

St John's
Anglican
Church

C A M D E N

Putting lives on the right track



2019 AGM REPORTS

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CAMDEN ANGLICAN PARISH

Incorporating:

St John's – Camden

St Barnabas' – Werombi

St Paul's – Mt Hunter

Carrington Retirement Village

St John's Women's Church

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD SUNDAY 24TH MARCH 2019

IN THE PARISH HALL COMMENCING AT 2.08PM

PRESENT: 71 Parishioners were present as per the attendance declarations (transcribed in the attached appendix 1 to these minutes).

Welcome and Opening

The Rector the Rev. Tony Galea took the Chair and welcomed those present and called for apologies.

Apologies were recorded from: Clare McWilliam, Mark Inglis, Sandra Ellis, Gary Christie, Jayne Christie, Steve Lardner and Deb Lardner.

Rev. Tony Galea read from Psalm 103 and then opened in prayer.

Appointment of Minute Secretary

The Chair called for nominations for a minute secretary for the meeting – Mr Charles Noonan being the only nomination was declared appointed unopposed.

The Minute Secretary reported that the declarations contained the signatures of 71 duly qualified persons and that as such the meeting was quorate. **NOTED**

Appointment of Scrutineers

The Chair called for nomination of scrutineers to oversee any election to be held during the meeting.

The Scrutineers nominated were Josh Pataky, Rosemary Beckinsale and Rob Youart.

Confirmation of the minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

The Secretary reported that the 2018 AGM minutes had been confirmed by the Parish Council elect following the AGM. The Chair commented that the confirmed minutes had been reproduced in the AGM booklet as circulated for adoption at this meeting.

Mr Noonan moved the procedural motion that the members present, endorse the Parish Council elect receiving the minutes of this meeting to be confirmed as a true and correct record and that the confirmed minutes then be presented to the 2019/20 Annual General Meeting for adoption.

It was Resolved (CAP AGM 19/01):

That the minutes of the 2017/18 Annual General Meeting of the Camden Anglican Parish held on 25th March 2018, as confirmed by the Parish Council be adopted.

It was Resolved (CAP AGM 19/02):

That the minutes of the 2018/19 Annual General Meeting of the Camden Anglican Parish held on 24th March 2019, be confirmed for accuracy as soon as practicable by the Parish Council elect and they then be laid before the 2020 annual meeting for adoption.

Rector's Report

Tony read his report, as contained in the booklet of reports that forms appendix 2 to these minutes, into the record and commended his report to the meeting.

Tony noted, as he and Debbie began their 19th year at Camden how moved he was by the love and support shown to them. He observed how none of the achievements of the past twelve months would have been possible without the teamwork and cooperation between the paid and volunteer teams, which is a model of the body (the church) working in harmony for the good of the kingdom.

Tony publicly acknowledged his partnership in ministry with Debbie and thanked her for her incredible contribution to our congregational life.

The conclusion of the first phase of the sale process to enable the construction of a new worship centre had consumed a great deal of time and intellectual resources and he was grateful for the courage of the Wardens and Parish Council in following God's leading to come to this point.

The Rector then invited questions or comments in relation to his report. There being no questions or comments forthcoming:

It was Resolved (*CAP AGM 19.03*):

That the Rector's report, as printed, be received and adopted.

Carried by acclamation

Church Wardens' report

- a) The Chair invited the Wardens' representative Ross Newport to briefly speak on behalf of the printed report in the AGM papers. Ross noted that the printed report was self-explanatory and invited any questions.

A query was raised as to what happens next in relation to the land sale?

Ross replied that the contracts had been exchanged and the option deposit of 5% had been paid into trust; and that it was now in the hands of the Moran Group to seek and obtain all the necessary approvals to proceed. If they are unable to obtain those approvals then the option may lapse and the deposit be forfeited to the Parish.

There being no other questions, Ross concluded by commending the report to the meeting.

It was Resolved (*CAP AGM 19/04*):

That the Warden's report for the 2018 calendar year be received.

- b) Mr Malcolm Britton was invited on behalf of the Treasurer Steve Lardner (who was on sick leave) to deliver the financial report for the 2018 calendar year on behalf of the Warden's, noting that the accounts had been published in accordance with the ordinance prior to the meeting.

Malcolm introduced the written report, as printed, noting Steve's special thanks for the level of behind the scenes effort undertaken by Sarah MacRaild and the office volunteers, who assisted him each week.

Likewise, he expressed his gratitude to the Branch church treasurers, the Wardens and staff as well Charles Noonan as Deputy Treasurer and Gary Christie - the finance team who had drafted the 2019 budget whilst he was on leave as well as (former treasurer) Malcolm Britton who had deputised for him during the year; and Brian Peacock as the contractor processing the Parish Accounts into the accounting

software weekly and providing the resulting reports for review by the Finance team, the Wardens and Parish Council on a regular basis.

Malcolm then offered to answer any questions from the floor.

Malcolm commended the written explanations accompanying the accounts and then formally moved, on behalf of the Warden's, that the Assurance Reviewed (formerly known as Audited) financial accounts for the year ended December 31, 2018 be adopted.

It was Resolved (*CAP AGM 19/05*):

That the Assurance Reviewed financial accounts for the 2018 calendar year be adopted.

The meeting paused and gave thanks for the efforts of the retiring treasurer Steve, as he stepped down to undertake ongoing treatment for the cancer he was suffering.

The meeting prayed for Steve and Deb and sought God's peace in the midst of the rounds of treatment. The parishioners called upon Almighty God for a miracle of healing for our brother Steve and that God's will be done in all things.

Appointment of an Independent Assurance Practitioner (formerly known as the Auditor)

In the written report tabled, Treasurer Steve had noted that parishioner, Mr Brad Huckel, a local Chartered Accountant, had stepped in to conduct the 2017 financial review following Russell Dawson's retirement and had now completed the 2018 review in accordance with the Parish Administration Ordinance 2008 and the relevant professional standards.

Mr Brad Huckel, being duly qualified and having offered his services was thanked, in his absence, and was declared appointed unopposed.

Election/Appointment of Church Warden's

The Chair declared all positions vacant in order to conduct the elections for Warden's and Parish Council.

He noted that there being three nominations for election as Warden he would appoint Andrew Wheeler as his Rector's Warden for 2019/20.

Tony then formally thanked the two people's warden's Ian Harley and Ross Newport for all their efforts in directing and supporting the Parish over the past year. He noted that each had brought their God given gifts to bear to prosper the kingdom in the Camden Anglican Parish and had accepted nomination to continue to serve in the year ahead.

Therefore, with only two nominations remaining he declared Mr Ian Harley and Mr Ross Newport elected as the two People's Wardens for 2019/2020.

Their election, unopposed, was endorsed by acclamation.

Tony took the opportunity to also especially thank Steve Lardner for his role as Warden and Treasurer in the past twelve months and wished him well as he steps down to concentrate on his health. Likewise, he wished Deb all our love and respect as she cares for Steve during the continuing rounds of treatment and recovery in the year ahead.

Election of Parish Council

The Chair noted that under the Parish Administration Ordinance an Annual Parish meeting could elect 3, 6 or 9 councillors and based on the number elected, the Rector had a right to appoint 1 additional councillor(s), for each three elected, to address diversity and/or gender balance.

Tony noted in the past year the balance of members had seemed to work productively for the Parish and the kingdom.

It was moved and seconded, without the need for further discussion, that a Parish Council consisting of nine (9) councillors be elected by the AGM.

It was Resolved (*CAP AGM 19/06*):

That (i) the Annual General Meeting elect nine (9) councillors to serve; and (ii) that the Parish Council be permitted to fill any casual vacancy that occurs during the term April 2019 to March 2020.

The Secretary reported that with the appointment of Andrew Wheeler as Rector's Warden and the election of Ross Newport and Ian Harley as People's wardens this left sufficient nominations to require an election.

The full list of nominations was projected and included:

Gary Christie	Marilyn Clarke	Simon Crawley
James Edgerton	Richard Ellis	Andrew McWilliam
Charles Noonan	Janine Philip	John Ryan
Prue Skellon	Neryl Stanley	Alix Turner

The Chair invited each of the nominees present to stand for the information of the meeting.

Members were then invited to tick, cross or number 1 – 9 – as long as they had no more than nine marks indicating who they wished to vote for, this would be admitted as a valid vote.

Whilst the votes were being counted the Chair invited staff representatives from a range of specific ministries to briefly outline those activities more fully disclosed in the AGM Booklet. The returning officer presented the Chair with the final ballot results for the Parish Council.

The Chair declared the People’s Councillors as:

People’s Councillors	
Gary Christie	Marilyn Clarke
Simon Crawley	James Edgerton
Andrew McWilliam	Charles Noonan
John Ryan	Prue Skellon
Neryl Stanley	

Tony congratulated both those elected and those who were nominated and were prepared to serve the parish in this important role. This was endorsed by acclamation.

He noted that he reserved the right to appoint three (3) additional councillors, in accordance with the ordinance.

[Secretary’s Note:- the following appointments were contained within the newsletter of the 31st March announcing the full parish council membership].

Rector’s Councillors		
Richard Ellis	Edwin Corea	Alix Turner

Election of Parish Nominators

The Chair noted that five (5) parish nominators were required in the event of a vacancy in the Rector’s position occurring.

It was noted that, whilst it is not a condition of the Parish Administration Ordinance, in order for the Nominators to be effective, it was normal practice across the diocese to include a warden in the parish nominators elected.

Candidate’s for election as nominators were:

- Paul Clarke
- Steve Lardner
- Charles Noonan
- Ian Harley
- Ross Newport

The Chair noted, that in the interests of gender equity, he had invited Neryl Stanley to join the list of nominators for election and one of the people's warden's, Ian Harley had withdrawn his nomination in her favour.

The Chair then announced that

- Paul Clarke
- Steve Lardner
- Ross Newport
- Charles Noonan and
- Neryl Stanley

were elected unopposed as nominators for the coming twelve months.

Parish Reports

As noted above, during the counting of the ballots, the twenty-seven (27) individual reports from the groups involved in the Parish, as printed in the AGM booklet, were duly noted.

It was Resolved (CAP AGM 19/07):

To receive the reports of other parish groups, as printed in the AGM booklet.

General Business/Questions

The general business questions were discussed whilst the returning officer and scrutineers were counting the respective ballots and are recorded here for simplicity sake.

- Marilyn Noonan offered her thanks to the congregations of St John's for their prayerful support of the branch church at St Paul's Mt Hunter in the past twelve months.

There being no other formal business the Chair invited people to pray and then closed the meeting at 3.35pm.

Rector's Report

Debbie and I enter our twentieth year at Camden and we are enormously moved by your continued love and support for us. We praise God, that as His family we can continue to work together in "Putting lives on the right track".

Firstly let me thank my Staff.

I am blessed that we have a fantastic, capable and united staff.

Karina Edgerton our children's worker for 2019 was an absolute joy who together with her team show great love and commitment to your children. Karina has stepped down from Kid's Church ministry this year to focus on baby Kye, but she continues to lead the Kids-time ministry.

Hayley Morgan replaces Karina this year as our Children's Worker. She is very capable and fitting in well with her ministry and the team.

Jimmy Lane our Youth and Young Adult Worker is building a good team of people who have fresh ideas to help our youth grow in their faith in Jesus. We're extremely fortunate to have a young man who is so dedicated to making a difference in young people's lives, and who is well supported by Amy and we give thanks for their new baby boy, Harrison.

Sarah MacRaid our administrator helps the team to run smoothly because of her efficiency, skills and joyful manner. She has organized a great team of volunteer workers. We are so fortunate that Sarah doesn't see this work as a job but as a ministry. Thank you to all her volunteers – Carolyn, Jan, Jenny, Louise, Fay, Marilyn, Christine and Glen.

We have been very blessed by our Pastoral care team, Pat Burnett, Debbie Banister, Trish Harley, Jan Neville and 'Tilda who show their love, care and dedication to our church family. They are constantly busy, visiting, praying and spending many countless hours caring for you.

A special thank you to all the spouses of the staff and volunteers for their behind the scenes help and support.

Although I have been unable to employ an Assistant Minister for 2020, due to the shortage of ministers, we are very thankful to have *Irfon and Barbara Griffiths* volunteer to help out in ministry. I am so happy that they have joined the team and enjoy their solid example of faithfulness and commitment to God's church. Irfon is making himself available to preach and help with Holy Communion where the need arises.

Secondly let me thank all our Volunteers.

I cannot mention everyone because there are so many who give their time and energy to serve God and his Church family. However, it would be remiss of me not to mention a few.

The Carrington Volunteers- *Don and Betty Annabel* who are taking a rest this year and *Paul and Marilyn Clarke* who have graciously taken their place at Paling Court. *David and Beverly Henderson* at Grasmere and *Philip and Jeanette Pilt* at Mary MacKillop along with their volunteers who with a minimum of fuss, lead services and care for the elderly people in their care week by week. They are faithful servants of Christ. Thank you!

Charles and Marilyn Noonan- as they enthusiastically led a team of people at Mt Hunter. This year Charles and Marilyn are taking a rest and so due to staffing we decided to change the weekly service to a monthly service. It is held along with Werombi on the first Sunday of the month.

Thank you to the Wardens Anne Angilley, Graham Nash and Peter Angilley, Mark and Greg Hayter respectively.

Our Parish Wardens- *Ian Harley, Ross Newport and Andrew Wheeler*. It is an absolute pleasure to meet with these godly men weekly as we pray and make decisions for the church family.

Steve Lardner is slowly gaining strength and is helping out the Wardens when he can. These men are faithful and persevering in their difficult and sometimes thankless work. A big 'thank you' to *Gary Christie* our Treasurer, the Parish Council and our Auditor *Brad Huckel*.

There are also countless people who do Cleaning, Morning teas, Suppers, Prayers, Readers, Welcoming, along with Sides Persons, Maintenance Team, Scripture and Children leaders, Service Leaders and Preachers, Musicians, Wedding and Funeral helpers, and our Small Group Leaders.

You are very appreciated.

Lastly, I greatly thank my wife Debbie for her commitment to full time ministry. She faithfully coordinates and leads the music, Women's Ministry and Women's Church ministry, I've said it every year, Debbie is my best friend and partner in ministry. The difficulties, challenges and joys I face, she faces. Without her, things wouldn't be the same. She is an enormous blessing to me and the family of St John's.

Happenings in the Last 12 months.

Moran re-negotiated the option to purchase the surrounding property in order to fund the building of a new Worship Centre. Their option is valid until June 2021.

I am excited that Nick and Angela Cole have volunteered to head up the Small Groups this year.

I believe they bring great maturity and a love for the Scriptures and will encourage many more people to join a Small Group.

We put on an extra Pastoral Care Worker, Matilda Aquilina to support the 6pm service.

What we can pray about.

- * Pray that we all might be faithful in our Christian Service, our financial support and our weekly attendance.
- * Pray for Nick and Angela Cole as they lead the Small Groups.
- * Pray for our Preachers who prepare and speak God's Word week by week.
- * Pray that we will be faithful in praying for our Non Christian friends and family.
- * Pray for me that I will exercise godly leadership.
- * Pray that we will all remember that life is not about us, but how we can honour and serve Jesus.
- * Pray that we will all grow in our passion for "Putting lives on the right track".

Every Blessing

Tony Galea

Wardens' Report

Your Wardens Ian Harley, Andrew Wheeler and Ross Newport continue to meet with Tony each week to pray and discuss the many matters that arise.

The Diocese and Government Departments regularly request reports and information related to the church and its activities.

The proposed New Worship Centre project remains with an option taken by the Moran Australia (Camden Pty Ltd) and to extending to the 1st July 2021.

At that time Moran Australia (Camden) will make a decision to proceed with sale or not. We hold a non-refundable deposit held for the option given.

Revised plans are being prepared should the Worship Centre project proceed.

Please continue to pray for God's direction and His will to be revealed.

Our church has three (3) rental properties that require building maintenance and repairs. We pay Council rates on each property not including the church site. With the inclusion of the St. John's precinct onto the State Heritage Listing we are seeking a Heritage Valuation of land to hopefully provide a rate deduction.

Two new staff members have joined us this year with Matilda Aquilina and Haylee Morgan. We are blessed with staff and have Sarah our Office Manager leading the way.

The Wardens work closely with Parish Council who meet monthly and together with a number of working groups to consider the many issues and sharing the workload. Thank you Parish Councillors for your time, experience and dedication serving our congregation.

The church has been blessed with finances that are managed professionally. We have a finance team lead by Treasurer Gary Christie. Thank God for their wisdom and we pray to use his resources wisely.

Our volunteers again have enabled many tasks to be undertaken with a loving heart. Thank you again.

In all things we pray for God's continued blessing and leadership.

Wardens

Carrington Congregations:

Grasmere Terrace

A weekly service is held at Grasmere Terrace, Carrington Centennial Care, on Sundays for Holy Communion, worship and fellowship, thus enabling residents to hear the word of God faithfully preached on a regular basis. In short, this vital ministry brings 'church' to those who are no longer able to go to church for themselves.

The Grasmere congregation typically comprises residents from an Anglican background, but we also welcome believers of other denominations who appreciate what we have to offer. Services are usually attended by about twenty residents plus volunteers.

This ministry would not be possible if it were not for the efforts and commitment of a dedicated team of volunteers drawn from our parishioners, who participate both corporately and individually in weekly services, preaching, praying, visiting and other caring duties. The faithfulness and availability of these workers witnesses the love of Jesus to our fellow worshippers whose mobility and strength are often severely restricted by advancing age. It is wonderful to see the ways in which each team member happily takes responsibility for the many necessary tasks in such a ministry, thus ensuring that these special people, who no longer can make the journey to their own home church, are not left marginalised or forgotten by the larger body of believers.

We believe in the truth of Jesus' words: *'It is more blessed to give than to receive'* and we are indeed blessed to be tasked, indeed privileged, to share in the joy of serving some of the church's senior saints in this way. Moreover, we are also inspired and motivated by our Lord's words: *'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'*

Any parishioners who may feel called to serve God in this ministry should make themselves known at the Church office, where you will be warmly welcomed.

Yours in His Service,

David Henderson

Mary Mackillop

Services continue each week and we pray that the ministry would be a blessing to all. We are thankful for visiting ministry and for the help we receive from different members of the congregation. We visit the sick and take communion to our regular members who cannot attend.

Thank you for your prayers for us as we continue to minister to them each week.

Philip & Jeanette Pilt

Paling Court

First and foremost I would like to thank Don and Betty for the way they have established and set up the Paling Court service, now into its 3rd year. Don and Betty stepped down earlier this year from their leadership role, leaving me with very big shoes to try to fill. A very big thank you for all your hard work. Don still maintains a relationship with the people at Paling Court and is always more than willing to preach and lead the services, when needed.

Our congregation fluctuates in numbers between 28 and 34, consisting of various denominations and backgrounds, it is wonderful to see the harmony and fellowship within this group. They all care and look out for each other.

Some of our regular congregation have gone to be with the Lord in the past 12 months. It is sobering to think that we have this privilege to minister to these people and bring them words of encouragement each week.

We try to make the Easter and Christmas services special for our congregation. Easter this year we were very blessed to have Brett Crocker from our Mt Hunter Congregation sing Jerusalem, they were all very moved by his presence and wonderful voice. Christmas time we had Anne and Keith Arthur to play Christmas Hymns and carols.

They also look forward to the visiting speakers.

We are thankful for the Carrington Staff for their co-operation and assistance.

I really appreciate all the help from my wife Marilyn, Rosemary Beckinsale, Sandra and Richard Ellis, who make up the team of St John's parishioners, who give their time so generously each week.

I would like to also thank Anne and Keith Arthur who help with live music from time to time. Also, for the gift of bibles through their other ministry.

It is such a privilege and blessing to be able to share the gospel with these people in their senior years.

Paul Clarke

Women's Church

WOMEN'S CHURCH - entered its 15th year, as colourful and vibrant as ever.

We enjoyed an average of 61 women attending the service each week and 70 women are listed in Life Groups. We saw a great improvement in attendance during the winter months, compared to other years.

Due to pregnancy, Karina needed to step down from leading but was encouraged by Kim Dunbier who stepped up into leading her group. Kim continues to lead this year, supported by Karina and other young mums in the Life Group.

Here is our teaching series for the year:

Term 1 – Worth – Who I AM In Christ – confirming our value and position as a child of God. We celebrated the end of term with a healing service, where many women came forward for healing.

Term 2 – Celebrate The Day – Living In End Times. Our aim was to shift our focus from the past and everyday and look forward to our future in Christ.

Term 3 – The Voice – Hearing God Speak. The teaching helped us raise the importance of reading God's Word daily.

Term 4 – Unshakeable – a DVD Study on Daniel by Rick Warren. This was very impacting and we heard of many breakthroughs in the lives of women struggling with difficult circumstances.

We enjoyed welcoming 12 new women but sadly fare-welled our beloved Tracey who died in September after a long battle with a cancer related illness. She loved Women's Church and although extremely ill was there each week.

A new initiative was to encourage all members to have a turn at leading the studies in their groups.

It was personally encouraging for me to see Women's Church function so well while I was away for 4 weeks on Long Service leave. The team is a strong, dedicated, compassionate, competent and loving group of ordinary women doing extraordinary things for God's glory.

Debbie Galea

Women's Team

The team consists of Katrina Ha, Amy Lane, Tilda Aquilina, Glenda Stone, Cindy Thackeray and myself.

Our goal is to build stronger relationships within the church, inform women about the struggles and suffering in the world, equip women with ideas of how they can help and connect believers with non believers and those on the fringe of church.

Our strategy is to provide events that will help gather women to learn from God's Word and each other.

Our first event was the **Equip Live Stream Conference** which saw around 65 women attend the day. It was a day of fun, great food, encouraging teaching and worship. Many thanks go to James Lane who helped us with the technical side of streaming, and his helpers who provided us with great cappuccinos.

Once again we ran a "**Come Café With Me**" which helped women to meet other women in their service. We met for brunch instead of afternoon tea, which was well attended and appreciated.

One of the purposes of the Women's Team is to help us have a wider vision about the difficulties women in other parts of the world experience. We had an opportunity to hear about the work of Turning Point in our community from Davina Smith and Maiden Chorus entertained us along with a guest soloist.

Our final event was a Women's Christmas Celebration which included a card making buffet, music, tips for setting a beautiful Christmas table and an inspiring talk by Sharon Mills.

Debbie Galea

Children's Ministry:

Teaching children is one of the most important activities in our church, as it sets the foundation for faith at a young age, I know all our leaders of the different children's groups look forward to teaching the children in a fun and caring environment. Our vision is to lead children into a personal relationship with Jesus, equipping them to grow in their relationship through discipleship. Our kid's ministry teaches biblical truths through games, drama, puppets, video, singing and craft. Our entire Children's groups within St John's affirm faith in Jesus Christ, are devoted to discipleship, and value children and families. We encourage children to learn and grow in their personal relationships with Jesus Christ, showing kids that God is relevant today and equipping children to serve others and share their faith.

Our annual Kids' Holiday Club is a great outreach to the community. In 2019 we ran a 5 day program with the theme "The Greatest Showman" and looking at the idea of Jesus being the greatest man, specifically looking at the miracles he performed and ultimately his death and resurrection. We discovered the truths of the bible and encouraged the kids to decide what they believe. We had the privilege of sharing the Gospel with 130 different kids over the course of the week. Thank you to so many people who gave up their time to help out.

As most know there's been a change in leadership as of the end of 2019. Karina has trained myself to fill her role while she is on maternity leave. Karina has equipped me well for this role and I look forward to a new year, coordinating Children's ministry.

Thank you to all the volunteers from the Children's group; G.F.S, Meteors, KidsChurch, KidsTime and our annual Kids Holiday club, as the children's programs at St John's cannot run without the blessing and service of these people.

Kind Regards,

Haylee Morgan
Children's Minister

We give thanks for:

- i. Bridge building with parents which has enabled us to support them.
- ii. Seeing our girls mature physically, socially and spiritually.
- iii. Once again growth in our Teddies numbers and other groups maintaining their numbers although there was a fall off in our Seniors during last Term.
- iv. Our faithful leadership team.
- v. Our two Leader-in-Training girls for their commitment.
- vi. God's ongoing blessing on our ministry.
- vii. Support of our Church Family through prayer and encouragement, particularly for our 50 Year's Celebration.
- viii. The Office for assistance, support and willingness to help. Greatly appreciated.

Neidra Hill (Leader-In-Charge)

Kids' Church

Kids' Church is our Sunday morning program for children in Pre-school to Year 8. This is a program specifically designed around meeting the spiritual needs of the different school age groups. Learning about Jesus happens in a fun way through interactive games, stories, craft, memory verses and singing.

In 2019, at Kids' Church we averaged around 35-40 Kids. We had 4 different groups running during our Kids' Church program.

Preschool - led by Amy Burge, Sarah Melliush, Jenny Giles

Infants (K-2) - led by Karina Edgerton, Rachael Ferdinands, Kenny Broome, Lachlan Albury

Primary (3-5) - led by Lachlan Trenfield, Emma Cole, Tom Melliush and Haylee Morgan

6-8er's - led by Heather and Imli Jamir, Liam Cole and Alannah Trenfield

Also, Barbara Griffiths led our crèche, and a number of the mothers from the 10am service helped with crèche. Our Crèche Program is for Children aged 1-3 years. Our focus is relationships, as we demonstrate God's love through the way we care, guide and relate to the children, laying a foundation for each child at some point in their life, to come into a lasting relationship with Jesus.

Some of the year we followed the same theme as Adult Church, this is a great way for children and parents to be looking at the same passage on a Sunday morning, we would send take home questions, with the hope to encourage family discussion on what was talked about at church. In 2019 we looked at:

Term 1 - Reno's for Kids

Term 2 - Big Picture Story of the Bible

Term 3 - John's Gospel

Term 4 - OT lead into Christmas / Christmas Program

Haylee Morgan
Children's Minister

[KidsTime](#)

KidsTime is a place for children aged 0-5 years and their caregivers. This is a chance for parents to meet other parents in the community and to join in activities with their children, all in a fun and Christian environment.

This is such an important ministry as we not only reach the children in the community but we build relationships with parents. We see a lot of mothers that move to the area looking for a place to connect and have support. This is what KidsTime offers, a place where new parents and new families can find support and connection to the community.

2019 continued to bring a lot of growth. On average we had about 30 mums/carers and about 38 kids that attend KidsTime each week.

Karina had a great team of Christian mums from St John's helping her run and program KidsTime. Lauren Trotter, Sharon Mills, Jenna Costello, and Kim Vidler. We also have a group of women that take in turns and come to serve morning tea, chat with mums, and help pack up. Thank you to Nikki Hayward, Jane McIntosh, Linda Wheeler, Janet Broome, Glenda Stone, Jenny Rogers and Barbara Griffiths.

It's so exciting to see the children and carers listen to the bible stories and praying at the end of group time. There is a great sense of community that has formed amongst the mums/carers. We have seen some women go to Women's church or church events; this has been very encouraging to see.

Thank you for all the support of KidsTime.

Karina Edgerton

Meteors

Meteors is a program for boys from kindergarten to year 6, held in the old church hall on Wednesday afternoon for 1 ½ hours from 6.15 pm to 7.45 pm. In 2019 we had about 25 boys on the roll with a weekly average attendance of about 16. About half the boys have no, or very little, contact with any church. The program each meeting usually consists of games (the boys like it rough!), a Bible story, craft, and finish up with supper.

The leaders include some high school students, parents of Meteors and some of grandparent age.

There are a number of opportunities through Meteors.

1. With the Bible stories, we aim to provide an overview of the Bible while presenting the gospel and introducing Jesus to these young boys.
 - Parents are encouraged to attend activities like the camp fire, swimming and end of year water slide. It provides an opportunity for parents to meet the leaders.
 - With a large range in the ages of leaders we hope the boys are able to observe and experience role models from Christians, older boys and men.
2. We want the boys to have fun together in a Christian environment. Other activities have included bush walking, water slides, bowls, mini golf, water park, bike rides, craft activities, camp fires, vinegar and bi-carb rockets and cooking.
3. We encourage boys graduating from Meteors, at the end of Year 6, to progress into the Church Youth group.

We could always do with more leaders. I suppose that is a given for all the children ministries in the church.

We plant the seed but it is God who gives the increase, brings new life and fruit.

Pray that the bible stories might speak into the lives of these young boys.

Pray that the lives of the leaders might model Jesus to these young boys.

Max McKay, for the Meteors Team

8.00 am Congregational Choir

In 2019, a small group of men and woman from the 8.00 am congregation, have continued to come together on a weekly basis to rehearse a variety of hymns in *a capella* form, which we then perform approximately once a month during the 8.00 am service on Sunday mornings.

In 2019, the regular choir members are:

Sopranos: Kathy Smith, Joyce Marland, Petra Craft, Anne Bullock, Betty Longbottom, Dorris Whitford, Chris Culas

Altos: Joanne Tola, Judy Young, Sandra McBride,

Tenors: Keith Bullock

Bass: Peter Whitford

As a group, we value very highly the fellowship and friendship which has blossomed amongst members of the group. We are grateful that God has sustained the health and the commitment of our members, to allow us to continue to use the gifts of music and song with which He has blessed us, to proclaim our faith and to praise Him. We pray that He will continue to strengthen and support us all in 2020, so that our small choir group may flourish and continue to be an instrument through which we gratefully honour and sing of God's grace, power and love.

Psalm 95:1 - Come let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation...

Chris Culas

Divorce/Separation Recovery Workshop

The Divorce and Separation Recovery Workshop 2019 ran for 7 sessions on a Tuesday evening 7pm to 9.30pm from 22nd October to 3rd December. We had 7 participants and 7 helpers. We welcomed Paul Albury from 10am service as a new leader and he was a great asset to the group with his experience in dealing with domestic violence. The group is such a blessing as we see them connect and gain a sense of belonging within the group and support one another during the group and after the group. We recently began a monthly catch up group once a month on a Tuesday evening that unfortunately has to discontinue due to covid 19, the purpose of this was to further support people who were still significantly suffering and to introduce some new people to the group and get them connected for support until the next workshop runs. It is honouring God to be able to serve Him in this way and it is a blessing to be able to support His people and tell others that

don't know Him about His Son Jesus. The fruit from these workshops has seen Christian's strengthen their faith and non-Christians to know Jesus and people join church and bible study groups.

Yours in Christ,
Mandy Pilottos

Men in the Shed @ 10am

Men in the shed meets regularly on Thursday mornings - 10am - 12. It should be noted that this is NOT a 'Men's Shed' which is a registered business name and has affiliations across Australia.

Between 15-20 men meet each week to support each other in fellowship and prayer, at the Mt Hunter properties of Paul Clarke and Rod Stanley.

We have had the pleasure of being led in singing by Edwin Corea and Irfon Griffiths as well as discussing a variety of topics and relating them to the Scriptures.

As many of the group attend other Bible Study groups, we discuss other important matters amicably, some are controversial, yet allowing each person to share, and respecting each other's viewpoints and understanding. These discussions are designed for us to put what is happening in our corner of the world into God's perspective and when we do this a greater understanding is revealed.

From time to time we have used some of the wide range of tools and equipment in the sheds for our benefit but generally it is time to relax over a cuppa and chat about other issues that interest the group.

Ken Long

Missions Group

The Missions working group is a Committee of the Parish Council and is responsible for implementing the Camden Anglican Mission Policy. The group is responsible for the weekly Mission Spot at each service by maintaining contact with each mission partner through a member of congregation designated as the Ambassador.

The weekly Church Bulletin gives the names of the missionary persons or family, their email contact and the responsible sending missionary organisation. It is important to note the financial support from the parish was given only through the Mission half of the weekly offertory envelope or designated Direct Deposit.

This contact is also supported by the Mission Prayer Meeting, open to all, held in the evening of the last Saturday in the month and by the Parish Prayer Meeting held on the first Saturday of the month in the morning in the Church Hall. These meetings also pray for the persons named under Prayer Support in the Bulletin.

The Group advises the Parish Council on the allocation of these mission funds ('the pie') as set in policy. The detailed amounts are shown on the Parish Treasurer's AGM Report under the heading Specific Missions – Envelopes and Direct Debit. The giving has remained steady, however the exchange rate changes affect the overseas missionaries.

During the year there were changes in the financial distributions when the Hooper family returned from serving with Pioneers in Tanzania. The Jamir family commenced serving with Pioneers in Arnhem Land with the Yolngu people and the Galea family commenced training in Melbourne with CMS for service in Malta.

The Policy requires the working group to be elected at the Vestry AGM meeting and consists of between 4 and 7 persons, including a chairperson to be elected by the group members. The current 2019 members remaining are P. Hayward (chair), M. Brookes, M. McKay, R. Newport, C. Noonan.

Peter Hayward

Mothers' Union (MU)

St John's Mothers' Union (MU) meets at 1.30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month in the church hall. This year together with Women's church we raised over \$400 for the Jitegemee Tailoring Centre, Mara, Tanzania, run by the local Mothers' Union. This money went towards improvements to the hostel itself with new laundry, toilets, bathrooms, kitchen facilities and security fence to improve the safety of the young girls living there.

MU members together with Women's church hosted the World Day of Prayer (WDOP) service on 1 March. This year's focus was Slovenia and the project "Healing the Wounds of Trauma". Mrs Jan Waterhouse was our speaker on 'Come to the banquet'. It was well supported by members of our own church and the wider community (who were very impressed with the service and the morning tea) and over \$600 was raised and sent to the WDOP NSW.

Bible studies through the year were on the Lord's Prayer and were delivered by MU members. Guest speakers were Barbara Griffiths who said The Lord's Prayer in Welsh for us and Caldwell Martin Cox Solicitors on wills and estate planning. MU went to St Luke's at

The Oaks in October who hosted Sue Davis who spoke of the history of The Oaks. In December, we held a combined MU, Women's church and KidsTime Carol service with morning tea. Lauren Trotter gave the talk. The collection taken went to the MU work with prisoners' families.

Luanne Mills

Music and Song Evening

The Music and Song Evening was held on the last Thursday of seven months of the year, namely February, March, April, May, September, October and finished in November with Christmas Carols and Songs with a real Santa dropping by giving all attendees goodies.

We would like to thank all those who joined us, particularly all the musicians and singers as it was a lot of fun and we all learnt a lot from each other. A special thanks to all those who did items.

The Music and Song Evening focuses on singing and playing all those old songs and music, choruses and scripture in song that mean so much to us all. Many people have commented that they have missed singing the older hymns and songs we do that they grew up with.

Along with the spiritual songs we had different musical themes, such as Anzac, Australiana, Old Time Songs, and Romantic Love Ballads. People have said they love the spiritual songs we sing as they remind them of how much God loves us and also how He leads us in life. They remind us of God's promises and how much He cares for us - how wonderful and great He is and of His Kingdom.

Keith and Anne Arthur

Office

The parish office is busy providing information, CDs, flyers and newsletters, managing rosters, accounts, communicating with suppliers, fulfilling diocese requirements, updating the website, providing references, staff meetings, filing, arranging interments in the Columbarium, organizing behind the scenes for services, funerals, weddings, baptisms and hall use etc.

Thank you to our gracious God for providing the many people who have supported the parish office in 2019 – and making it possible for me to go on leave to care for my family. Farewell and many thanks to Fay who has now retired after many years of assisting the

Treasurer and thank you to Marilyn for taking on her work. Thank you to Carollyne, Jan, Louise, Prue and many others who have been so helpful. Thank you to the Wardens who are always available for wise advice, and to Christine for managing wedding bookings with grace and diligence. Thank you to Tony for godly leading and all the staff who are a blessing to work with. I would value your prayer for good communication and the efficient operation of the office so that all who come here are appropriately assisted in God's love,

Sarah MacRaid, Office Manager

Open Church

The church is open on most Friday mornings from 10am to 12 noon for visitors interested in learning more about the church and its history. Thank you to Barbara, Betty, Carol, Deb, Dianne, Dorothy, Neryl, Sylvia and others who give up their time to look after these visitors and help prepare the church ready for Sunday. They are all so welcoming and shine God's love to those who visit.

Sarah MacRaid

Open Door Friendship Group

Open Door Friendship Group welcomes all who like to come.

We meet at 10am in St John's Hall every Tuesday from the first Tuesday in February to mid-December, finishing with Christmas lunch somewhere in Camden.

We pay \$2 each week towards morning tea, electricity and Christmas lunch. We also put in \$1 a week for Anglican Aid's Water Works, which went towards providing toilet facilities for a refugee clinic in Jordan, completing a bore hole in drought-afflicted Kenya, constructing water tanks for bonded labourers in Pakistan's brick kilns, \$400 in all. This year we will be donating \$1 a week towards the Children's Cancer Institute.

We have a brief Bible discussion during our meeting.

We have varying numbers, anything from 6 to 16, not all the members are from our congregation.

Nikki Hayward

Pastoral Care

I praise and thank God for 2019, as always God has been faithful and I look forward to what God will do in 2010. I give thanks for our pastoral team Pat Burnett, Trish Harley, Jan Neville and Tilda Aquilina. I am thankful for their faithfulness, commitment and support in all they do serving God and his people.

As a team, we continue to love and care for our congregation, encourage them to grow spiritually, and come alongside those new to our church and we have opportunities to reach out to our community.

It has been exciting to see God at work in the lives of his people and the way God is growing our team that goes into our Retirement Villages and Nursing Home's for Communion once a month on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and visiting as needed. Irfon and Barbara Griffiths are a great blessing.

Our team that does Christianity Explained with those that come to have their babies baptised is growing, which is an answer to prayer. God has been working in the lives of some of the parents from the Baptisms - some are coming to church, also their children are coming to Kid's Church and to Kids Time which is for preschoolers, where they all have the opportunity to be with other Christians and hear about Jesus.

Finally, I would like to thank Tony as our leader and all those who pray, encourage and support our pastoral team. We serve an amazing God and it is a real privilege to be a part of all that God is doing in his church and the community.

Yours in Christ
Debbie Banister

Safe Ministry

Safe Ministry is all about ensuring that we have safe leaders, with safe practices and ensuring safe environments, as we meet in various settings at St. Johns.

Linda Wheeler and I are the Safe Ministry Representatives for St. John's. Our roles involve:

- a) **Assist the Minister:** to comply with the child protection screening requirements.
- b) **Keep Records:** of Working with Children checks and Safe Ministry training.
- c) **Monitor and Report:** on safe ministry systems and practice in the parish, and
- d) **Report any abuse.**

(Excerpt taken from <https://safeministry.org.au/blueprint-smr/>).

Safe Ministry Administration

The role involves substantial administration with verifying Working with Children Checks with NSW Children's Guardian, to ensure that individuals have the correct clearance to serve or work in ministry. We keep records of these in the office and online database.

In 2019, we verified 30 Working with Children Checks.

The other administrative aspect is the Safe Ministry Certificates and Training. We collect Safe Ministry training certificates and keep records in the office, and our online database.

In 2019, we had 20 people complete their Safe Ministry Training.

Safe Ministry Records Online (SaMRO)

The Anglican Diocese has richly blessed all Sydney Anglican churches with the free online database, known as the Safe Ministry Records Online. This database is a productive and secure way of handling all the sensitive information we collect. It also works on our behalf to automatically notify individuals with upcoming Safe Ministry or Working with children check expiries. This helps aid in the administrative process and follow up.

Safe Ministry Culture

This year, Linda and I have adopted a perspective of encouraging everyone at St. John's to be safe ministry aware. It's not just the job of those serving in ministry to young people. But the church family.

Safe Ministry for 2020

Our plan is to hopefully expand the team, to help with the workload of this important ministry.

Encourage the church family to have a Safe Ministry perspective in all we do. We hope to achieve this through safe ministry promotions, mission spots, and provide educational material for others.

Silent Bible Distribution Ministry

Some 3½ years ago we asked Tony if we could put some Gideon's New Testament Bibles on the back table near the door coming into church with a simple sign "This Book holds the secret to everlasting life. Please take one."

This is a silent ministry to the many people who pass through our church doors with Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings. What is absolutely amazing over this time more than 1500 bibles have been taken off the table without us doing anything but praying about it. It is a great thing and something to thank and praise God for.

We want each member of our church to share in this very important ministry and become prayer partners and warriors with us - that God's Word will work in the hearts of everyone that takes it. We encourage parishioners to take the bibles to give to friends and family in need and learn from the inside back cover how to lead someone to Jesus.

God's Word says in Isaiah 55:11

my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Keith and Anne Arthur

Strategic Planning and Heritage Committee

Through the year the committee have met and considered projects that include:-

- Review implications of Listing St. John's Precinct on the State Register.
- Ongoing maintenance to 43 Alpha Road, 29 Forrest Crescent and Rectory.
- Review proposed Worship Centre plans and make recommendation to Parish Council.
- Consider concept plans for additional toilets attached to the southern end of the office building with proposed access off the car parking area.

Thank God for the finances provided and parishioner's time and effort.

Ross Newport
Chairman

Work Health and Safety Committee

Risk Management Report

In 2018 a Risk Management Manual was being prepared for the Parish. At the June 2019 Parish Council meeting the new Risk Management Manual was presented to Tony and the Parish Council.

The full Risk Management Manual will have three sections:

1. Risk Management Manual – (completed)
2. Emergency Management Manual – (completed)
3. Disaster Management Manual – (not started)

1. Risk Management

The Risk Management Manual follows the framework set out by the Diocese.

- Risk Management Framework – outlines risk management practices
- Child Protection – covers Safe Ministry headed up by Jimmy Lane
- Building Environment – includes all WHS items outside the office
- Working Environment – includes WHS items involving ‘workers’
- Bullying and Violence and
- Food Safety

In July 2019 we formed our first Safety Committee under the direction of Parish Council to assist in the implementation of WHS practices at St John’s:

- Charles Noonan
- Glenn Jensen
- Andrew McWilliam (as the inaugural chair)

In February 2020 Sarah MacRaild is a welcome addition to the Safety Committee, enabling St John’s to have a ‘worker’s’ representative.

Both Staff and Parish Council meetings now include a standing Health and Safety agenda item.

In 2019 we had eight WHS incidents or near misses reported. All were investigated and acted upon by the Wardens.

2. Emergency Management Manual

The Emergency Management Manual outlines responses to:

- Fire and smoke
- Phone/ Bomb threats
- Medical emergencies
- Intrusion with malice etc.

Evacuation diagrams have been posted at all building exits. We aim to implement Fire Drills for all in 2020. If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to ask Tony or one of the Safety Committee representatives.

Andrew McWilliam.

Parish WHS Representative to the Diocese.

Youth Ministry

Our goal at St. John's Youth Group is to put young lives on the right track. To achieve this, we encourage the youth to know and walk in Christ.

Overview

I James, have completed my first full year as Youth Minister and it has been a wonderful year. We averaged 30-40 kids a week at Youth Group. It's been really encouraging meeting and teaching the next generation about Jesus.

Youth Group 2019 Teaching Plan

Term 1-John's Gospel. Who I Am.

Term 2-The Book of Daniel. The Unshakeable Kingdom.

Term 3-Ephesians 6. Battle Studies in the Armour of God.

Term 4-Battle Studies-What's a Battle I face in my life.

Winter Beach Camp 2019

We had 66 in attendance at this camp, this is including Teenagers and Adult Leaders.

The theme and teaching of our camp was around Construction. With the main focus of making

Timothy and Naomi Ash were our guests, with Tim guest speaking, which the kids thoroughly enjoyed.

This camp is an important date in the calendar for our leaders and youth that attend. The quality time spent in fellowship with one another and God is a very fruitful experience, and the change is evident in the youth that attend.

Elvanto 2019

Elvanto is an online church management software. We have been utilising it with having a digital roll call. This enables us to keep track of who comes and who has been absent for long periods. We do this as a way of monitoring Youth Group, and providing pastoral care and follow up to members we haven't seen in a while.

The other great aspect of Elvanto is that we keep records of Youth Group members contact details and other information regarding safety. Such as emergency contacts, allergies and other relevant information that needs to be stored.

The year ahead 2020

Our current team serving faithfully in Youth Ministry is Amy Lane, Anneliese Lovell, Emma Jensen, Edwin Corea, Haylee Morgan, Taylor Youl and Tom Crocker. I am extremely thankful for these leaders, as they speak, and model the love of Christ. They also give up a week of work, to help me coordinate Winter Beach Camp, which I cannot do without the support of the team.

At this stage, we average attendance of 25-35 kids. We've seen new kids come along, especially those, who have just started High School.

We now have 3 Youth Bible Studies, with the plan to start 1 more, due to the high interest taken from the kids.

Combined Youth Events

Twice this year, we're encouraging the Youth to meet with other Youth Groups, at our Combined Youth Events, with other Anglican Youth Groups, which one has been held at Oran Park Anglican College. The aim is to encourage one another in the faith and bring a friend along to hear the Word of God.

Youth In Service

We have many of our Youth Group members serving in ministry. They serve at Kids Church, Youth Band Music, and Music at either the 10am or 6pm service. This involvement has been a great blessing to the church community, as well as an opportunity to contribute and grow in the faith.

Winter Beach Camp 2020

Lastly, we're continuing the annual tradition of Winter Beach Camp, not just for the sake of tradition, but the impact it has on the Youth. Each year, we travel with the Youth down to Gerringong for five days, in the July school holidays, to live together as a Christian community. The week has a lasting and powerful impact on the faith of the youth that we take away. Again, we have our leaders come along to help, and they give up annual leave, holidays, and pay to come to this camp. Please pray, that we can continue the good work of not only Winter Beach Camp, but Youth Ministry, as we seek to tell the next generation about Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Jimmy Lane,

Youth Minister.