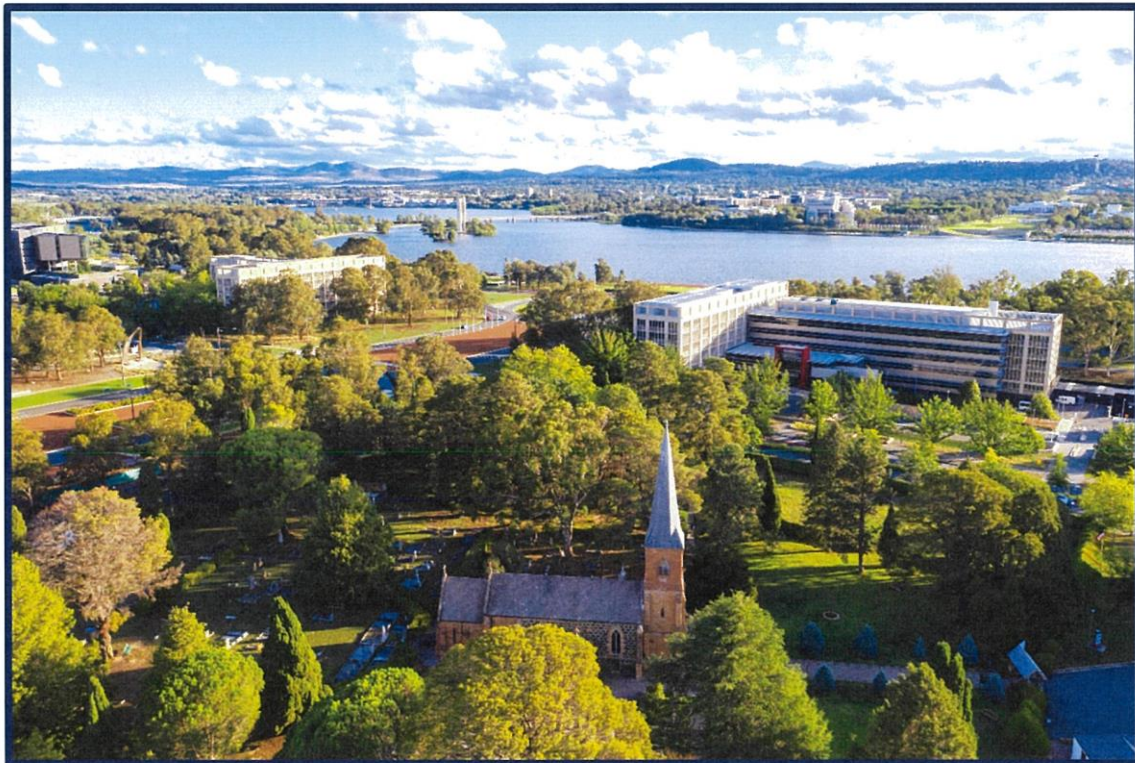




St John's Canberra



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 21 March 2021

3.00 pm

Our vision is to be a vibrant Christ-centred community that engages
and transforms the heart and soul of Canberra.

St John's Anglican Church, Canberra Annual Report

Presented to the
Annual General Meeting 21 March 2021

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTORAL MEETING

Saturday 21 March 2021 at 3.00 p.m. in the Hall

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer

2. Adoption of the Agenda

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 22 August 2020

Draft Motion:

***It is moved that** the meeting note that the Minutes of the AGM held on 22 August 2020 were approved by Parish Council on 16 September 2020*

4. Annual Reports for Noting

Authors are welcome to make brief comments on their report, which can be followed up with questions or comments.

5. Adoption of Financial statements for 2020 and of Budget for 2021

Draft Motions:

***It is moved that** The Finance Report, and the Financial Statements for 2020 be accepted.*

***It is moved that** the Budget for 2021 be noted.*

6. Appointment of Auditor

Draft Motion:

***It is moved that** PKF Canberra be appointed Parish Auditors for 2021.*

ELECTORAL MEETING

The Locum will take the chair for this meeting

Decision on the number of Parish Councillors to be elected for 2021

The Governance of the Diocese Ordinance provides for St John's to have 3 Wardens—2 elected and 1 nominated by the Locum.

The Governance of the Diocese Ordinance provides for the electoral meeting to determine whether 2, 4, 6, or 8 persons should be elected to the Parish Council—with the Locum then to nominate 1, 2, 3 or 4 persons respectively.

As in 2020, it is proposed that we elect 6 Parish Councillors.

If this is agreed, the Rector would nominate 3 Councillors, making 9 Councillors. Together with 3 Wardens and the Locum, this makes a total of 13 people.

Decision as to whether the Presiding Member of Parish Council should be elected by Parish Council or at this electoral meeting

We propose that we continue the practice at St John's of the Parish Council electing its own Presiding Member (i.e. chair), since it is considered that it is Parish Councillors themselves who are best placed to decide the most appropriate Chair.

Election:

Wardens (2 to be elected)

Parish Councillors—the number determined in Item 6 above

RESUMPTION OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 7. Other business** (preferably, with notice of any substantive motions or questions before the meeting)
- 8. Closing Prayer**—The Grace

St John's Anglican Church Canberra

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Sunday 22 August 2020 at 2.00pm, in the Hall

John Richards, Presiding Member of Parish Council opened the meeting at 2:00pm.

The meeting commenced with

a reading from Romans 12.1-13, by Canon Margaret Emil
and prayers led by Canon Paul Black, Rector

ATTENDANCE

There were 40 parishioners and clergy in attendance.

Apologies were received from John Lawson, Archdeacon David Hill, Barbara Hill, Joan Crook, Joan Armitage, Rob Crafter, Steve Moseley, Vicky Moseley, Rod Nichols, Tracy Noble, George Pooley, Len Goodman and Joyce Goodman.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda has been modified to delete the Electoral Meeting from the AGM given that separate arrangements have been made for electing officers and representatives. It was noted that voting can take place following this meeting, and after tomorrow's and Wednesday's worship services. Postal votes will be received until 4 September.

In order to make these separated arrangements work, Parish Council resolved earlier that the status quo apply in relation to the number of elected Parish Councillors (6) and that Parish Council elect the Presiding Member.

These variations were chosen to allow the maximum number of people vote under the COVID-19 restrictions. They have been agreed the Registrar of the Diocese following the authority of Bishop-in-Council given to him for that purpose.

MINUTES OF LAST AGM HELD 3 MARCH 2019

It was resolved that the minutes of the AGM of 3 March 2019 be approved as the record of that meeting.
[Moved Allan Overton, Seconded Amanda Reynolds]

Subject to the note immediately below the following resolution:

It was resolved that the Minutes of the AGM be approved on each occasion as the record of that meeting at the meeting of Parish Council which next follows the AGM, and that the approved minutes be placed on the Parish website. [Moved Tracy Sutherland, Seconded Vicky Cullen]

It was agreed that before Parish Council approves the minutes as provided for in this resolution, the draft minutes will be placed on the Parish website for parishioner comment. If the timing between the AGM and the next meeting of Parish Council is too short, then approval will be held over to the second Parish Council meeting following the AGM.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR NOTING

Questions were called for prior to the meeting, to be discussed at the meeting. No questions were received. The Presiding Member indicated that if there were any pressing questions outstanding, he would be happy to receive them after the meeting and seek responses.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Canon Black presented his report as written. There was no discussion.

ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2019 AND OF BUDGET FOR 2020.

The Treasurer briefly outlined the financial situation of the Parish and the great benefit received during the COVID period from the commitment of parishioners, the help from the Diocese and the effect of the Job Keeper payments. He also presented the 2020 budget, although noting that it has subsequently been adjusted by Parish Council to cope with the effects of the pandemic.

It was resolved that the Financial Report, and the Financial Statements, for 2019 be accepted.
[Moved Helen Wilson, Seconded Russell Tunks]

It was resolved that the Budget for 2020 be noted. [Moved Cecilia Waugh, Seconded Margaret Rodgers]

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

It was resolved that PKF Canberra be appointed as Parish Auditors for 2020 [Moved Helen Wilson, Seconded Grace Koch]

OTHER BUSINESS

Future Directions paper

The Presiding member gave a summary of the appointment process for the new Rector, following Canon Paul Black's retirement in July 2021, noting particularly the Parish consultation with the Archdeacon and the role of the Clergy Appointment Board.

The future directions document was prepared by Parish Council to ensure we are as well informed as possible before the Parish consultation with the Archdeacon and that, as a Parish, we have given due consideration to the type of Parish we are and wish to be in the future. It is also a guide for Parish Council in the interregnum period.

Christine Hawkins presented the document, noting it consists of four parts: an introduction; a set of Parish values; a Parish SWOT analysis; and a two-year transitional strategic plan covering the interregnum between Rectors.

During discussion, the importance of music at St John's was highlighted. The plan seems not to emphasise that as a strength, but rather draws attention to it as a weakness because of its reliance on volunteer organists. It was felt that the term "volunteer" could be seen to have a negative implication of the professionalism of the musicians, and that "honorary" might be a better descriptor.

Nevertheless, the point was made that we used to pay our organists and may need to consider doing so again in the future.

The Presiding Member encouraged parishioners to study the document and submit comments and suggestions to him over the next month or so to allow a final version to be developed by Parish Council. The final version can then act as a source of information for the Parish, Parish Council and those involved in the process of finding our next Rector.

Vote of Thanks to Canon Paul Black

The Presiding Member noted that this will be Paul's last Annual General meeting at St John's. Although he will still be Rector on the occasion of the next AGM he will be on long service leave and not in attendance at the meeting.

John said it was important to recognise and record in these minutes the tremendous contributions Paul had made in his 13 years with us and that he leaves the Parish greatly enhanced by his ministry. The meeting supported this statement of appreciation by acclamation.

CLOSING PRAYER

Canon Paul Black, Rector, closed the meeting with a blessing at 2:55pm

LOCUM

Covid restrictions stretched the whole parish in 2020. In many ways we grieved the loss of community but were surprised at what we gained along the way.

We are still missing many familiar faces who are not able to return to worship for health reasons. We miss not gathering for morning and afternoon teas. We miss being able to kneel at the communion rail and share the common cup of wine. We miss shaking hands at the door of the church. And *sunday@9.30* miss gathering in the church – the blessing of a large congregation is its loss when it comes to covid restricted numbers in a small stone building.

But who would have imagined that we would all become so tech savvy – meeting together for bible studies (and even kids@church) on zoom, catching up on church services on YouTube, reading our weekly newsletters on email, checking in on the CBR App? And those of you who came for Christmas – who could have imagined the beauty and wonder of gathering under the trees and hearing the lorikeets screeching their songs to God as we gathered for communion.

And we are all thankful that Canberra has been free of the virus.

Church services are reduced in 2021. I was honoured to be asked to be Locum in this period of transition with Canon Paul Black’s pending retirement. However, because I do not live on site it is difficult to maintain the previous number of Sunday services, allowing for time to travel to and from church. Some of our services have also become smaller as people are not yet able to return. So, in 2021 the monthly pattern of services will be:

1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
	7.00 am BCP		7.00 am BCP	
8.00 am APBA	8.00 am APBA	8.00 am APBA	8.00 am APBA	8.00 am APBA
9.30 am family	9.30 am family	9.30 am family	9.30 am family	9.30 am family
		11.15 choral mattins		11.15 am Friends mattins
5.00pm choral evensong				
stjohns@6	stjohns@6	stjohns@6	stjohns@6	stjohns@6

Wednesday services have been expanded to be a BCP Holy Communion service with sermon and music. This pattern of three modern services and two BCP services reflects the ratio of the congregation attending each service type.

Even though I have been associated with the parish for a number of years, I did not realise the complexity of the Rector’s job until this year. It happens so smoothly because there are a number of incredible people who work tirelessly in the background. I would like you all to understand the work they all do.

The parish was blessed the day Kimberley van Leeuwen applied for the Administrator's role, and I am thankful every day for her unwavering support, ability, and wisdom. Weddings would not happen if not for Vicky Moseley, nor baptisms without Pat Knight. Sermons would not be as interesting without regular conversations with Colin Lendon. Ian Dalziell created the newsletter each week until covid hit. Michael Shaw is always willing to adapt to situations as needed and has kept our kids & youth programs going through difficult circumstances, whilst also imagining new youth ventures that may be able to come to reality in 2021. Music, which is so important at this time when we can't sing, is organised by Sheila Thompson and her amazing crew of talented organists (and organ scholar) and our choir which grows from strength to strength. And Sunday services would not exist without the extraordinary amount of work that Margaret Rodgers undertakes. She also makes me sandwiches for lunch! Thank you all.

John Richards, Presiding Member of Parish Council, is a font of wisdom and good advice, thank you. Christine Hawkins and Russell Tunks, wardens, are also very supportive of me. Thank you to all who serve on Parish Council.

In the wider Parish, Glenda Richards gives an amazing amount as the Chair of St John's Care Committee. And thanks to all the members of the committee and all the volunteers. SJC is such a unique venture and makes me proud to be associated with this parish. Steve Moseley did a great job on Property, Maintenance and Projects for the years he was Chair of those committees, and I thank him for his professional skills and commitment. Helen Wilson's knowledge of the parish, and willingness undertake tasks of all shapes and sizes, is enormous, thank you. Thanks also to Barbara Hill who oversees the graveyard, Phil Creelman who lends a hand for duties as varied as changing lightbulbs to digging holes in the columbarium, and David Adams makes a ministry out of car-parking – developing relationships with the many people who park in our grounds and thus help fund the future of the church.

Diana Body and all who keep our historic Schoolhouse Museum operating do a wonderful job – it is good that it has been able to reopen recently. The Friends of St Johns donated the delightful set of green vestments (created by the talented Sylvia Cullen), and two replacement trees in the grounds, as well as contributed to Canon Paul's farewell morning tea in December.

There are an extraordinary number of people to thank – from those who bless us with their creativity with flowers, to those who dust and clean our beautiful church each week or keep the grounds so neat and tidy. And each of you who smile and comment at the door of the church, to let me know that God touched you during worship. That becomes a blessing to me as well. Please accept my apologies if I have not included you in this list – I am so very grateful who the whole community who make this place a church.

But I could not finish without giving thanks for the support of my fellow clergy, Canon Kevin Stone and Rev'd Vicky Cullen, who not only help with leading worship, preaching and bible studies, but also have a large ministry of pastoral care. I also remember Canon Geoffrey Sibley and the Venerable David Hill, who have been unable to help in recent times because of ill health. I am who I am today as a priest because of the mentoring and friendship of Canon Paul Black – for his wisdom and compassion I give thanks. It is truly a blessing to be in a team ministry, where we can share our strengths and weaknesses in serving our community.

Some of you have asked if I will be applying for the position of Rector later this year. I will not and did never intend to do so. The parish needs someone younger than me, with better knees and more

energy, to take it on its next journey. We will travel together as long as needs, then I will hand the baton to the next incumbent, with God's blessings.

Canon Margaret Emil

CHURCH WARDENS

Although the most recent Annual General Meeting of the Parish was held just last September, delayed from March because of the constraints caused by the COVID-19 crisis, this report covers activities from March 2020.

In March we were delighted we could celebrate the 175th anniversary of the consecration of the Church in the presence of the Governor General and Diocesan Bishop. We were blest to be able to mark that significant occasion just before the lock-down started as part of the national plan to mitigate the impact of the virus.

Much of the attention of Parish Council in 2020 was focussed on the implications of the pandemic for our Parish. At the outset we were not sure how we would manage the year with a possible enormous loss of income from parking and offertories. Fortunately, with the continuing generosity of our parishioners, the assistance of the JobKeeper program and financial support from the Diocese we were able to keep all staff and operate most of our normal activities, albeit with changed arrangements. The Treasurer in his report will give more details on the financial performance of the Parish during that difficult year.

Apart from considering the financial aspects of the impact of the pandemic, Parish Council devoted much of its time, with the Rector, on how to continue meaningful services and liturgies during the year, and to the development of a Parish COVIDSafe Plan. The Plan was reviewed and, if necessary, revised at each meeting of Parish Council, under the guidance of Canon Margaret who was appointed the Parish COVIDSafe warden.

An important aspect of Council's work in 2020 was the development of the *St John's Directional Plan for 2020-2022*, intended as a means of defining ourselves as a Parish ahead of the important work of the Clergy Appointments Board in finding our new Rector. That document was prepared by a working party and made available for Parish comment before being finalised by Parish Council. It is now on the Parish web site. It will be given to members of the Clergy Appointments Board to use a source of information, along with any matters that arise from parishioners at the Parish consultation to be held with the 2021 AGM. The document was prepared on the advice of Council's Risk Advisory Committee which, at a briefing in mid-2019, counselled on the risks of being unprepared during an interregnum and in the appointment of a new Rector.

We continued our missionary giving in 2020, allocating a total of \$15k to Wontulp-Bi-Buya College in Cairns, Newton Theological College in PNG, CMS for support of the Claphams and Bush Church Aid.

In mid-year Council was briefed by the University of New South Wales on their proposed campus development along Constitution Ave. This is seen as an initiative which has potential synergies with the Parish: we will have as many as 6000 staff and students on our doorstep, many of whom will look for a spiritual home.

Another feature of the work of Parish Council in 2020 was the completion of our detailed review of Parish policies, which can now be seen on the Parish web site.

Parish Council established a Projects Committee late in 2020, the role of which is to supervise and undertake projects referred to it by Parish Council. Current projects with the committee are

preparation of the Rectory for the new Rector, maintenance of the Parish properties at 1 and 7 Amaroo Street, resurfacing the floor in the Hall and refurbishment of the driveway and car parks.

In a year like few others, we have been more blessed than usual by the wonderful support of so many, who have helped us maintain our sense of Christian community. Early in the pandemic Canon Paul Black postponed his retirement to guide us through the uncertainty ahead. He graciously continued working until the end of 2020, before going on long service leave. We thank him for that commitment.

We have many who volunteer their time to support the work of God at St John's and in the Diocese. Our ministry team of Canon Paul, Canon Margaret, now our Locum Rector, and Canon Stone, along with our honorary clergy Archdeacon David Hill, Canon Geoff Sibly and Rev'd Vicky Cullen, continue to provide wonderful theological and pastoral leadership. Kimberley, David Adams, and those who volunteer in the office do an excellent job in keeping the day-to-day business of the Parish running. As churchwardens we also record our thanks to our colleagues on Parish Council for their commitment, insight and good grace, especially in this year of major challenge.

The current wardens thank Vicky Moseley and John Lawson for their time, contribution and commitment to the Parish as Wardens (and for John as Treasurer) over many years.

Although we recorded thanks as a Parish to Paul Black in our last report, it is fitting to conclude this one with the resolution from the meeting of Parish Council on 16 December 2020:

***It was resolved that** Parish Council express and place on record its sincere appreciation to Canon Paul Black for his contributions and commitment to Parish Council over his thirteen years as our Rector, and for his pastoral and theological leadership of our Parish. As Parish Councillors we extend our best wishes to him in retirement and look forward to a long and continuing friendship.*

Peoples' Wardens

Christine Hawkins (from September 2020)
John Lawson (to September 2020)
Russell Tunks (from September 2020)

Rector's Warden

John Richards

AGED CARE / ASSOCIATE PRIEST

Report for the Annual General Meeting of St John's Canberra 2021 on Aged Care

This is a summary of what has taken place in the last year:

1. Administration

With the supervision of the Rector/Locum there has continued a committee with Canon Kevin Stone as the Chairman, made up of the following parishioners: Joan Armitage, Rebecca Collette, Ailsa Curtis, Airdrie Isbister, Bev Forbes and John Lamb. Because of COVID-19 beginning last year there was only one meeting prior to the pandemic but it was possible with the easing of restrictions to have one meeting in February this year.

2. Difficulties

With the beginning of Long Service Leave prior to retirement, Canon Paul Black has been missed together, due the illness of one of our other honorary clergy. Also given the warnings by the Government to older people to "stay at home" there has been some curtailing of some services of worship. There are also unknown reasons for people not coming to church.

3. Group Meetings

Some Group Meetings for older parishioners such as 'Cuppacomalong' has had to be curtailed. But other meetings such as the combined Bible Study on Wednesday morning and the Bible for Blokes on

Tuesday morning were able to recommence towards the end of last year. It is also possible now to conduct Lenten studies for this year. It has been encouraging to see the formation of the '49 parishioners who regularly meet for lunch.

4. Pastoral Care

There are many and varied means of making connection with older parishioners such as: catching up over coffee; home visits; telephoning; visiting the sick in their homes, Aged Care Facilities and in Hospital. Spending some time before and after worship services to chat as well as over morning tea. There have been numbers of parishioners requiring Home Communion visits (22 parishioners). This has been shared amongst the clergy as well as Joan Armitage taking Extended Communion to parishioners. St John's is also responsible for visits to Anglicans in Clare Holland House.

5. Funerals

A Parish like St John's is involved in an extensive number of funerals. Some funerals have had to be off-site because of COVID-19 restrictions on numbers. Nevertheless, over this last year a number of long-term parishioners have died, many who have required ministry over a considerable period of time. We give thanks for the life and work of Margaret Kaye, Cynthia Bishop, Arthur Martin, Iris Walsh, Ron & Norma Schrader, and Belle Low. There has also been time spent with parishioners using the St John's Funeral Planning sheets.

6. Technology

Since the beginning of COVID-19 the parish, along with the rest of the Church has had to work out ways of conducting worship when it was not possible to meet in church buildings. As a result, for some time, before restrictions were lifted ZOOM worship using computers became common. Particularly for many older parishioners this presented great difficulty as many did not have access to computers. There has also been challenges in registering your name since then when entering church precincts.

7. Seminars

In the past few years St John's has been the host of a number of Seminars on Aged Care. We have had as presenters Archdeacon Anne Ranse, the Rev'd Dr Professor Andrew Cameron, the Rev'd Dr Professor Bruce Stevens and the Rev'd Dr Professor Elizabeth MacKinlay. It is hoped that in the near future other seminars could include: 'Being old and single'; 'Aged Care Eligibility'.

8. Royal Commission

The Final Royal Commission Report into Aged Care is to be delivered to the Governor- General on 26 February 2021. The Interim Report identifies three areas that require immediate action: the need for more Home Packages; to respond to the over-reliance on chemical restraint; and to stop the flow of younger people with disability going into Aged Care Facilities. Other notable issues include the heavy workloads of aged care workers and their poor pay and conditions. There is also the need for advocacy services for older people.

9. "How can I help?"

Every parishioner can assist in pastoral care by taking in interest in others around them, particularly those who worship at the same service and to introduce themselves to those who are seated near them in church. Let the clergy know if people are absent or know of people who are ill or in hospital. Showing care is not being a 'busybody' but is showing the true spirit and care of Christ.

Rev'd Canon Kevin Stone, Associate Priest

BELLRINGING

The eight bells in St John's tower were installed in 1964. They were a gift to the parish from a former Governor-General, Viscount De L'Isle, in memory of his wife Jacqueline who died while he was in office in 1962.

Due to the small size of St John's tower and concerns that the tower might not be strong enough to withstand the stresses caused by swinging bells, the bells at St John's are fixed in position, with the bell rope being attached to the clapper inside the bell.

Originally the bells were used to ring hymn tunes but two of the original bellringers at St John's devised a method of using the bells for the more traditional change-ringing. Usually, two people are required to ring changes on St John's bells although it is possible for one person to ring some of the simpler changes.

With the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions in early 2020, bellringing at St John's had to be cancelled as it is not possible to ring the bells while maintaining social distancing. Further, the cancellation of Sunday services and weddings for most of the year meant that there was no demand for the bells.

Towards the end of 2020 as some Sunday services resumed and the occasional wedding took place, we have again started ringing occasionally, but with only one ringer in the tower at any one time.

Regular Monday evening practices had not resumed by the end of 2020 and are unlikely to be possible until social distancing regulations are relaxed.

Charles Body

CATERING

Due to the effects of COVID-19, the Catering ladies did not work their magic after March in 2020 and are yet to be able to return in 2021.

Updated by Kimberley van Leeuwen

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINISTRY

2020 was about trying to provide normality for children and youth, although the world around them changed before their eyes. With the challenges of policy changes and COVID, we sought to provide a safe space for them to feel comfortable, grow and flourish in a year of change.

At the start of 2020, we had three groups of young people on a Sunday during the school term. kids@church had two groups, one in the Wild Honey and another in the Upper Room, and Youth Group met in the Robertson Room. Then all groups were dismissed by the pandemic. The groups moved to Zoom during this shutdown. We had two groups on Zoom, kids@church and Youth.

kids@church originally started with Margaret running before Michael took over the zoom lessons. Michael ran all the Zoom sessions for Youth. Restarting kids@church and Youth in term three saw us have two groups with the older kids@church split as we recovered from COVID and saw safe ministry changes get applied. The attendance numbers have been consistent throughout this time, which is a massive blessing through a turbulent year.

kids@church in 2020 was mostly based on the Godspace Curriculum while building in additional craft options. At the start of the year, one of our volunteers, Mary, took the forefront for the younger group

before the COVID shut down and group merger. The older group was going to be managed by a rotation of volunteers before the group merger. In the latter half of the year, both Mary and Edward have been the primary teachers with various helpers' support. We thank Edward, Mary, Ange, Andrew, Nancy, Kate and Sonja for their commitment during the year with volunteering at kids@church.

Youth studied various topics across the year, from Genesis, to the liturgical calendar, to apologetics with Michael developing the topic content. Youth has not been running from a set curriculum and instead works through suggestion, discernment and the liturgical calendar to decide the sessions or series direction. We appreciate our Assistant Leaders who provide support and encouragement for the youth, feedback for Michael, throughout the period, including consistency over every week of the COVID break while on Zoom. The leaders at the time attended virtually every zoom session. We thank the leaders who left the ministry last year, Erica and Greg, after much dedication in their time in the space. Greg has been a Youth leader of St John's for ten years. We also thank Craig and Jamie for their support in the latter half of the year and continual support into the new year.

Mainly Music was running at max capacity before the COVID shut down. Due to the ministry's complexities, it has only recently started back up in term one 2021 at a much lower capacity. The parents have been very excited to see it restart. We thank our helpers in term one, Margaret Rodgers, Margert Emil, Nancy, Pat and Chris, for their commitment and great food before the shutdown.

2021 brings exciting possibilities and challenges across the space of young people's ministry. We continue to adjust and adapt to what we can do under the present restrictions in all the ministry spaces. Mainly Music, in particular, has only recently restarted under various constraints and needs to be rebuilt over time. kids@church has started with a new curriculum called Kids Sunday School; it gives a vast amount of really great content. We are finding a bit advanced in some areas, providing a challenge in teaching and how to modify the curriculum to fit within the group context. Youth is looking to some significant changes with creating a new inner north Canberra ministry called Waymakers and how that will integrate to support the discipleship of Youth on a Sunday at St John's.

It will be an exciting year across the board as we learn new things and provide new opportunities! A large challenge through all of these ministries is also human resources, trying to ensure the ministries are sustainable now and into the future.

Thank you all for your prayers and help.

Michael Shaw, Young People's Ministry Facilitator

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

The long tradition of Christian Meditation at St John's continued through 2020.

Once the lock down commenced in March, our Meditation Group took to Zoom each week. In October we resumed on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month and met face to face in the Robertson Room. We continued Zoom for those who could not be there in person. After seeing the newsletter with a contact email address, we gained some new members. Up to 14 people have meditated, with around 10 on a regular basis. While in lockdown through winter, we scheduled regular zoom '*chats*', as well as the weekly meditation to help maintain contact in the community.

The Worldwide Community for Christian Meditation Australia lists the group on its website which gives us all access to their many resources.

Joan Armitage, Winifred Lamb

CHURCH CLEANING

Until recently, the Church has been being cleaned and tidied on Mondays by a highly appreciated group of parishioners. Unfortunately, in 2021, the Monday Church cleaning roster has been depleted. We have been left with a roster of only two volunteers. The Church is cleaned on a Friday by the contract cleaners. We give thanks to Verna Rosling who was the roster coordinator until her recent retirement from this ministry.

Updated by Kimberley van Leeuwen

CUPPACOMALONG

Due to the effects of COVID-19 and the vulnerable age group of those who would normally attend, the Cuppacomalong group did not meet after March 2020.

Updated by Kimberley van Leeuwen

FAIR

We will be seeking a new Fair Coordinator for our Fair in 2021 and hope to come back with an event this year.

Updated by Kimberley van Leeuwen

FLOWER POWER

Many thanks to our dedicated Flower Power team. It has been a challenging year.

The need to arrange a vase for the 9.30 am service in the hall, required reorganising the day and time for arranging the flowers. We required access to the hall.

From July 2020 to January 2021, we managed with one member on roster for each week. When some services returned to the church, a pulpit bowl and altar vases were also required. This resulted in much more work and many more hours for us all. I thank the team for their dedication.

Several of our team had resigned due to health issues. Thankfully, I welcomed 5 new members. I thank you all for joining our team in January 2021.

Many thanks to our 2020 arranging team and to our brass cleaning angel who makes our roster duties so much easier. Bless you all.

Sanya Ritchie, Co-ordinator

FRIENDS OF ST JOHN'S

The Committee of the Friends of St Johns is pleased to report that for another year we have been able to provide financial support for the maintenance of St Johns Church, as well as continuing our unique outreach both within our Parish community and with the many Members who care for this very special place, this "Sanctuary in the City".

Although the 2020 scheduled Choral Mattins Services were severely curtailed due to the pandemic, we enjoyed the February 2020 address by Jack Waterford titled 'Religious freedoms – Mainstream churches and societies'. The work that the Committee had undertaken to develop the remainder of

the 2020 program has now become a reservoir of reference material that can be progressed by future Committees.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those Members who continue to provide financial support for the Friends of St John's, particularly in these challenging economic times. To reflect these ongoing economic challenges, your Committee has decided to make an adjustment to our fee structure for the next twelve months. Further details of these financial changes are outlined in the Treasurer's Report.

After 13 years of faithful service, the Reverend Canon Paul Black has commenced a period of long service leave prior to formal retirement in the middle of 2021. The Committee of Friends of St John's would like to take this opportunity to thank Canon Black for his pastoral care, spiritual guidance and leadership and we wish him a long happy healthy and well-deserved retirement. We hope that from time-to-time Canon Black will be able to join us for some of our Choral Mattins Services. On behalf of the Friends of St John's, the Committee were delighted to be able to make a financial contribution to the December 2020 farewell event for Canon Black.

Our December 2020 Newsletter included a photograph of the beautiful green vestments that the Friends of St John's were able to commission for use in the Parish. We are looking forward to seeing the beautiful green vestments in use at our beautiful Church and are thankful for the patience, skills and talents of Mrs Sylvia Cullen.

I am happy to report that the records and financial arrangements for the Friends of St John's are in excellent condition. The governance arrangements for the Committee of the Friends have been strengthened by the appointment of the Rev'd Vicky Cullen to the position of Deputy Chair of the Friends of St John's. As indicated in the December Newsletter, existing Members of the Friends are now encouraged to think about stepping up for service on the Committee of the Friends. The labours are truly enjoyable. At this time, I would particularly like to take the opportunity to thank Len Goodman AO for his faithful service as a member of the Friends Committee. For well over thirty years, Len and his wife Joyce have been an integral part of both our Parish community as well as Members of the Committee of the Friends. Although Len and Joyce will continue to support and work actively behind the scenes, they have now decided that it is time to withdraw from active Committee Service.

In conclusion, I would like to thank:

- the Rev'd Canon Margaret Emil for her readiness to support the Friends during this period of Parish transition
- the Rev'd Vicky Cullen for her grace, spiritual guidance and constant encouragement and hospitality, and for accepting the position of Deputy Chair of the Friends of St John's
- Mrs Sheila Thompson OAM, Director of Music, and the Choir, for their musical leadership at February Choral Mattins Services,
- Kimberley in the Parish Office for her professionalism and attention to detail,
- my fellow Committee members for their support and encouragement, and
- all members of the Friends of St John's.

I am confident that the Friends of St John's will be able to respond and adapt to whatever challenges are presented in 2021 and thereby continue to support this Sanctuary in the City for many years to come.

Suzanne Howarth
Chair, Friends of St John's Committee

friendsofstjohnscanberra@gmail.com

LAY SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

The Synod is the 'parliament' of the diocese. Each parish in the diocese elects three lay people who serve for three years. Ian Dalziell and Suzanne Howarth were elected as our lay representatives at St John's Annual General Meeting in 2020. Subsequently Oliver Morris was elected to fill the remaining vacancy. Our clerical representatives are Rev'ds Margaret Emil, Vicky Cullen and Kevin Stone.

Normally Synod meets over 3 days in September each year in Goulburn. 2020 was different. Synod met informally over Zoom for a session of 2 hours on 17 September 2020. At this meeting, Bishop Mark presented a Diocesan update, reflections on the summer bushfires, COVID 19 and discussed his priorities. The first formal session of 47th Synod has been postponed to 10 April 2021 in Canberra (COVID permitting) with a second session scheduled for 10-12 September 2021 in Goulburn.

Ian Dalziell

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Missions information for 2020/21 has been covered in Churchwardens report.

MUSIC

What is there to report? Not very much, courtesy of the pandemic. After the last service in the church, a celebration of 175 years of worship at St. John's, which the choir marked with a fine rendition of Henry Purcell's Anthem "Rejoice in the Lord always", the church was closed for several months, opening only for small services in the latter part of the year.

This severely curtailed the activities of the choir, but its members happily returned when permitted, so now we have the choir at the 11.15am, and on occasions the 9.30 services in the hall. Members of that congregation have said how much they enjoyed having the choir at that service, so I hope to make that a regular occurrence.

When the church reopened, we were able to hold the regular lunchtime organ concert sponsored by the Royal School of Church Music. The audience comprised the exact number of people permitted in the building at the time and was most appreciative.

At this time, I would like to pay tribute to our loyal team of organists, who, despite not having the organ for services, readily became pianists. That meant extra work finding and practising different repertoire; organ music does not necessarily translate to the piano and vice versa. Our organ scholar Jayden, however, is equally skilled on both instruments, and has been delighting the 9.30 congregation with his skills on the piano.

It has been sad that we could not have the usual musical celebrations for Easter and Christmas, but this year, at the end of March on Palm Sunday at 5pm, the choir will recount the story of Holy Week in music, combined with appropriate readings. That service will be in the church.

It is not just the musicians who are facing the constant changes and restrictions; could the clergy please accept my fervent thanks for their forbearance when faced with more frustrated outbursts.

Sheila Thompson OAM - Director of Music

NATIONAL TRUST-ST JOHN'S CHURCH HERITAGE CONSERVATION APPEAL FUND

Like the rest of the Parish, the year 2020 turned out to be a very different year for the Heritage Fund.

Having made a significant financial contribution to the cost of replacing the Church roof in 2019, the Fund's mid-year Appeal in 2020 invited donors to make tax-deductible donations in the usual way to the Heritage Fund, but with no specific project being identified because of the extended period of financial uncertainty. As an alternative, the Appeal letter encouraged parishioners and friends to make a non-tax-deductible donation direct to Parish funds to help cover administrative and other expenses that would continue to be incurred during the months when normal Parish activities were suspended. If the disruptive effects of COVID-19 were to seriously affect the operations of the Parish again in 2021, the Heritage Fund would have to reassess the practicability of its project plans for the year ahead. All going well, the Fund's trustees propose to contribute to the cost of refurbishing the Rectory.

It is pleasing to record that the Heritage Fund's letter received a very positive response, with donations of \$26,339.50 being received between the beginning of May and the end of June 2020. Heritage Fund trustees thank all those who donated generously during this difficult time and throughout the entire year.

Each year the Fund pays 3 per cent of the amount it receives in donations, capped at \$2000 p.a., to the National Trust of Australia – ACT in recognition of the advice provided to trustees and to the Parish more generally. The Fund's link to the National Trust also enables donors to claim tax deductibility for their donations. The payment made to the National Trust in 2020 was \$1276.79.

At the end of the calendar year, funds held by the National Trust-St John's Church Heritage Conservation Fund totalled \$146,060.40. The funds are held in a current account and a term deposit account with the Anglican Investment and Development Fund.

The National Trust-St John's Church Heritage Conservation Appeal Fund is administered through a trust deed set up in June 2006. Under the deed, trustees from the National Trust of Australia - ACT and the Parish are appointed to consider submissions relating to conservation of the Church and other buildings and structures as well as the landscape within the St John's heritage precinct. The precinct includes the Rectory, the Schoolhouse, the Churchyard and the lychgates.

Randall Wilson chaired the committee of trustees throughout 2020, with the other two general trustees being Philip Creelman and Steve Moseley. Eric Martin, representing the National Trust of Australia – ACT and Canon Paul Black continued to serve as ex officio trustees of the Fund.

With his departure from the Parish in 2021, all trustees express their deep appreciation for the valuable contribution by Canon Paul Black to the work of the Heritage Fund. In his 13 years as a trustee, Paul provided his fellow trustees with the benefit of his knowledge, experience and insights which contributed to the effectiveness of the Fund's administration and its role in conserving the St John's heritage precinct.

Randall Wilson, Chair of Trustees

PARISH OFFICE

2020 was a bizarre year for most people and I am extraordinarily grateful for the flexibility afforded to me to be able to continue working. The structure of my job changed significantly during this time and largely remains that way. My team of 8+ office volunteers (and human contact) has been depleted from 2 people per day over the 5 days, to 3 people ½ the time over 3 days. Some of that is by choice, some from illness and some have simply left.

Bookings – Both Regular and Casual bookings were put on hold from March due to COVID-19. Government restrictions and Diocesan guidelines prevented use of the church for many months. As a result, services were held in the Hall. As we are still using the Hall for one service, we have not hired the facility to external parties for a year. At this stage only two of our hirers have been able to resume their regular booking.

Car Parking – St John's Monday to Friday pay parking continues to be popular with people who work nearby or in the city centre. David Adams continues to work from home and comes into the office on Thursdays. David has continued to manage all clients who switched their working/parking arrangements from full time to part time in order to suit the various restrictions placed on them by their workplaces.

After a good start to 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic had a big effect on our paid parking. The lockdown and working from home resulted in near empty car parks and significantly less income from this source than usual. With the easing of some COVID restrictions we were able to start rebuilding our client numbers and now in late February 2021 our car parks are back to near full occupancy.

Our clients comprise new starters who are mostly here for full time parking (five days a week) and previous clients who have returned to their workplaces but often on a part time basis (less than five days a week).

The ratio of full to part time clients is approximately two to one in favour of full time. The achievement of widespread vaccination against the corona virus may well prompt more workplaces to return to full time staff attendance and therefore more demand for parking.

As in past years new clients are coming to us mainly via the parking section of St. John's website and word of mouth recommendations from existing clients.

David deserves many thanks for coordinating the fee structure during this tumultuous time and keeping tabs on all cancellations and new starters. This remains a huge job which he competently and efficiently manages. We would be lost without him.

Baptisms – There were 17 Baptisms in 2020. Baptism Coordinator, Pat Knight, is a wonderful person to represent Baptisms at St John's. From early to mid-2021, we have changed the service day to Saturday - which assists our Locum. To keep in line with Covidsafe rules, there is only one family per service with a total of 20 attending in the church. This does not suit every family, and some have chosen a different venue. However, we are still booking families in almost weekly and have services booked through to September.

Weddings – Vicky Moseley organises the many aspects surrounding weddings. We hosted a total of 5 weddings in 2020. The rest were postponed due to COVID-19. The first wedding outside of the lockdown period was conducted in August in accordance with the COVID-19 restrictions. We have 5 weddings booked for the rest of 2021 and a 50-person limit on guests in the church.

Funerals & Memorial Services – There were 17 funerals and 3 memorial services conducted by St John's clergy during 2020. Government restrictions associated with COVID-19 heavily affected funerals. Fortunately, the clergy did not need to conduct many funerals onsite during the lockdown period.

Interments - There were 13 interments at St John's last year into our Columbaria. There were 2 interments into existing family plots in the churchyard.

Worship support – Worship service sheets for Easter and Christmas, including the 9.30am and 6.00pm services are prepared and printed weekly. We continue to video one weekly service for parishioners. It is placed on YouTube video to enable our community to stay in touch with worship.

Weekly Newsletter – The current email list set up during COVID-19 now sees an email sent to approximately 280+ parishioners. Each week we email the newsletter, worship sheet and sermon to keep the St John's church community informed together. The parish office continues to mail out the same documents to 12 recipients every week.

Conclusion – I remain truly thankful for the clergy in this parish who support me daily and for my volunteers who I cherish and would be lost without.

Kimberley van Leeuwen - Office Administrator

PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE (P&M)

The P&M Committee has continued to work within the Terms of Reference for the Committee 2019 and Guidelines for the Management of the St John's Precinct. The Committee references the conservation management plans: *Conservation Management Plan for the St John's Church Heritage Precinct Landscape, Reid, ACT (2010)* and *Anglican Church of St John the Baptist Canberra ACT – Significant Structures (2015)* as well as the Facilities Management Plan (2018).

Funding of work in the precinct, this year, has been supplemented by the Friends of St Johns and by the National Trust - St Johns Church Heritage Conservation Appeal Fund.

Our work was interrupted by the COVID-19 shutdown which resulted in a reduction of expenditure on regular maintenance activities. This has allowed several "one off" projects to be undertaken in the latter part of this year. These included:

- Rejuvenation of the Avenue to the entrance of the Church
- Adding air conditioning to 7 Amaroo Street.
- External painting of 7 Amaroo and Rectory garage and completion of the external painting of the Parish Centre.
- Removal of a large pine tree
- Resolving a significant sewage blockage and a significant water leak at the Parish Centre
- Installation of two concrete aprons at the Amaroo Street entrances
- Re-carpeting the vestry, bell tower and narthex

General landscape maintenance within the precinct continues with lawn mowing, hedge and tree pruning, green waste removal, raking and endless weeding carried out by volunteers. Contractors do jobs we cannot.

We continue to monitor the population of the Golden Sun Moth in its four small habitats on site. The Committee thanks our volunteers, both the monthly working bees and those who respond on an as needs basis: Phil Creelman, Dr Barbara Hill, and the Ven. David Hill. Our special thanks to Rob Brooks as the honorary Parish Architect, Tim Wright, David Adams, and Kimberley van Leeuwen.

The challenges for 2021 centre on the current small number of mature aged volunteers and the departure of Canon Paul and Steve Moseley leaves few to share the many maintenance tasks across our nine-acre precinct.

The risks for 2021 can be identified in the level of funding available for the Committee's use. For many years we have put aside essential works due to insufficient funding to maintain the buildings and ground. One example is that by delaying painting we need to fix wood rot. Some trees are dying, and branches are falling given no budget allocation to maintain them, yet the cost of their 'urgent' removal exceeds any planned maintenance costs. Asking volunteers to extend their commitment beyond what is desirable leads to their withdrawal and more tasks are left for the small number remaining.

The members of the P&M Committee in 2020 were: David Adams, Colin Lendon, George Pooley, Helen Wilson, Canon Paul Black and Steve Moseley Chair.

Steve Moseley, Chair

RISK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Risk Advisory Committee (RAC) is a subcommittee of the St John's Parish Council. The Terms of Reference for the RAC are:

- 1) Advise the Parish Council on the policies and practices passed to the Parish by the Diocese in relation to the National Work Health and Safety Act to ensure risks are being managed so far as reasonably practical
- 2) Advise the Parish Council on the risks that require management from new, or changes to policies and practices passed to the Parish by the Diocese and other relevant legislative requirements
- 3) Advise the Parish Council on risks to the St John's interpretation of the Five Marks of Mission and the effectiveness of the current controls and treatments.
- 4) Advise the Parish Council on the effectiveness of, and adherence to, its risk management practices and procedures by St John's Parish Council and its committees and others
- 5) Coordinate the education and training of risk management practices as required across the Parish.

Many of the current risks are covered in the Parish Directional Plan presented to the 2020 AGM. This is located on the Parish website (Who Are We?>Documents and Reports> St John's Directional Plan 2020 – 2022) It provides a comprehensive analysis of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) facing our Parish in the next couple of years, particularly during the extended interregnum period.

Many of the causes and treatments for the first four risks directly lie in our hands as members of the parish.

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it is beholden to us as members of the Faith Community to manage these risks by offering strong and meaningful support to the Clergy and Parish Council in these challenging times. The 'St Johns Directional Plan for 2020 – 2022' provides a sound basis for our discussions, decisions and actions.

John Stafford and Helen Wilson

SACRISTAN, SIDEPERSONS & ALTAR LINEN GROUP

St John's during Covid 19!!

Celebrating 175 years of worship at St John's in March 2020 was not intended to be our introduction to 'lock down' but, unfortunately it was. However, our early Brass Cleaning Bee (normally undertaken prior to Easter) and the wonderful flowers presented us at our very best.

The church was closed and when we were finally allowed to resume services, and because of the church size and restricted numbers, services moved to the Hall. Also, to minimise the handling of the sacrament and vessels the usual team of Deacons, servers and crucifers were not required. The laundry Team have been stood down during the closure but with more services being conducted they will once again provide us with beautiful white linen.

Readers and sidespersons were able to resume their duties although the sidespersons became Welcomers/Cleaners, their task being expanded to encompass the wiping down of surfaces at the end of the services with the special cleaning product which we are still required to use as part of our Covid protocol. We are grateful that they have been happy to assist in this new way.

We are now able to worship in the church - still with limited numbers and cleaning protocols but it is wonderful! Also, in the coming months we are hoping to bring back Deacons but in the role of Worship Assistants - they will still not be able to assist with the Eucharist.

This year we will get to have our Palm Cross Working Bee, the reeds in the Remembrance Garden have benefitted from the often heavy rains and we look forward to getting together to make Palm Crosses on two Tuesday afternoons - 16th and 23rd March.

Canon Paul started his Long Service Leave in January. I have benefitted greatly from his support and guidance and look forward to working with Canon Margaret as she guides us until a new Rector is appointed.

Margaret Rodgers, Sacristan

SANCTUARY IN THE CITY – ST JOHN'S CHURCH CANBERRA

Parish Council published *Sanctuary in the City – St John's Church Canberra* by Randall Wilson and Rodney Garnett in 2012. About 95 of the original 750 copies remaining in stock as at 31 December 2020. Buyers comprise couples intending to marry or have their children baptised at St John's; relatives and friends of parishioners; and casual visitors to the church.

Randall Wilson

SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM

For the Schoolhouse Museum, the year 2020 began on such a positive note with the visit to St John's of their Excellencies the Governor General, General David Hurley and Mrs Linda Hurley on 15 March 2020. They attended the service to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the consecration of St John's Church and afterwards visited the Schoolhouse Museum, also celebrating 175 years since the opening of the school.

We were also pleased to welcome Bishop Mark Short and Mrs Monica Short and the American Ambassador. All these special visitors were genuinely interested in the history of the Schoolhouse and the exhibits on display. The Governor General and Mrs Linda Hurley requested copies of some

items they had a particular interest in and which we provided for them. It was a very happy celebration for the Schoolhouse Museum.

Just three days later on 19 March 2020, the Schoolhouse was closed to the public because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of this a number of school excursions and other group bookings had to be cancelled including our program for the Heritage Festival and the Torch Light Tours.

During the time the museum was closed Maureen Brooks, Jenny Carlin and Diana Body commenced checking the items in the museum collection against the Accession Register. This is still a work in progress, and I hope will be completed this year.

On 17 September, although not open to the general public and following strict Covid-19 protocols we welcomed Bishop Mark Short and Ben Paton. The Bishop was recording a video for all year 12 students in Diocesan schools to encourage them during this difficult year and thought it was appropriate to do that from Canberra's first school.

In September we also welcomed Jan Raff who has donated more valuable resources to the museum collection from her time as a teacher in the Northern Territory and Canberra.

September was the month we became aware of some floorboards in the schoolroom lifting. Examination by Rob Brooks and David Southwell resulted in a number of rows of floorboards being removed and the evidence of water ingress and dampness in the underfloor area adjacent to the west wall of the schoolhouse. A temporary floor covering is in place until the source of the problem is fully investigated and found, and the dried floorboards can be replaced. Thanks to Rob Brooks for undertaking this work.

The Schoolhouse Board completed a COVIDsafe Plan which enabled us to have three school groups visit in November.

Volunteers have continued their interest when not able to physically be on duty in the schoolhouse. Particular thanks to Michael Hall, who is researching the school roll and has provided some wonderful stories to enhance our exhibits and provide an extended story to some of children in our photographs.

Thanks also to Corinne Collins who continued to collect cuttings for the scrap book.

We are thankful that all the Schoolhouse volunteers, during 2020 when the museum was closed, have maintained their commitment and loyalty to the Schoolhouse

Lindsay Mackerras resigned during the year as the Presbyterian representative on the Schoolhouse Board of Management and we are grateful for her contribution and years of service to the schoolhouse.

In December we farewelled the Rector, Canon Paul Black who has taken long service leave prior to retiring as the Rector of St John's in 2021.

Following the COVID safe requirements and distancing, the museum opened again on Wednesday 3 February 2021. We hope to welcome visitors, schools, and groups back again to this precious piece of Canberra's history whose occupants, over the past 175 years, would also have experienced other pandemics and epidemics. We will always remember them.

Diana Body - President, St John's Schoolhouse Museum Board of Management.



ST JOHN'S CARE

2020 will be remembered for the impact of COVID-19 and the subsequent social, emotional and economic impact across our community and the world.

This presented many challenges for SJC. The immediate issues were: could we remain open and provide service in a COVID safe way and if so, how were we going to address the loss of our supply of donated good particularly in the initial lock down period? Policies and procedures were developed, and changes were made to how things were done to ensure safety for volunteers, staff and clients so that SJC could continue to provide the much-needed assistance and support.

The overwhelming generous response to the Emergency Appeal in March, subsequent appeals and the regular ongoing donations provided the resources required to meet the changing and increased needs throughout the year.

PROGRAM

2020 saw changes to our client profile. We saw a new cohort of clients that have never asked for any support before. These are people who have mortgages and or car repayments. When they had a job, there was no issue in making these payments, but COVID changed all that. We are finding that we are spending more time with these clients, providing emotional support, information and assistance to navigate their way around Centrelink, Onelink and other service providers.

2020 also saw a significant reduction in the number of volunteers at SJC. Prior to COVID, there were approximately 70 volunteers who supported us on a weekly basis in some capacity. We now have approximately 40 volunteers who support us. The reduction of numbers has placed added stress on the volunteers who are striving to achieve the positive outcomes for our clients.

SERVICE SUMMARY

- Introduction of telephone follow up of regular clients. Whilst receiving the full JobSeeker payments many did not need regular practical assistance but faced problems of social isolation. SJC is often the only point of social connection, as many don't have any family or friends. In some cases, we are the only ones that listen to them.
- 3952 requests were received for Emergency Relief Assistance (individuals and families).
- 962 clients received short term case management (Community Worker/Case Manager, Programs Manager and Executive officer). Due to COVID this figure is down from last year.
- Our Groups were not able to run due to the restrictions of COVID. We did follow up phone calls with clients who had previously engaged in workshops
- 3042 bags of non-perishable food were donated (not including Christmas hampers). Estimated value \$170,352
- Total cash donations (Jan – Dec 20) were \$594,211.98 comprising of Regular Donations \$384,481, Emergency Appeal \$209,408, Christmas Hampers \$322
- Approximately 10,400 volunteer hours were donated - which has a cash equivalent of \$448,032
- Take Away Community lunches 380 meals were prepared.
- 1544 children received gifts from the Christmas Present Room.
- 548 Christmas hampers were distributed
- Approximately 180 people attended the Christmas Day Picnic Lunch.
- Delivery of food hampers for Canberra Relief Network

GOVERNANCE

The initial focus for the Management Committee in 2020 was management of risk to enable the Emergency Relief Centre to remain open during COVID. The Committee and staff are to be commended for their efforts during this period. Policies and Procedures were developed in consultation with Anglicare, the Diocese and the ACT Government. With the exception of one week during the initial period, SJC remained open whilst many agencies closed during this time.

In October the Strategic Plan was reviewed. This review was facilitated by PricewaterhouseCoopers. The outcome was the development of the 2021/22 Strategic Plan. We are extremely grateful to PWC for their generosity in providing the professional support and guidance. We would also like to acknowledge John Stafford, Deputy Chair of the Committee, who worked with PWC and the Committee in preparation for the review and for drawing together and documenting the outcomes into the Strategic Plan.

THE ST JOHN'S CARE SUPPORT TRUST

With COVID and delays in finalising issues with the Diocese, it was not possible to launch the Trust in 2020. The Trust will be launched in 2021.

STAFFING

Sarah Murdoch, Executive Officer resigned to take up the position of ACT Youth and Family Services Manager with Anglicare. We congratulate Sarah on her appointment and thank her for her commitment and contributions to SJC.

Stephanie Stevens, Community Worker moved to Perth with her family. We thank her and acknowledge with gratitude the outcomes she achieved for our clients.

Jason Haines, Programs and Fundraising Manager was appointed as Acting Executive Officer. He will act in this position until it is advertised in September 2021.

Nailia Belleski was appointed to the position of Case Manager (previously Community Worker) in September 2020.

Robbie Speldewinde was appointed to the newly created position of Programs Coordinator to back fill the position previously held by Jason which is temporarily vacant until October 2020. We acknowledge and thank the staff for their dedication and contributions.

YOUTH PROGRAM – RAW POTENTIAL

Since 2013 SJC has held the contract to manage this program for Youth Care Canberra Ltd. As the program has grown and developed the complexities of, and time required to manage the program, has outgrown SJC capacity. We will work with YCC as the RAW Program is transferred to a new service provider in 2021.

THANK YOU

The work of SJC is only possible because of the dedication and support of so many who give of their time, expertise and resources. SJC is a community committed to making a difference in the lives of those facing hardship and disadvantage. It is a privilege to be part of this community with you.

We thank our volunteers, donors, supporters and sponsors, the Parishes, schools and organisation across the community for their continuing support. We also thank Jeremy Halcrow (CEO) and Brad Braithwaite (Deputy CEO) of Anglicare for their continuing commitment to our work.

This year marked a significant change for the Parish of St John's. Canon Paul Black, Rector of St Johns, will retire July 2021 following Long Service Leave which commenced in December. Paul served SJC tirelessly and we thank him for his counsel, support and leadership. Paul oversaw a significant period of growth and development.

Jason Haines, A/Executive Officer

Glenda Richards, Chair

ST JOHN'S CHURCHYARD

There were 13 interments in the Columbaria and two into graves. There are a number of interments which are outstanding.

One old marble headstone fell over and broke into a number of pieces. Oskar Memorials hold the pieces and will attempt to recover the headstone although it will now need to be laid down on a slight angle to allow rain to run off.

A number of enquiries have been made by people researching family history with some requests coming from overseas. I find this interesting work.

A copy of my book "A Book of Remembrance. In memory of First World War servicemen who had an association with The Church of St John the Baptist Canberra" is in the National Library. One copy was sent to England to the descendants of Rev Fred Ward.

Keeping the grounds mowed and tidy was affected by the coronavirus for a month in the early stages. Subsequently members of the first Saturday of the month group kept attending. We thank those who helped out when Archdeacon David Hill was unable to work for six weeks. The grounds are a big job to maintain in good order. There are five or six people who work in the grounds on a weekly basis. We would certainly welcome anyone who can give an hour or more particularly during the grass growing season to keep the grounds neat.

Many people, local and visitors, wander through and comment on the peace and beauty of the place.

Dr Barbara Hill - Hon. Administrator, St John's Churchyard