of shared custodianship of the church property, and that we are seeing the fruits of how God is able to use it for the benefit of those he loves – everyone!

BIBLE GARDEN REPORT

GREG DAVIES

The Bible garden is in its 4th year. When it was set up, the completion date was set at 5 years, which allowed for the produce trees to begin to crop. Last year all the trees fruited to some degree. It might take some time before the fig tree will spread its shade over the basalt bench situated against the north lane wall.

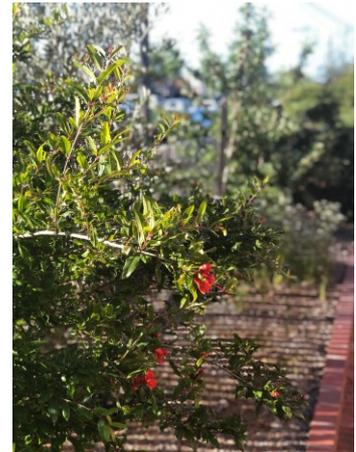
This year, the following tasks were completed:

- Ongoing maintenance including weeding
- First major pruning to begin shaping the trees and enhancing productivity
- Basic automatic watering system activated during the summer months - includes the installation of a container to prevent interference with the automatic irrigation controller
- Signage (see below) designed and in process of being fabricated.

Tasks pending include:

- Installation of the signage
- Moving the grape vine to a position adjacent to the old north entrance door where it will be more visible and the vine will not entangle with the window protective mesh
- Repotting the Papyrus
- Liming (dolomite) and mulching prior to summer

I am happy to continue the general maintenance of the garden and to promote its use to members of the congregation and the community. It is reassuring that some members assist with major tasks when called upon - in particular, Lawrie S, Audrey L, and Gillian B.



Regarding the signage, each plate will give the common and scientific name of the plant, an explanation of its use, importance and a sample of Biblical references which illustrate its context. One plate will provide a general explanation of the garden. The plates will be engraved on silver matt UV stable plastic fastened onto 2mm plate steel and mounted on metal stake. The plates will be approximately 20cm above ground level and be read by a person standing.

The original proposal had two essential goals:

- As a soft edge outreach strategy the Bible plants garden on the site opens the grounds to the public for quiet reflection and peace.
- Both adults and children can discover in a tangible way some of the plants mentioned in the Bible. A real hands-on educational tool.

I feel we are at a point where these can be realized.

NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

STEPHEN MANDERS

St Michael's pipe organ is believed to be the smallest three manual organ in an Australian church and was classified as essential to the preservation of Australia's heritage in 1989. FW Slater of Fitzroy commenced building it at the start of the 20th century, probably for his own residence, and it was completed by Frederick Taylor, an organ builder from Hawthorn. It was installed in St Michael's church in 1912 as shown in the contemporary photo below.

The organ was restored by Ken Falconer of Stewart Organs in 1997. At that stage, it was relocated from the south east corner of the church to its current position, and a new side case was built to match the single existing one. The restoration involved dismantling the instrument, cleaning out decades of dust and dirt, and replacing perished and eaten parts. Moths love woollen felt, and mice and rats will eat leather if they are hungry enough! The restoration generally aimed to replicate the arrangements and sound of the instrument as it would originally have been, although there are a couple of exceptions to this. Ken Falconer retired in 2012 and Campbell Hargreaves has tuned and maintained the organ since then.

The organ restoration was supported by the National Trust, which established a tax-deductible account which remains open and enables tax deductible donations to support organ maintenance. All organ maintenance costs since the restoration have been met from donations, mostly from parishioners. St Michael's National Trust Organ Fund held \$1,394.32 as of 30 September 2019, following a successful tax deductible appeal prior to 30 June this year that raised \$800.00. Many thanks to those who contributed!

The organ remains in good condition throughout and Campbell Hargraves Pipe Organs continues to tune and maintain the instrument. Campbell undertakes around three visits per year. These cost around \$250 each, so we have funds for about 18 months' maintenance.

Pipe organs can be played successfully by pianists with playing skills at AMEB grade 5 and above. I am more than happy to provide an initial familiarisation session or two to any pianists interested in having a try on the organ. If you're interested, please get in touch. I have written a document providing an introduction to playing St Michael's organ including what the various knobs do that may be useful for anyone considering having a try. I can email or the church office should be able to do so also.

Synod took place at St Paul's Cathedral over 3 nights and 1 day from October 16-19. Steve Webster, Noelene Horton and Dianne Shay attended for the parish. Dianne has also been elected to be a General Synod representative at the special session of General Synod in June 2020.

Business of the Synod had 3 main themes:

- Ensuring our governance arrangements reflect current legal and community expectations.
- Meeting our fiscal responsibilities
- Engaging with social challenges and changes

Governance

Church legislation for elections, parish governance and professional standards were all updated to simplify and ensure coverage of changes in Victorian civil law. Working groups were established to review existing legislation concerning clergy and election of the archbishop.

Finance

The accounts and budget of the diocese are approved by Archbishop in Council as those with fiduciary accountability. They are presented to Synod so members can ask questions and understand impacts. The finance department has continued to improve the readability of diocesan financials. A positive change this year is shift in the budget priorities to support of missional needs within Melbourne and Geelong.

Social Engagement

The synod passed a range of motions to speak the voice of the church into commentary and commitments on Changing Work, Sustainable Development Goals, increase for the Newstart Allowance level, next phase of the diocesan Reconciliation Action Plan, protection of the Environment, employment support for skilled and professional immigrants and asylum seekers

Marriage

The Church's response to changes in Federal Government legislation to allow same-sex marriage nationally is a matter the Primate (Ab Philip Freier) has referred to general synod deliberations. Please refer to this months TMA for more information about the discussions and decisions and don't hesitate to chat to the vicar if you wish to know more information.

The nominations for election to offices at our annual meeting are as follows:

Parish Council (9 vacancies, Vicar can appoint up to 3 more):

- Gillian Baker
- Matthew Duncan
- Emilie Franklin
- Mary Ann Lyttle
- Peter Summers
- Jack Verdins
- Katja Wagner

Churchwardens (2 vacancies, vicar can appoint 1 more):

- Anne West
- John Sewell

Incumbency Committee (2 vacancies for parochial nominators, plus one churchwarden):

- Dianne Shay
- Chris Ward