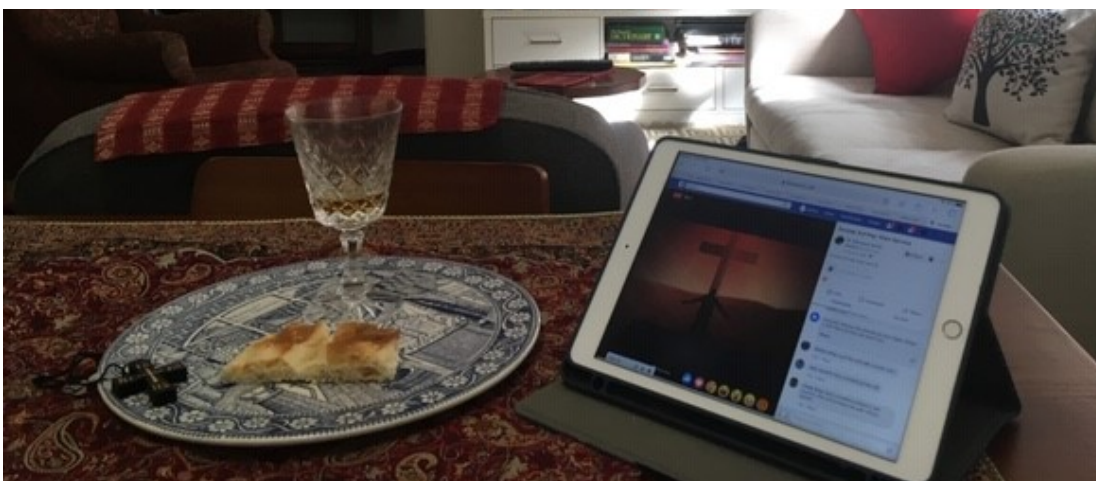




# ANNUAL REPORT

ST MICHAEL'S NORTH CARLTON | 2020

*PROCLAIMING CHRIST, BUILDING COMMUNITY,  
SHARING HOPE, SERVING OTHERS*



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# VICAR'S REPORT

STEVE WEBSTER

In our 135 years of active ministry St Michael's has now witnessed [six pandemics; yes, six!](#) This puts 2020 into some perspective, but there's no doubt that the current global pandemic (COVID-19) has had the greatest impact directly on the current congregation.



In this, my 14th year as your Vicar, I continue to be energised and hopeful about what God is doing and will do among us and through us. Although this has been a year of unprecedented challenge and change during my tenure I've been encouraged greatly in faith by our Lord as I've seen people grow in faith and service under pressure.

Having put a new vision/action plan into place for 2018 – 2021, and having developed our staff team and strategies accordingly, a lot had to be set aside. Like many communities, agility and patience were our best friends (granted in great measure by the Holy Spirit). Opportunities to build on the raft of relationships formed over the past 5 years were suddenly taken from us. Our well-attested strengths (e.g. generosity, welcome, and hospitality in-person) were sorely restricted. On top of this, the potential financial losses put at risk our commitment to an increased staff. Change was the new normal – weekly!



*A glimpse of what live-streaming looks like!*

In urgent fashion, our staff and key volunteers "pivoted" (as they say) towards an online presence that involved a steep learning curve for all concerned. The elements needed for online effectiveness were already in place (e.g. a good website, a YouTube channel and Facebook page, online financial giving, up-to-date database of members' details, and more). In addition, the latent gifts, knowledge, skills and talents in our staff and church members were activated for effective online engagement and virtual community. We chose to conduct live-streaming of Sunday worship at the traditional times rather than pre-record for on-demand viewing. Our meetings, groups and events quickly adapted to using online formats (as did our members) to make the best of a challenging situation.

A new ministry team was formed to help conduct live-streaming of worship services, and this will become a regular feature of church life even when we return to in-person services. I'm very thankful in particular for the skills and efforts of Catherine W and Emma S helped us to develop our online engagement to great effect. Catherine accepted some radical changes to her position description on staff to put a portion of her time into helping the church to engage with people in the wider community via social media. We quickly re-orientated our messaging and media to be more accessible and inviting to new people inquiring about faith and community online. She and Emma radically overhauled how we communicate with our church members too.



*Staff meetings moved online in April*

Our parish council has worked hard this year, meeting more often than previous years to address the ever-changing circumstances. Anne W (warden) has chaired our meetings deftly. John S (warden) has chaired the maintenance group to oversee our property, admin and infrastructure needs, as well as overseeing a \$60K restoration project. Special thanks also to Peter S who has navigated complicated spreadsheets as treasurer given the complexities and mysteries of JobKeeper, a Smith Trust grant, a state government grant, and analysing trends in our income for future planning. I've enjoyed working with our parish council in 2020 and therefore also want to thank Gillian B, Jack V, Matt D, Katja W, Mary Ann L, Barbara W, and Emilie F.

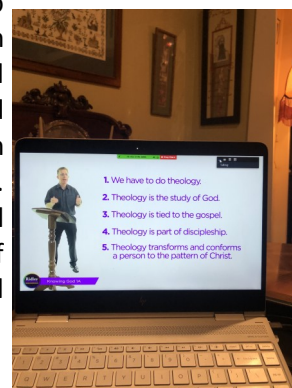
As you can imagine, our whole staff team faced enormous challenges to their respective ministries as well as coping with the similar uncertainties each of us had imposed upon us by the pandemic. This year's team was - Kim M (Assistant Minister – part time, an Authorised Stipendiary Lay Minister), Rev'd Chris A (preaching/teaching),



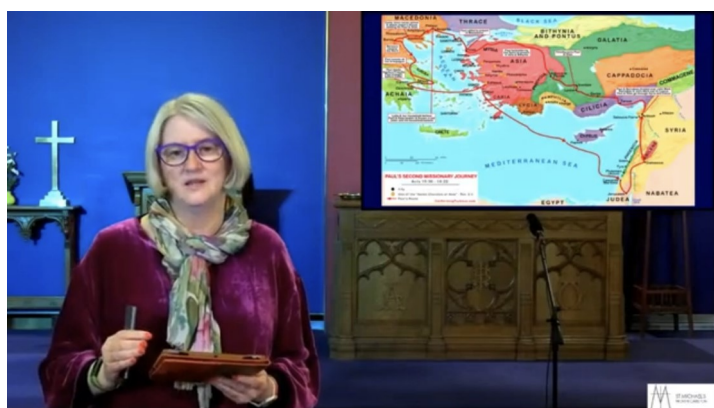
Hilary T (welcoming), Rev'd Greg D (pastoral visiting), Roslyn L (missions support, an Authorised Lay Minister), Catherine W (Children's Ministry Assistant/Marketing – part time) and Emma S (Office Assistant – part time). Chris A was seconded by the Archbishop in August to act as Locum Tenens at St Hilary's Kew during their search for a new Vicar. It appears he will be in that role for some time yet! The staff meets twice per month and interacts regularly through the week to encourage the growth and health of our many ministries and people. I'm grateful again for their collegiality and community spirit. They have maintained a high level of faith, encouragement, and hope in challenging times.

Our small groups for bible study, prayer, fellowship, and support were also fundamentally affected by the global pandemic. Around 55 church members met regularly in homes in the previous year, but in 2020 had to stop doing so. Other types of groups meeting around the church community had to stop meeting in-person too, including book groups, Mahjong groups, and dinner groups. Some were able to pivot to an online format via zoom or other platforms. I commend our group leaders and hosts for their agility, their patience, prayers, and commitment to caring for our people in these strange days, including: Bob & Audrey L, Mary Ann L, Roslyn L, Franco & Marilyn D, Dianne D & Su-Hsien K, and Grant M.

This year the Ridley Certificate Course continued, meeting online via Zoom, and covering two course units – *Knowing God*, with lecturer Mike Bird, and *1 Corinthians*, with lecturer Brian Rosner. With 12 participants in the first course and 10 in the second we have all experienced wonderful exposition of the Scriptures and very practical advancement of faith and discipleship as a result. The sessions involve 2 x 20-minute lectures followed by discussion facilitated by me and there are follow through notes for each participant through the week. We've now completed 3 units (the first we held was on The Book of Psalms, with lecturer Jill Firth). We hope to offer more units next year and to include more members in the process of going deeper in biblical learning to further deepen our confidence in the God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Through it all, 2020 has demanded of us new levels of dependence on God. We have continued to “meet” and to be edified in faith. Many of us have prayed more fervently than before. We have learned new skills. We have given generously. We have developed new ways of serving. Many of the new opportunities have led to new fundamentals in doing and being church, borne out of hardship and challenge; something that should not surprise Christians! Wanting to see the back of 2020? I suggest we take pause to give thanks for the blessings received even amidst many anxieties, in the face of some losses and unwanted hardships. We give thanks to God who is our comfort and our hope.



## ASSISTANT MINISTER

KIM M

It's hard to believe there was a time before COVID when we met up and ran programs, but after the last AGM there were several full months preceding lockdown.

I began my first year as AFLW chaplain for Carlton in November 2019 (see my Chaplaincy report) and we ran a full Christmas program including the Children's Fiesta for Playgroup and community families before the year end.

We held two Child Safe seminars for our church members in February. My background in helping churches implement the Victorian Child Safe Standards assisted in consolidating the information and guidelines for our setting across our church activities and for the wider use of our site.

In February and March life was still open and I joined in on Playgroup with our team of committed volunteers. Catherine Merry and Catherine Ward did an outstanding job of organising and keeping enthusiasm high and this continued throughout the year.

On surrounding days I was also able to be onsite for our hall hire groups of ballet and Mini Maestros. Consistency allowed me to build relationships with many staff and families and this was aided by our physical site that is welcoming and safe for people to come and be.

At the beginning of the year we started the Ridley Certificate course with Psalms, before continuing online with Knowing God and 1 Corinthians. I've really enjoyed being able to progress through these subjects with their diverse topics, good discussions and a great group of people to journey with. Thank you!

When lockdown began and all onsite activities ceased, questions about what it means to be church and how to stay connected became crucial.

Due to restrictions I led many evening services and witnessed Steve lead a fabulous tech team delivering the weekly services online. I personally enjoyed seeing the many faces of people who willingly recorded segments for these services. It was a great way to stay in touch.

Opportunities for continuing and delivering pastoral care came through a variety of social media and online platforms and allowed us to keep in touch and post relevant information in a year that has felt disconnected. Zoom morning and afternoon teas on Sundays, playgroup, and events such as Christmas in July. WhatsApp groups were created for Playgroup volunteers and families, 5.30pm church and Carlton fans and these have been successful in staying connected and sharing messages of peace and support ...although not always peace for Carlton fans!



The B.E.L.L.S. acrostic is a model we at St Michael's have studied and followed as we sought to connect with our community. This was updated to provide ideas for continuing to connect and deepen relationships in a safe and meaningful way.

On top of shutting down in March with the rest of the world, Melbourne spent 112 days under some of the harshest lockdown restrictions in the world. This took its toll on all of us in many ways. More than ever this year has highlighted the need for each of us to intentionally care for our physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing. The Wellness and Spirituality hub is of particular interest and passion for me as a place to highlight the breadth and depth of who we are. In the coming year we hope to increase opportunities to connect and take our relationships deeper with God, each other and our communities.

Rather than in spite of, but because of restrictions, there have been many opportunities to attend conferences, webinars, wellbeing and prayer sessions not only around Melbourne and Australia, but internationally too. The Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow ran Contemplative Prayer sessions on zoom and it gave me a great opportunity to take part and observe how people ran virtual sessions and also experience participating. As Melbourne went into a hard stage 4 lockdown on August 5th we began





Contemplative Prayer every Wednesday night. These nights have been well attended and is one of the only events where we have a cross section of people from both our 10am and 5.30 services, and included some friends and family. We've continued with these nights and will end the year following the themes of advent. I'd like to thank Di A who has led several sessions as well as our tech assistant and Vicar, Steve who made it all possible. We'll take a break in the New Year and start back for Lent.

The garden at St Michael's is a space that ebbs and flows through the seasons, with autumn, winter and spring happening this year in our absence. We've tried to keep you up to date by using images in our Sunday services. It's an incredible asset appreciated by everyone and families from playgroup and hire groups would comment frequently on the opportunities to mix and watch their children play safely. This social aspect our garden offers has been missed and we look forward to offering this again in the new year as COVID safe plans allow.

The biblical garden is a particular space with many trees, plants, flowers and herbs on display with accompanying descriptive plaques. To broaden the experience of this section of garden, we're looking to collate related photos, verses and reflections adding them to our Wellness and Spirituality hub for people to use either from home or onsite.

On October 4th our two services had the theme of the prevention of violence against women (PVAW). This was facilitated with the resources offered by the PVAW Program of the Melbourne Anglican diocese providing a sermon, prayers and readings. Many of the participants from St Michael's on the day have current and prior experience of working in this area in a variety of community settings. This month I completed a course on the PVAW through the diocese and together as a church we will look to strengthen our presence as a safe place in the community.

Hany and I continue to appreciate the care and support of our St Michael's family. We look with anticipation towards another year of sharing life and building community...and maybe even in person!

*The church in autumn—one of the seasons we've missed seeing this year*



*Contemplative Prayer held each Wednesday on Zoom*

# CHURCH WARDENS

ANNE W & JOHN S

The role of Church Warden is aptly summarised as being responsible for the oversight and maintenance of Buildings/Property, Finances, and Good Order, and over the past 12 months, these roles have been undertaken by John S and Anne W. However, much thanks and appreciation must also be extended to the St Michael's Maintenance Action Committee (SMMAC) team - David W, Katja W, Chris R and John S for their consistently high standards and attention to detail, in their support of keeping our 135 year old building in terrific shape. We could not have achieved so much without their assistance.

The unexpected arrival of COVID19 has made for some interesting challenges, but has also provided opportunities to re-consider how and why things are done, ensuring we continue to promote the work of St Michael's in an active way. A summary of work undertaken / completed are listed below.

## Maintaining Buildings / Property

- As a result of keying protocols being withdrawn by the supplier, all locks and keying had to be replaced. This was undertaken in December 2019
- Following some storm damage in November 2018 (where roof tiles were dislodged and capping on the western side of the church roof were loosened), repairs were undertaken in February. An insurance claim was successful and we were only required to pay the excess of \$500
- The cracks in the main church on the north east corner appear to have closed - the plumbing works to the office area downpipes may have reduced the amount of stormwater going into the foundations thereby reducing the movement of the foundations.
- Playground equipment upgraded in the January (2020) school holidays
- A renovation of the Vicarage Laundry was completed in January 2020
- The vicarage south fence was replaced and painted. Water leaks found in the Vicarage Ceilings were also resolved.
- Water tank installed & lawn rejuvenated with a patch of Buffalo grass installed (March 2020).
- Screening plants have been obtained (to reduce visual impact of the tank from McIlwraith Street), and the Buffalo grass is growing nicely.
- Restoration and maintenance work completed (with thanks for support from the Smith Trust) on William's Hall Bell Tower (to remedy ongoing leaking of stormwater onto the hall) and some general cracking around the church (loose external rendering removed) particularly on the northern wall of the Church office. (Aug-Oct 2020)
- Garden Maintenance continued, in compliance with Stage 4 COVID19 restrictions.
- Proposals have been requested from five Solar panel providers for the provision of solar energy to the Vicarage and the Church - final submissions due in November 2020. We hop the works will be commenced in February/ March 2021.

## Oversight of Finances

- Internal Controls manual has been completed and distributed to all PC (Nov 2019). Processes were reviewed in light of staff unable to attend site (stage 4 restrictions) – needing to ensure transparency and oversight of expenditure is maintained.
- Handling of Playgroup money – implemented a ‘tap-n-go’ card system which commenced Feb 2020 – no longer required to handle cash at play group.
- Online banking for ADF savings account now established (April/May).
- Supported move of \$30,000 to the ADF account to earn some interest for a short term – during a period of uncertainty (June 2020).
- Cash flow and reserves have generally held up well. This is due to Parish receiving Job Keeper support, and receiving a significant one-off cash donation (\$30,000).
- Three separate grant applications have been submitted to the Victorian Government. First application was successful (\$10,000). The outcome of the remaining two are pending.

## Maintaining Good Order

- Working through Child Safety standards. Child Safe Compliance in continuing





to be monitored– much is currently on hold due to COVID-19. Have adopted a protocol for Online Child Safety (in line with Diocese requirements)

- No major issues were identified in the Diocesan property audit. All recommendations have been completed, except for complying Emergency Evacuation procedures for evacuation. (This will be prioritised, once restrictions are lifted.) A number of items requiring an annual inspection were identified, and have been put into an annual maintenance plan (July 2019)
- Emergency exit signage has been updated throughout site. (All external doors now listed as emergency exits except door from William's Hall opening onto MacPherson street) (March 2020)
- Diocesan Risk Management Form to be adopted for recording and managing incidents –process to be established prior to contractors commencing work.
- Transitioned to Online Services (March/April 2020) due to COVID 19
- Updated copyright licences to include copyright for online streaming.
- Ongoing COVID-safe planning. Ensuring compliance with restrictions as requested by both State Government and Dioceses. Planning for returning to onsite worship, in line with gradual easing of restrictions and implications for Christmas services. Ensuring worship remains flexible and agile (July-Oct)
- Hall Hire remains on hold in compliance with COVID19 restrictions.
- Regular discussion with existing cleaners regarding new cleaning requirements due to COVID19. Currently attending 3hrs weekly, current cleaning schedule would need to increase significantly once building become open to public.
- AGM Meeting to occur via Zoom in keeping with COVID19 restrictions and Diocesan recommendations. All eligible members will be given the opportunity to “opt in” to AGM and then be sent a Zoom link. Include strategies to include members in AGM who may not have access to internet/Zoom.

We recognize that during these challenging times, it is important for St Michael's to remain relevant and available to the local community, as well as have the technical ability and savviness, to reach into the online world to share the good news. St Michael's has rapidly embraced this journey. The last 12 months, was not what we may have expected, but has opened new opportunities to share God's love for all – both in person and virtually!

Blessing to all.



## PARISH COUNCIL

ANNE W

St Michael's Parish Council meets with Vicar monthly (on the second Tuesday), to govern matters of evangelism, discipleship, and pastoral care in the parish. Parish council representatives are: Gillian B, Matthew D, Emilie F, Mary Ann L, John S (Warden), Peter S (Treasurer), Jack V, Katja W, Barb W, Steve W (Vicar), and Anne W (Warden). The Parish Council team has worked collaboratively over the past 12 months, to support a tremendous amount of work which has happened over the life of St Michael's this year.

One of the first issues we began to grapple with (pre-COVID), was the cultural and organizational changes that are required to comply with Victoria's compulsory Child Safe Standards. Parish Council acknowledged the importance of the Child Safe Standards in preventing child abuse, and were in agreement that complying with the standard to ensure children are kept physically, emotionally and culturally safe is important for St Michael's. The February meeting was set aside for Parish Council and other St Michael's Members to attend Child Safety Training, and we would like to formally thank and acknowledge Kim for her leadership and expertise in this area. With the rapid change to online church, some of this work was re-prioritised as staff looked at safety for children from an "online" perspective, but the bulk of work to fully implement these standards will need to be picked up again, as we gradually resume in-person and onsite meetings.



*Online Parish Council meetings*

By April, we were adapting to meeting via Zoom, due to COVID19. Thanks to Steve's agile leadership, there was early identification of equipment upgrades required to support live-streamed services. A subsequent decision at Parish Council, was to aim for live streaming to continue being part of St Michael's, even when on-site worship returns. Following a successful Victorian Government grant, we were able to approve the purchase of this equipment as a step towards this reality. The pandemic has also required us consider Vision Action planning through the lens of small, agile projections with frequent and rapid reviews, enabling St Michael's to remain responsive during periods of rapid change. We have also had to undertake COVID-Safe planning (in preparation for reopening), and have appointed John S as our COVID Safety officer.

Similarly, during the period of restricted personnel on site – Parish Council approved repairs to the bell tower (to remedy ongoing leaking of stormwater onto the hall) and urgent repairs to the northern wall of the office to attend to loose, cracking render. This work proceeded with significant financial contribution from the Smith Trust fund. John S, David W and the SMMAC must be thanked for their tireless work in overseeing this project.

The Parish Council was pleased to support the work of St Michael's Action groups throughout the year. Specifically, on request from the Reconciliation Action Group, we considered and approved a donation of \$250 to Indigenous Hospitality House (IHH) and the proposal to engage with the Common Grace Partnership Program, enabling us to commence dialogue with a group that has strong connections to Indigenous people, and addressing our need to make a costly commitment to Reconciliation. Similarly, on request from the Climate Action Group, we have approved their request for St Michael's to participate in the 'Sounding the Alarm Action' as part of a call to action from the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC). We have also begun the process of investigating installation of Solar panels for the church and Vicarage. Independent of the CAG, Parish Council also approved the installation of a water tank to harvest water for the maintenance of St Michael's gardens. This was made possible by a generous donation – for which we are grateful.

In summary thanks and appreciation are extended to all members of Parish Council, for the constructive debates, and prayerful pondering of all the decisions that were before us this year. In particular, Mary Ann L, Matthew D, Gillian B, and Katja W must be thanked, for their part in sharing the role of minute taker.

# SMITH TRUST REPORT

STEVE W

St Michael's North Carlton was founded as a parish church in 1885 and continues to play an important role in the local community and in the inner-North of Melbourne. Worship services are held at 10am and 5.30pm each Sunday. The congregation is made up of approximately 150 members today. The church site has a prominent position in the Princes Hill precinct and the grounds and halls were, prior to the impact of the global pandemic this year, in high demand by groups and households in the inner-North of Melbourne. The church halls were utilized regularly by locals during the week, including children's ballet classes, playgroups, music groups for kids, community choir, and more. A significant part of the church's connections to the wider community came through staff and volunteers set apart for intentional contact and care for such visitors to our site.

The buildings on the church site have heritage listing. Features cannot be amended or altered. There are two areas for which the grant was sought for restoration works:

1. The Bell Tower atop the large church hall, described as "the bell cote" and,
2. Rendering and other works on the wall of the north external elevation of the Church Office.

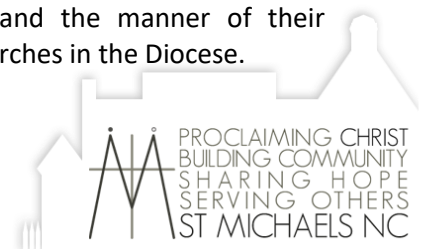
## Issues

1. The bell cote sits atop the large hall on our site (the "Williams Hall") which faces south to Macpherson Street. This hall is always in high demand for community use. Deterioration in the cowling that covers the church bell (the 'bell cote') resulted in rainwater intrusion into the hall during moderate to heavy rainfall and storms. This presented both an OH&S problem for people using the facilities and damage to the wooden floorboards in the centre of the hall from the dripping water from the high ceiling. Due to heritage controls the bell cote could not be replaced with another structure, nor could it be removed. Several attempts were made over a period of two years by tradespeople to rectify the rainwater intrusion by entering the ceiling space and applying waterproofing agents to the inside of the bellcote. Corrosion of the bellcote louvres did not allow them to be closed. In addition, the gutter around the bellcote was not dispersing rainwater to the corrugated iron roofing and on to the stormwater gutters as it should. Various attempts to correct the problems in this fashion were unsuccessful. Several quotes were sought for restoration of the bell cote to waterproof the hall and to replicate the original structure and appearance.
2. The church office faces north to the unnamed lane that joins McIlwraith Street and Keeley Lane in Princes Hill. Restoration work was required to the external rendering where the brick wall meets the gabled corrugated iron roof. Moisture had deteriorated the rendering and was causing parts of the external rendering to crack and fall from the building to the lane below. This presented both an OH&S risk (to pedestrians and cars alike), and the risk of water intrusion into the church office. Several quotes were sought for restoring the rendering to its original presentation and to ensure waterproofing of same. When plaster was removed, the structural elements were found to be inadequate and new lintels are required. A waterproof membrane also had to be installed to sides and top of a new capping and cracks were cleaned caulked and painted to restore the appearance to its original state.

## Project Summary and Outcome

Restoration of the bell cote required access externally via large crane and internally via scaffolding to reach the manhole to the ceiling cavity near the stage area. Bell cote work was effectively completed with some variations to work and cost by 28 October 2020. The works on the Office wall were delayed by requirements of a permit from the electrical authority and the Yarra City Council to use scaffolding and a crane near the adjacent overhead electrical wiring. All works were completed and the site cleared of equipment and refuse by 4 November 2020.

As a result of the work undertaken, both the bell cote and the office wall have been fully waterproofed and have been restored to former pristine condition. In addition, access to the bell cote via the ceiling of the large hall has been made simpler and safer than before. We were certainly pleased with the Contractor, IVY Constructions. Their commitment to the project and their experience in restoration projects and the manner of their engagement with us was outstanding. We would highly recommend them to other churches in the Diocese.





### Project Budget

Financial report for restoration of Bell Cote and External Restoration of Office wall.

The preferred contractor, Ivy Construction, tendered an original cost of \$54,880.00 plus GST. Atelier W , the company managing the project on the church's behalf in an honorary capacity, recommended a contingency allowance of \$5000, including GST.

Contract price adjustments during the project included:

Internal Scaffolding and removal of ducts in ceiling	\$2,464.00
Citi Power Fee	\$ 795.33
Safety Spotter for laneway works	\$2,378.20
Credit for specified stainless steel sheets	-\$2,156.00
Hardwood supports in ceiling & caulking	\$ 671.00
Total Sum Adjustments	\$ 4,152.53

Adjusted cost of restoration works	\$59,032.53
GST	\$ 5,903.25
Payment due IVY Construction	\$64,935.78

When the invoice for the works is received the parish will pay in full and then apply to the Smith Trust for the approved grant of 75% of costs.

### Things we have learnt

The original motivation for undertaking these restoration projects arose during the busiest period of use for our church hall and the church office in quite some years. So many young families were attending events and classes in the halls and many opportunities were at hand for making connections to the gospel and to church community. It's somewhat sobering to note that this project for restoration took place when none of these families were permitted to enter the church site due to a global pandemic, something we could never have predicted. The project has taught us once again the privilege of being custodians of the church property and buildings and keeping its fabric and function in good order for the next generation to benefit from.

### Timeline

The project commenced 10 October 2020.

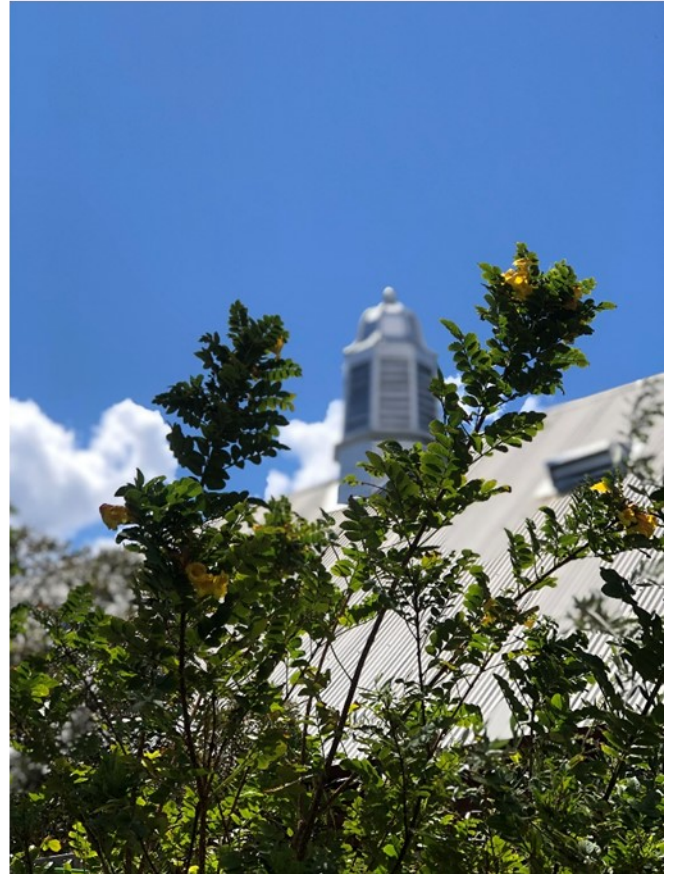
The project concluded 4 November 2020.

### Acknowledgments/concluding remarks

We wish to thank and acknowledge:

- The JM Smith Trust committee for granting funds to assist in financing the project
- Archdeacon Vanessa Bennett for supporting our application for the grant and the project
- Mr. David W, and the staff of Atelier W Architects, who gave their time to manage the project.
- Mr. John S, churchwarden, for his administration, direction, and governance throughout.
- Others who have taken part along the way in advising, investigating, repairing, mopping, sending emails, meeting contractors on site, and more, including the abovementioned and Mr. Chris R from the parish's maintenance team.









## WORSHIP SERVICES

STEVE W

2019 finished on a high, with great Christmas carols to larger gatherings than the previous year, prepared and conducted by Christine Hutchinson and enhanced wonderfully by the Vox Populi choir.

2020 brought a whole new challenge to corporate worship services as rumours of a global pandemic turned quickly to the reality of not being able to meet in-person on the church site at all (March 22 to the present day). Like other churches we had to “pivot” – agility is a virtue for our time. Although we faced a steep learning curve to shift all our worship services to be conducted online, we were well prepared by way of already having a virtual presence on Facebook and YouTube, the two main platforms that offered easy, free of cost, live-streaming, recording and storage of video content.

Two other key advantages for St Michael’s came in the form of people on staff – Emma S, our office assistant, had upskilled herself during 2019 in website editing and design and social media engagement, and Catherine W, our children’s ministry assistant, was already savvy in production values, social media engagement and marketing.

We committed ourselves to online worship services that majored on the “live” component to encourage our members to continue meeting together at the usual Sunday gathering times. While some churches opted for a more “on-demand” style via video channels, we thought it important to create a sense of real-time “gathering” of the people of God as much as possible. Even our services of Holy Communion, held only on the first Sunday of the month in 2020, offered opportunities to join in at home using written materials to assist in appropriating the promises of the holy meal. Songs presented via video included lyrics on screen as well as via documents for download as an order of service. The great benefit of having a YouTube Channel meant that services and the elements therein were available after the fact in “on-demand” form for those who might have missed church.

Early live-stream efforts were broadcast via a second-hand Sony HD video camera to YouTube via some free Software on the church laptop. At the same time, the service was also broadcast on our Facebook page via the Vicar’s mobile phone! There were some technical hitches along the way with many an interruption to the broadcast. Yet, the willingness and quick upskilling of our church members to be able to continue their rostered ministries via home video recordings was surprising and encouraging.

In the early period of live-streaming, we were able to present music “live” in the church with bands performing in the usual place in the church space, sans congregation. But restrictions on gatherings soon put a stop to singing indoors. Plans for a video concert were even scuttled as it was no longer safe to record music in ensembles made up of people from different households.

This required a whole new approach to church music for worship. Everything was to be via video. Some musicians revelled in the opportunity and used their professional skills with great aplomb, others kept it simple to great effect. The combined efforts of our musicians and singers to create a library of worship music under such pressure has been amazing and encouraging. We’ve been blessed with some wonderful ways to worship God in song afresh.

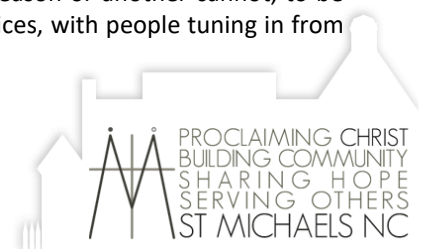
Kim Messieh, our Assistant Minister, had to step up to become a regular worship service leader as we were required to limit the range of volunteers during the Stage 4 lockdown. She has done a great job alongside such regular leaders as Dianne S, Cindy S, Di A, and Alex P.

Two extraordinary highlights for church in the year were the services for Reconciliation Week and for NAIDOC Week respectively. Our Reconciliation Action group prepared and delivered a wide range of contributions from people in our congregations and from other contributors, such as members of the Common Grace team and more recently for NAIDOC Week, Tony and Francine Riches from Melbourne Indigenous Fellowship Church. Janette A, Shar Y, and Hannah Y did a great job leading the worship on those two days of the year.

Many thanks to the wide range of contributors via video, and sometimes in-person, for Bible readings, intercessory prayers, and more through the year. What a variety of background scenes we’ve witnessed (some virtual, some real!).

The overwhelming consensus has been that when in-person worship services can again take place, we should continue live-streaming. This will assist those who choose not to gather in public and those who for one reason or another cannot, to be part of our worship services. In addition, we’ve seen a wider “audience” for our worship services, with people tuning in from other parts of Australia and the world.

On average during the pandemic we’ve seen around 50 screens tuned in to 10am worship on Sundays and around 20 screens for 5.30pm services. Come Monday night and the extra



“on-demand” viewing of the services lifts those numbers to an average of 80 and 40 respectively. In addition, we have measured our engagement partly by way of “subscribers” to our YouTube channel, seeing an increase from the low 20’s in March to around 90 to date. With push notifications in place, this helps the church to alert subscribers to new content posted each week.

10am services have continued to include more elements of the liturgy prescribed by A Prayer Book for Australia, as was our practice pre-COVID, and 5.30pm services have a few less elements to keep them shorter and sharper and a little less formal. Each service has had the same sermon (preached live in most cases) and readings through the year, and the sermon for the evening service has been adapted slightly to that different culture of congregation. In the New Year it is hoped we can develop effective ways to introduce interaction and “discussion” online as part of the learning and responding we have deemed important for our style and culture as a church.

In all this, we have been only able to have up to 5 people present at services on Sundays during the hard lockdown. The tech team has included: Catherine W, Peter S, Sam E, Kyria W, John Y, Dianne S, and Hany M. To each I give many thanks for their patience, agility of mind, and willingness to learn and serve. All who have attended the church site to conduct worship services has taken the COVID-safety rules very seriously, keeping themselves and others as safe as possible during the pandemic.

What’s next for worship? Advent and Christmas services will continue to be exclusively online, but we will be able to have up to 10 people on site, enabling us to “train” a good number of people in COVID-safe behaviour and practice for when we need to roster people to provide a safe environment for the eventual transition back to in-person gatherings. 2020 isn’t quite finished with us yet, but let’s count our blessings given the enormous suffering and dangers taking place in other nations right now. While there have indeed been hardships, we are grateful for what God has taught us about what’s important and what’s able to change.

The range of topics covered in our preaching series’ beginning with “Dr. Luke’s Advent Calendar” and ending with “God’s Road Map – Ephesians” was wide and varied. In chronological order the themes were:

- Dr. Luke’s Advent Calendar
- Values for the 21st Century
- The Book of Jonah
- The Trinity
- Esther – Times like these
- Viral – Acts chapters 11-18
- Ephesians—God’s Road Map

As you can see by the brevity of the list above, we spent more time in each series than in some years past to be sure to expound the text a little deeper and apply it with more practical relevance along the journey. Preachers, along with the vicar, included Chris A, Dianne S, Brooke Prentis, Robyn Boosey, and Bp Genieve Blackwell.



# CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

CATHERINE W

## Playgroup

In 2020 St Michael's continued to support the kids and families of both the church and the wider Carlton North community, adapting to the difficult circumstances of COVID-19.

The playgroup team of volunteers Hilary, Di, Margaret, Janette, and Sarah, coordinated by Catherine M and supported by Catherine W and Kim M in their staff roles, began the year with great numbers each Tuesday.

We continued to average 30-40 kids each week and welcome many new families. Post-March the team was very pro-active in brainstorming new ways to stay connected with playgroup families, creating a WhatsApp group to share updates, and beginning to meet in Princes Park, following new restrictions.

Parents greatly appreciated being able to stay in contact with the group and each other, and it was difficult when these gatherings could no longer continue. The team then decided to move to short Tuesday morning online zoom drop-ins which parents and kids enjoyed. One team member would read a story each week and kids were encouraged to share the craft or toys in their house.



*Craft packs by the playgroup volunteers*



During the second wave of COVID, the playgroup team began to feel that zoom fatigue was setting in, and so, whilst maintaining the Tuesday drop ins, launched a wonderful 'craft packets' delivery in which each family received a handmade kit to create a paper bag animal. Many families spoke of their children's joy at receiving their own package and displayed their creations on WhatsApp. Each team member also wrote cards to each family, including personal messages of support which were very well received.

Towards the end of the year, the playgroup team have been brainstorming ways to bring some Christmas joy to kids and families in the community while maintaining COVID safety, coming up with incredible creative ideas.

The Playgroup ministry has shown an amazing willingness to adapt and continue to share God's love with the community during a challenging year. Their heart of service and hard work will never be forgotten by the kids and families of Carlton and Princes' Hill.

## Kids' Church

Moving to an online kid's church format has proved a very dynamic challenge for St Michael's in 2020. The kids talk format broadcast on each Sunday service has been very popular with the kids of St Michael's, and many adults have loved them too! Catherine W, Dianne and Cindy S, and Janette A were all part of regularly recording talks, with guest appearances from several St M's families.

Catherine moved to creating short kids-church-at-home packs sent out on Sundays including a reading, video and craft option that were appreciated by families. A series focused on unpacking the parables of Jesus and utilised many great web resources for kids.

Overall, the kids and families team at St Michael's has done the church proud this year, giving much careful thought to how best to continue connecting and loving the families of Princes' Hill in difficult circumstances. They are beloved by all those they connect with!



## PLAY GROUP

CATHERINE M

Playgroup 2020 started off really well with an average of 34 children per week attending over 5 weeks in February and early March. It was lovely to see people return from 2019 and to welcome 8 new families to the group.

In March, needing to take COVID safe precautions, we decamped to the local park and continued to enjoy the socially distanced company of some of the children and their carers until the more severe lockdown in July.

We then migrated online and met on Zoom for a month or so. We also set up a WhatsApp group where members could exchange information, games, activity ideas and photos. It was difficult for small children and their carers to engage well on screen so we have continued the WhatsApp group only.

The volunteers along with Kim M and Catherine W have kept in contact with most of the playgroup people with regular phone calls and cards posted to their home address. We have also delivered craft bags for the kids to do and have had some lovely feedback.

We miss our families! There have been 6 babies born while we have been in lockdown and we are really looking forward to meeting them in person. Please pray for these families who have had to cope with small children, often while living in quite small apartments. We would love to see them again when playgroup resumes.

Our plans for Christmas continue while in conversation with the leadership. This has always been a great time to share Jesus' love in amongst the fun and celebration of the season and we hope to be able to do so again, albeit in a different format.

Thanks to Kim, Catherine, Hilary T , Di A , Margaret S , Janette A and Sarah A for your volunteering, creativity and kindness in such a difficult year.



## WELCOMING

HILARY T

Our usual welcome at the front door of the church, or during the service itself, has not been possible since March. However, we have kept in touch with several new folk, who attended early in the year, by phone or email, recognising how strange it must be to attend several services at a new church and then to be suddenly isolated from that.

Instead of our annual Guess Who's Coming to Lunch, in August we held a Guess Who's Coming to Afternoon Tea via Zoom. About 40 people attended, hosted by 5 generous households.

## HALL HIRE

EMMA S

It's funny to think about it now, but in January this year the staff team sat down to plan out the year (as we usually do). We were talking about all the various events, themes, and special services over the year, and it was great to be able to look forward and begin planning some great things!

Of course, however, things did not go according to plan. By March, we were discussing how to start working from home and what happens if one of us gets sick. I then contacted all our regular hall hire groups to sadly confirm what they already suspected: they were no longer able to hold their weekly classes in Williams and Nickson Halls. We had no notion then of just how many weeks and months the building would be out of action for! Almost 9 months later and we are still unable to give our hall-hirers a definite "reopening" date.

Unlike we initially thought, COVID19 will continue to impact hall hire well into the new year. Even with eased restrictions and Victoria opening up again, hall hire at St Michael's will not be "back to normal" for a few months yet. There is plenty of thinking and planning to be done, and many risk assessments to complete as well before we can consider reopening.

While it may be some time yet before things "go back to normal" for us, we look forward to the days when we can gather again in large groups and have the building buzzing with the sounds of parties and weddings.

## ASYLUM SEEKERS SUPPORT

HILARY T

We were able to support the ASRC with our monthly food and material aid collections until March. Since then, many of our members have contributed financially so that the ASRC could provide food packs and later, digital grocery vouchers, to the many asylum seekers unable to access the closed Footscray Centre. Financial donations have also been made towards the new ASRC Hub being built in Dandenong.

COVID19 could not stop our knitters and we donated over 80 beanies, scarves and gloves to the ASRC Material Aid.

Thank you to all who continue to contribute to the wellbeing of asylum seekers via the work of the ASRC.



# MISSION SUPPORT

ROSLYN L

## Finances

We work within a set budget, with an aim to increase percentage to 10% of our total budget. Parish finances are currently somewhat constrained by reduced giving during COVID19 restrictions. However, the St Michael's staff is increasingly committed to flexible, and mainly short-term, decision-making.

## Current Organisations

There have been no changes to those organisations we support for some time. These organisations are:

1. Church Missionary Society
2. Scripture Union Victoria
3. Bush Church Aid Society
4. Ridley College Melbourne
5. Asylum Seekers Resource Centre: this very practical social support service is valued by congregational members;
6. Barbara May Foundation: increased demand in services and restricted international travel have put considerable pressure on them.

## Current Climate

COVID19 restrictions and longer-term lock downs, have resulted in the closure of many services in Victoria, meaning there is reduced access to financial support, which puts a strain on all of these organisations. On top of this, there is ongoing political pressure on Scripture Union by those who do not support funding of Christian organisations, particularly chaplaincy. The congregation's prayers for our mission support is vital!

## My Role

As the Mission Secretary, I work together with others in the parish (particularly our Admin Assistant, Emma S ), to work keep the St Michael's website updated with current information ([Check out the website here](#)). This role can be demanding and time consuming because of the number of supported services, and the large number of incoming documents to collate.



## RECONCILIATION ACTION GROUP

SHARYN Y

At our Christmas meeting last year in the Terminus Hotel, Denise N stepped down from the role of chair and we farewelled Ali B who was heading off for New Guinea. We regrouped in February 2020.

Our membership for 2020 included Sharyn Y (Chair), Hannah Y, Denise N, Mary Ann L, Barry M, Jack V, and Janette A from the previous year, and we welcomed Peter S and Andrew A. Jack withdrew from the group early in the year however, and in July Katja and Jacqui W joined us making up 10 people, including representatives from both morning and evening congregations.

We commenced the year of monthly meetings around Barry's dining table on a Monday evening as per our pattern. By April the impact of lockdown had us all meeting on Zoom from our own homes. We continued meeting online each month even though we missed the hospitality. It has been great not to be driving around in the dark, and the Allens have remained involved from Gippsland. Our online meetings are more efficient.



NAIDOC week mural at the church —Thanks Matthew & John!

The garden project, which had been a focus of 2019, had been handed over to the parish council to schedule after other site works were completed, and we moved on with planning a lamentation service for Reconciliation Week in May 2020.

By the time the lamentation service came around the world had changed, and not only because of coronavirus. The profile of the "Black Lives Matter" campaign had been thrown into the world spotlight, and our Aboriginal people were campaigning about inequality before the law and a disproportionate rate of death in custody. This Reconciliation Week lamentation service was a highlight for the RAP group and the St Michael's Community.

The timeframe of the first St Michael's Reconciliation Action Plan spanned 2017 - 2020. We reviewed our progress and created a short audio-visual of where we had been and our hope for the future. This was presented in a

September service which was attended by Bishop Genieve Blackwell, and has given the work of reconciliation action at St Michael's a profile within the wider diocese.

Other achievements for the year were promoting visuals to accompany the acknowledgement of country in Sunday Services, supporting the Indigenous Hospitality House with a \$250 donation, adding relevant links to the resources section of the website, audio-visual book reviews, and a producing a very exciting service for NAIDOC week on the 8th November with the theme *Always Was, Always Will Be*.

By the time this report is tendered to the meeting everyone will be aware that St Michael's has accepted the recommendation of the RAP group to partner with Common Grace for 2020/2021. This joining with a national Christian organisation, currently being led by an Aboriginal woman, represents the maturing of our journey towards reconciliation: We are stepping out of our territory and making a more costly commitment to reconciliation.

Next year will be very exciting as the RAP group evolves as St Michael's steps into this new partnership with Common Grace.



## CLIMATE ACTION GROUP

CATHERINE W

2020 was the first year that St Michael's convened its Climate Action Group, co-ordinated by Catherine W. The CAG was formed in response to the growing need for the church to respond to the climate and environmental crisis and was inspired by our successful Reconciliation Action Group model.

Launched in March, the group was met with a great deal of interest and currently has seven members from across the church who keep in regular contact on WhatsApp and have met throughout the year on zoom.

The CAG established a clear theological and scientific purpose and framework for operating and decided to outline three goal-setting areas for action.

- **Individual and Parish level actions:** Informing and recommending actions that individual parish members and our church can take to better care for creation e.g lowering our carbon footprint, incorporating creation care into worship.
- **Education and Public Commitment actions:** Finding and sharing resources on climate change and creation care amongst the parish to generate ongoing discussion around the topic with the goal of moving towards a parish-wide public commitment on our views on climate action.
- **Political and Community level actions:** Partnering with relevant organisations such as ARRCC and Common Grace to recommend the involvement of the parish and its members in larger-scale advocacy on climate issues e.g encouraging members to attend peaceful protest, organising public events and visible messages of creation care support.

Since March the Climate Action Group has achieved a lot! Our very first action was to encourage parish members to attend the May 15 climate strike online and several parish members attended the highly successful multi-faith service prior to the action.

The CAG then worked on submitting a comment on the review of Australia's Environmental Protection, Biodiversity and Conservation laws on behalf of St Michael's, lending a faith-based voice to the protection of habitat. The CAG has also established a partnership with Australian Religious Response to Climate Change, with several members now active in various working groups and feeding back information to the church.

The CAG has worked throughout the year to fulfill its mission of acting as a conduit for resources and education on climate change for the parish, regularly disseminating articles on the environment throughout our social media. The group also coordinated a short highlights video in the aftermath of the Climate Pastoral Care conference run by Common Grace, with Catherine and Kim discussing key takeaways from the event.

The group has placed recommendations before Parish Council, including a commitment to place solar panels in next year's budget and a climate-focused service by the end of 2020. Additionally, the CAG intends to commit St Michael's to participation in the November 'Sounding the Alarm' action, where the church bell will be rung to signal the need for a green-focused economic recovery from COVID-19.

The Climate Action Group has had an extremely successful first year, with a real feeling that its existence has opened new conversations and a willingness to apply the gospel to environmental issues at St Michael's. In our partnership with ARRCC, several other parishes have asked for our operating framework and goals to be passed on, out of interest in forming their own CAG. As a result of the group, Catherine W has also been invited to join a policy discussion group advising the Environmental Sub Committee of the Melbourne Diocese, potentially leading to an even wider movement of climate action and awareness among Anglican churches in Melbourne. We look forward to our next year in the CAG!



## SPORTS CHAPLAINCY—CFC WOMEN'S TEAM

KIM M

In November 2019 AFLW was beginning its forth year and I started my first official season with the Carlton AFLW team. As a long-time Carlton supporter it was a privilege to be around the club and support from up close. I was very excited to get my Carlton AFLW kit and wear that each week! Even though it took awhile for them to understand the role of a Chaplain, I was accepted straight away.

Pre-season started in mid-November with training sessions on Monday and Wednesday nights, and Saturday mornings. There were 30 players and about 30-35 staff, including a few volunteers. From the sidelines training sessions were lively and intense. They trained outside in heavy rain and hot weather and when bushfire smoke engulfed the city, they moved indoors. They really did have fun and encourage each other to work hard. Attending all the training sessions allowed me the opportunity to get to know everyone as well as the rhythm of club life. The atmosphere was positive and supportive and everyone was welcome and included. It was a great environment to be around. Many nights I would assist the dieticians in preparing the protein drinks post sessions. I have a bit of a way to go before I'm assisting with drills like Rev (our Vicar)!

Matches started in February and as we all know abruptly ended on March 22 amidst the worldwide lockdown. That Sunday in March had seen the team win their semi final against Brisbane. The club was pretty hopeful of taking it to another grand final and were bitterly disappointed. I had been to every match except that one. Hany and I drove across to Adelaide in February and I flew up to Alice Springs for their win against Melbourne. The first with no crowd.

There is also a committed group of Carlton supporters from within St Michael's who came to many of the local games. Several weeks they were all able to join me in sitting with the families and players and get to know them too. Big shout out to Hany who faithfully came to everything, as well as Dianne S, Kyria W, Sam E, Steve A and Rev for coming along to local games.

Going to every training session, matches and other social events was intense. But it was one-in-all-in. Everyone in women's football works part time and needs to juggle work and families alongside. Being able to ride the whole wave with them helped cement my place in the team. Making protein balls each week helped too.

There was no VFLW winter season either this year and that made social media all the more important. The staff stayed in touch initially with virtual pub quizzes, drinks, and coffees. The Carlton AFLW best and fairest awards, hosted by none other than Andy Maher and Andy Lee, kept the energy up and we were able to review a great season. I've been able to keep up with players and staff throughout lockdown, posting their training sessions on Instagram, as well as loves lost and gained throughout the year.

Pre-season has again started for 2021. Restrictions are still in place for some staff and volunteers, so I haven't been along yet, but in the next few weeks that could change.

And yes, we're still hopeful of bringing it home next April!





## SPORTS CHAPLAINCY—CFC MEN'S TEAM

STEVE WEBSTER

It's been an unusual year, my 16th as chaplain for the Blues. After attending the first match of the season at the MCG (with no fans allowed in the ground due to COVID-19), the following week the football staff was cut from 45 to just 25 and I was no longer even allowed to enter the football club premises. The footy club leaders were great, communicating regularly and assuring staff and volunteers that they were still needed, but not able to participate until the pandemic had passed. That situation remains the same at the time of writing, leaving many uncertainties in place.

Therefore, apart from telephone and online contact in limited amounts, my chaplaincy this year has been largely put on hold. There is a possibility of re-joining the weekly involvement at the club in 2021, but many uncertainties remain.

SCA has also been undergoing many changes, with a new CEO based in WA and changes to staff and operations here in Victoria too. My involvement has been as a member of the Victorian Zone Council, supporting the Vic coordinator of chaplains in sport. That role has now concluded, a new Vic coordinator is currently being recruited and we look forward to new opportunities for ministry to the many people engaged in sport in our state and nation through SCA in the future.

## WALKING GROUP

RAY SHAW

The walking group continues to be active but has had a challenging 6 months with the ongoing restrictions preventing group walks. As the majority of the group are seniors, we were particularly conscious of the need to maintain social distancing very early on as the virus spread.

Prior to that we had continued to enjoy walks in a wide range of locations coupled with morning coffee and lively discussion, either picnic style or in a local café. We walked every Tuesday morning and were not deterred even by some pretty inclement weather.

Since the lockdown, the group has maintained contact using modern technology. We have learned to manage Zoom and, after a few teething troubles, now meet online every fortnight to catch up on activities and what is happening around the group. The members are still walking but just not as a group.

We are hopeful that as the virus comes more under control, we can resume our walks and enjoy the warmer weather. Our membership has remained reasonably constant despite the lockdown, but we are open to any new members who would like to partake of some moderate exercise and enjoy good company and good coffee.



## BOOK GROUP

HILARY T

After the first meeting of the year in a home, our monthly get-togethers have continued via Zoom. Perhaps because there have been fewer distractions and no interstate or overseas holidays possible, attendance has been almost 100%. Discussions of the chosen books have continued to be thoughtful, at times provocative, and always well considered. Support for each other continues to be encouraging and caring.

## CONTEMPLATION AND BIBLE GARDEN REPORT

GREG DAVIES

The Bible garden is in its 5th year and so completes the estimated set up period for the garden. However, this year has prevented us from much physical interaction due to the COVID restrictions. I personally have been unable to visit the garden but am grateful to those who have kept an eye on things, taking the occasional photograph and doing ongoing weeding. My inability to tend to the site meant that the planting of the annuals, particularly the herbs, has not taken place except for the natural re-seeding.

The signage was completed and installed at the beginning of this year with only the positioning of the general sign remaining to complete this phase.

An encouraging new venture put forward by Kim is to present the garden and its use online via the provisions of the new website. Drafting the text for this and developing the format to include ongoing images of the ever changing garden and suggestions as to how a person may find stillness and rest by reflecting on the various plants and their theological significance, will be completed over the next few months. This sits well with original aims of the garden to be a contact point with the local (and wider) community as well as having an educational and culinary experience. For the past 3 years we have had a wonderful crop of almonds which seem to vanish overnight, maybe possums? Or, maybe someone who loves making almond toffee crunch, blessings to both.

Other than general maintenance and completion of the content for the website the only two remaining tasks are, COVID-normal permitting, to move the red grape vine to the west end of the church so that the basalt seat is flanked by the fig, the creeping fig and the grape vine.

The garden will be, either in reality or virtual, a good environment to sit, be still, reflect and pray.

## SYNOD

DIANNE SHAY

Melbourne diocesan Synod 2020, normally run on the 3rd weekend in October, was not called (i.e. cancelled) due to Melbourne's lockdown conditions. It is unclear yet whether it will be possible to hold a Synod in 2021.



## NATIONAL TRUST: PIPE ORGAN

STEVE MANDERS

2020 has been a quiet one (literally) for St Michael's pipe organ, with the instrument unable to be played or accessed since imposition of COVID-19 restrictions. It is likely to require tuning and possibly some spot cleaning of dust and dirt that may have accumulated in critical locations (such as the insides of pipes) before sounding its best when restrictions are lifted. It is possible other problems may emerge when it can be next used, due to lying idle for some months.

Our 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. 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. Ken Falconer maintained and tuned the organ until his retirement in 2012 and Campbell Hargreaves has tuned and maintained the organ since then.

The organ restoration in 1997 was supported by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), 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. This account currently holds around \$1,199.97 which is roughly 12-15 months' routine tuning expenditure in normal circumstances.

While the organ is in very good mechanical condition, the accumulation of dust and dirt internally since the restoration has got to the point where thorough cleaning is desirable. It would be useful to install a covering that will catch dust and delay the need for the next cleaning, but not impede sound from the instrument. This is a task for an experienced organ builder maintainer. Virtually all the pipes (there are 749) need to be removed, but more importantly replaced, each in its correct position. It may be possible to obtain charitable trust support for this work, which is likely to cost in the order of \$10,000-\$15,000, nearly all for labour.

Pipe organs can be played successfully by pianists with playing skills at AMEB grade 4 and above. Once access is permitted again, I am more than happy to provide an initial familiarisation session or two to any pianists interested in having a try on the organ. The pedals are not essential, and in my opinion are not as hard to play as they might look! They are just scaled up keyboards with 'black' and 'white' notes suitably sized for feet. Have a closer look next time you're nearby! If you're interested in having a go, or just a closer look, please get in touch. I have also compiled a two page "How to play the organ" document which attempts to explain what all the knobs do, and which ones to use for whatever sound you're after.

