



# *Annual Report 2015*



Anglican Diocese of Melbourne



**ANGLICAN PARISH OF ESSENDON**  
**CHRIST CHURCH ESSENDON**

[www.essendonanglican.org.au](http://www.essendonanglican.org.au)

# *Annual Meeting Agenda 2015*



1. Opening Prayer & Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Reception of the electoral roll of the Parish and tabling of the Parish Governance Act
4. Minutes of the previous annual meeting;
5. **Annual report by the Vicar;** (Fr John)
6. **Annual report by the Treasurer;** (Margaret Elsey)
7. **Wardens & Parish Council Reports**
  - 7.1 Wardens (Bill, Jilly & Alan)
  - 7.2 Parish Council (Alan Wilson)
8. **Other Reports**
  - 8.1 Catering & Social (Sue MacMillan)
  - 8.2 Fundraising & Social (Chris Angus)
  - 8.3 Maintenance & Hall Bookings (Bill Howard)
  - 8.4 Men @ Leisure (Fr John)
  - 8.5 Ladies @ Leisure (Carolyn Mathes & Chris Angus)
  - 8.6 Young Adults Group (Jilly Webb)
  - 8.7 Music Report (Samuel McMahon)
  - 8.8 Christ Church Opportunity Shop (Megan Rankin)
  - 8.9 Flower Guild (Sue MacMillan)
  - 8.10 Aged Care (Sue Hurren)
  - 8.11 Messy Church (Carolyn Mathes)
  - 8.12 Bible Study Program (Fr John)
  - 8.13 EssACC Committee (Fr John)
  - 8.14 Christ Church Craft Group (Margaret Pereira)
9. **Elections and Appointments**
  - 9.1 Churchwardens
  - 9.2 Parish Council;
  - 9.3 Lay representatives to the parish Incumbency Committee
10. The appointment of the auditor
11. **General Business**
  - 11.1
12. FJ Awards  
FJ's the parish year in retrospect
13. Conclusion & Blessing





## *Vicar's Report*

The big buzz word around the Diocese of Melbourne is “Mission Shaped Church.” Statements from the Archbishop, Synod reports and other Diocesan documents all suggest that we need to be a “Mission Shaped Church” rather than a “Survival Church” which is insular and focused on fundraising to survive.

Mission is doing everything we can that leads us to know, love and enjoy God—to love God and our neighbours.

What is a “Mission Shaped Church?”

1. A Mission Shaped Church is focused on God the Trinity. *Worship lies at the heart of a missionary church, and to love and know God as Father, Son and Spirit is its chief inspiration and primary purpose.*
2. A Mission Shaped Church is incarnational. *It seeks to shape itself in relation to the culture in which it is located or to which it is called. It is Christ in the World*
3. A Mission Shaped Church transformational. *It exists for the transformation of the community that it serves, through the power of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit.*
4. A Mission Shaped Church makes disciples. *It is active in calling people to faith in Jesus Christ.*
5. A Mission Shaped Church is relational. *It is characterized by welcome and hospitality. Its ethos and style are open to change when new members join.*

A Mission Shaped Church is prepared to explore doing church differently. We call this “Fresh Expressions of Church.” Messy Church is a fresh expression of Church

and part of us being Mission Shaped. We will need to continue exploring what it means to be Mission Shaped and our Mission Action Plan that was updated earlier this year will help us.

Not only is it important that our parish is Mission Shaped but also our Diocese. Our Archbishop, as part of his Mission Shaped Diocese, has moved the boundaries. The Regions are gone and replaced with three Episcopate Areas of Care. These are named: Marimngatha Episcopate with the meaning of - divine, supreme being (Bishop Genieve Blackwell); Jumbunna Episcopate with the meaning of - speaking out, proclamation (Bishop Paul White); Oodthenong Episcopate with the meaning of - gathering (Bishop Philip Huggins). We are now part of the Marimngatha Episcopate.

Deanery and Archdeaconry boundaries have also changed. The Coburg Deanery is now under the Episcopal care of Bishop Genieve and is made up of some parishes from the former deaneries of Essendon and Coburg including Christ Church Essendon. A new Deanery of Hume under the Episcopal care of Bishop Philip will be formed consisting of the remaining parishes from the former Coburg and Essendon Deaneries

Now that much of our redevelopment is over, we now need to turn our attention to being a Mission Shaped Church.

### **125th CELEBRATIONS**

Sunday 23rd August 2015 we celebrated 125th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the original church which is the current venue for our Op Shop.

A special “Founders Day” Eucharist was celebrated by the Archbishop Philip Freier followed by morning tea and then the blessing of the Parish’s new Town Houses. It was lovely to have Archbishop Philip and his wife Joy with us to celebrate this day.

A spit roast followed with lots of fellowship. We plan to remember the founders of our church each year on the Sunday closest to the 23rd August.

## **REDEVELOPMENT**

As I write this report, the keys of the Parish's new town houses have been handed over to the Parish. Blinds are being hung and estate agents consulted. We hope that by the end of November / early December tenants will be in.

It has taken six years to renovate the old Kindergarten and to demolish the hall and build the town houses. Lots of issues have been dealt with and the outcome will greatly benefit the Parish in the long term.

It is hoped that much of the income from the renting of the town houses will employ a family/children's worker to help build up our Church and to link us in the community. A Thank you to Bill Howard, Margaret Elsey, Alan Wilson and Jilly Webb who have worked with Fr John to make sure we achieved a positive outcome.

## **CHURCH ATTENDANCES**

I have been very frustrated with church attendances over the last 12 months. One Sunday we have a good number of people attending and the next we have a poor attendance. Thank you to the faithful who come most Sundays. Thank you for making Christ Church and the worship of God a priority. Many still only come monthly and need to consider coming weekly or more regularly.

Sadly a number of our regular older parishioners are now unable to attend worship for a variety of reasons. Sue Hurren and I take communion to those who cannot attend.

We need to not be frightened to invite others to our church. Other churches invite. We also need to invite and welcome others.

Thank you to those who pick up and take home the elderly

## **MISSION ACTION PLAN**

At the beginning of the year the Parish explored what the ideal church should be at Essendon with goals for the next few years. This vision plan was, with the help of the Parish Council, converted into a mission action plan was adopted at the June meeting.

This document will help us to be a mission shaped church and fulfil the Diocese requirements.

The Parish Council will need to revisit this document regularly and implement its directions.

## **CHOIR & ORGANIST**

Music is important in our worship. A big thank you to Samuel McMahon our organist who weekly provides wonderful music. I am very grateful for his support. Thank you to the choir for singing the psalms and assisting in the singing of hymns in our 9.30am Eucharist. We need new members for our choir, so if you enjoy singing we would still love to see and hear you in the choir.

Thank you also to Daryl Higgins who plays for us when Samuel is away.

## **WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST**

On the first Wednesday of the month we hold a healing Eucharist where we pray for the sick. On the second Wednesday of the month there was a reflective Eucharist with music. The third Wednesdays is a traditional Eucharist without music and on the fourth Wednesday we have Taize music with the liturgy. We also held three requiem services to pray for the recently departed and also celebrated saints days.

A small group gather for these services and we would welcome others.

Many also gather at 9am at Café Two Half Beans on Wednesday morning for a coffee and chat before walking over to the road to attend the Wednesday Eucharist. All are welcome to join us.

## **OH&S, ESSENTIAL SAFETY MEASURES & MAINTENANCE**

The Diocese has been bringing in new Occupation, Health and Safety (OH&S) procedures during 2014-5 which the vicar and wardens have been working through. Seminars have been attended to help us. Government and Diocese regulations demand that we have in place regular inspections of our buildings. The priest and wardens have been reading through the many pages of paper work and setting up the appropriate inspections and documentation to ensure our buildings are safe and meet all requirements.

A maintenance plan with regular inspections has been put in place. Thank you to the Warden's for the work they have done in this area.

## **REACH OUT**

Reach Out has an aim of communicating information to the parish on what is happening, advertising events and teaching parishioners about the faith. A highlight this year has been the diary of Chris Angus on her trip to Greece & Turkey walking in the steps of St John & St Paul. Sue Hurren's monthly reflection has also been well received. Fr John has written a series on suffering.

Thank you to those who contribute articles and to Margaret Eley who prints and edits the magazine.

It is a parish magazine so please feel free to contribute articles. Please give them to Fr John before the 15th of the month.

## **LADIES@LEISURE, MEN@LEISURE & YOUNG ADULTS GROUP**

Good churches have a strong sense of community and the building of good friendships. This is where our Ladies and Men's groups and recently our Young Adults Group have a special role.

A number of ladies (Ladies@Leisure) have been on a monthly basis going out and having fun. They have coffee and cake, lots of laughs and visit places in Melbourne

many did not know existed, while having more coffee, cake and laughs.

Another small group of men (Men@Leisure) have been having dinner with Fr John in Pubs and restaurants around Essendon. This has been a great opportunity to build friendships as well as have fun. It would be good if more joined the few who meet next year.

I am delighted that Jilly Webb has formed a Young Adults Group to bring together some of our young adults to care and support each other while having some fun.

## **FRIENDS@LEISURE**

Friends@Leisure is a new initiative in which two people, the friends, operate together as a single unit so that they are able to monitor, care, guide and help each other. As part of our pastoral care program we will be during 2016 setting up this buddy system for all parishioners.

## **WEB PAGE**

Most churches have Web Pages and some are now on Facebook and other social networking sites. Our Web Page continues to put us on the map with local people as well as overseas people reading our web pages.

Our Web Page uses old technology and is in need of a revamp and update so that it is easily read on tablets and phones. Al MacMillan is currently redesigning our web page and the new design should be up and running soon

This time last year I expressed a hope that we can explore in the near future being on other social networking sites including Facebook. Thank you Trudy Mathes who has set us Christ Church facebook page.

Please check out our webpage at

[www.essendonanglican.org.au](http://www.essendonanglican.org.au)

[www.facebook.com/essendonanglican](http://www.facebook.com/essendonanglican)

## **CHRIST CHURCH OP SHOP**

In 2013 the Op Shop celebrated 20 years in the current venue. A great achievement.

In 2015 the Op Shop celebrated 50 years in existence. This is a tremendous achievement.

The Essendon Op Shop has had a great year. Although there is no pressure on what is raised, I have discovered that financially we have had a great year. Well done and thank you.

Many people benefit from our Op Shop. Customers purchase many quality items at a very reduced price. Others are lonely and enjoy coming to receive a smile and a chat. The Op Shop donates some of its profit to local and church charities as well as supporting financially many disasters that occur from time to time around the world. Our church at Christ Church Essendon also benefits financially from the Op Shop.

All volunteers give their time and talents freely and gain many benefits back with lasting friendships, support and encouragement. I continue to be most impressed with the Christ Church Op Shop and its staff. A big thank you to the Op Shop Committee and to all the volunteers. Thank you for your efforts and please continue to have fun, to enjoy each others company and to help those in need.

Congratulations on being 50. May the Op Shop continue to grow and prosper.

## **ANZAC DAY / REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Christ Church Essendon is a War Memorial Church and so it has been important to hold the annual ANZAC Day Eucharist in April and also a Remembrance Day Service in November. Both these services were well attended and it is hoped that this will continue.

## **CHRISTMAS, LENT & EASTER LITURGIES**

Christmas and Easter are the major festivals of the Church and all Christians should attend these liturgies. Thank you to all who have faithfully attended the Christmas, Lent and Easter liturgies especially Palm Sunday, Maundy

Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil on the Saturday night. These services are important services in the life of the Church and in them we see our salvation.

## **FILM NIGHT**

On the first Friday of the month, a film night has been held in the Parish Centre. Attendances have varied but those who come have had a great time. We have watched a number of different films and look forward to this continuing.

## **MESSY CHURCH**

In March 2014 we started Messy Church in the Parish. Messy church is for families to do things together. It includes chill together (welcome & chat), create together (craft), celebration together (simple worship) and chew together, share a simple evening meal together.

Messy Church is once a month on the first Sunday from 4 to 6 pm. Thank you to all the leaders and to the families who are involved. It would be nice to have a few more families attending so please let your friends know about this great program.

It is so good to see children in our Church.

## **ASSOCIATED CLERGY**

Sue Hurren continues to assist as an honorary Associate Deacon. As well as assisting in Sunday worship, Sue visits several nursing homes (Essendon Nursing Home, Trivi Court Nursing Home & Ronn Conn Nursing Home) once a month to take services and also spends an afternoon a month visiting and taking the reserve sacrament to parishioners who cannot come to church. Thank you Sue

Fr Richard Murray joined the Parish as an honorary Associate Priest and continues as Chaplain to RMIT. During 2015 Fr Richard has been the Locum at the Parish of Brimbank and also at St James the Great, St Kilda. This means we have not seen a lot of Fr Richard but we look forward to his involvement back in the Parish in 2016.

2016

We look forward in 2016 to a number of exciting things including:

- Implementing our Mission Action Plan for the Parish
- Continuing 'Messy Church' once a month on a Sunday night for young families and exploring other ways to involve families and children
- Implementing our Pastoral Care Buddy program called Friends@Leisure
- Consolidation existing programs

## THANK YOU

Thank you to all who have worked hard over the last 12 months. A special thank you to the Wardens: Bill, Jilly and Alan and to the Parish Council for their support and work. The new Parish Act requires that Parish Council members take a 12 month break every 6 years. We thank Bill Howard, Sue MacMillan and Katherine Anderson who will be taking a break from Parish Council during 2016.

Thank you to Margaret our Treasurer and Alan our Secretary. Thank you to all who quietly do things around the Church from mowing lawns, to decorating the church with flowers, helping in the kitchen, assisting in the liturgy, welcoming or inviting people to church and so on.

Thank you to Carolyn, Jilly and Trudy for their support and encouragement. Thank you.

A lot has been achieved this year, however there is much more to do and I look forward to working with all members of the parish in building up the Parish and the Kingdom of God.

As I said last year and the year before that, this is a great Parish with good hard working parishioners. Let us work together to build up the Kingdom.

Fr John Mathes  
Parish Priest

## *Treasurer's Report*

Offerings have increased over the last two years, though our Mission Giving and our Fund Raising are the lowest in two years. Op Shop sales are lower than last year but an increase from in 2013. Bank interest is again low, but next year when our term deposit matures it will increase like last years figures. Hall rentals are low and we hope this will improve when the town houses are finally finished and we have some tenants.

Stipend has increased, though these figures reflect not just the stipend, but also superannuation, vicarage utilities and all other costs associated in having a parish priest, and these can but found outlined in the profit and loss statement.

Once again, thank you to all who give generously to our parish, financially through the plate, as well as giving freely of their time and effort in working in our Op Shop, and in supporting our fund raising events. Thank you, we wouldn't exist without all your help.

Margaret Elsey  
Parish Treasurer





## *Warden's Report*

The 2015 year has been eventful in the life of Christ Church, with the steady introduction of new faces into our congregation being the most pleasing aspect of the year. This year also saw the completion of the property development and handover of three beautiful new townhouses to the Parish. We believe the income stream from this development will facilitate a new era in the presence of the Anglican Church in Essendon. The Parish's Mission Action Plan has, for more than five years, included a clause about the appointment of a person who will specialise in interaction with youth and young families. The rentals which will result from the townhouses with which the Parish will be entrusted will be largely used to meet the costs of this appointment. The word of God will hopefully be even more widely promoted in Essendon and our Parish numbers will swell as a result.

Messy Church continues to attract a lively group of children (and their families), and we trust this vibrant group will grow in faith and become active members of the Parish Family.

Father John has recently introduced the Friends at Leisure program. This program encourages people in our church family to pair up and monitor, care, guide and help each other. The Wardens recommend this initiative to all members of the Parish Family, and we hope that it will be well supported.

As always, the continued strength and wellbeing of the Parish relies on the voluntary efforts of many, and it is always risky to thank individuals. So many of the tasks essential to the day to day smooth running of the parish happen 'behind the scenes', and are faithfully undertaken without fuss or fanfare. Please know that the Wardens are very thankful for the efforts of everyone who makes their time and talents available, because without you, our Parish would not tick along so wonderfully.

As always, the glue which binds us all together is the effort and dedication of Father John Mathes. Father John, it seems inadequate to say that we appreciate you, but please be assured that we all do, and we thank God for the ministry of you and your family at Christ Church. Your continuing presence is our midst will surely see the new property that we have had on the drawing board for almost six years start to bear fruit in 2016.

At a time when religion, and of particular interest to us, Christianity, is under challenge on many fronts, the faithful members of our Parish are the foundations upon which we trust the next phase in the life of Christ Church will be built. It is our obligation to God, our Church, and our Parish to remain faithful to what for many has been a lifelong commitment. The future of Christ Church is assured, and the Wardens are certain that there are exciting years of growth now upon us.

Bill Howard, Alan Wilson. & Jilly Webb  
Wardens



## *Parish Council Report*

Parish Council met six times between December 2014 and October 2015. In attendance at meetings were: Fr John Mathes (6 meetings), Katherine Anderson (5 meetings, apology for 1), Chris Angus (5 meetings, apology for 1), Deni Cameron (6 meetings), Tony Clayton (3 meetings, apology for 1), Margaret Eley (6 meetings), Bill Howard (5 meetings, apology for 1), Susan MacMillan (6 meetings), Jilly Webb née Mathes (3 meetings, apology for 3) and Alan Wilson (6 meetings). Sue Hurren attended 3 meetings.

Tony Clayton resigned from Parish Council in June, leaving the parish after moving to the other side of Melbourne for work. We miss Tony, and his contribution to Parish Council and the sanctuary team, but trust that God will bless him as he finds a new church community closer to home.

Parish Council meetings were scheduled every two months. Parish Council members supported the day to day running of the parish, dealt with church correspondence and Diocesan policy, and oversaw required maintenance of the church property, including replacement of faulty lighting. In May, the broader parish was consulted regarding a new Mission Action Plan, which was formally adopted by the Parish Council in June. Augmentation of the church's PA system was deferred for a further year, to allow for the changes to

Australian regulations for wireless frequency transmissions to take full effect.

This year, we saw the delivery of the new apartments as part of the redevelopment of the old hall and tennis courts. A social highlight of the year was the 125th anniversary of Christ Church and our inaugural Founder's Day celebration, with a visit from the Archbishop, a special service, and blessing of the new apartments. We trust that the income from these beautiful new townhouses will support our mission to build up the Kingdom of God and renew our Church community.

Parish Council is very thankful for the faithful leadership and tireless dedication of Father John Mathes. The completion of the new apartments is only one of many examples of the real and significant achievements of Father John's leadership in building up Christ Church. We thank God for Father John's ministry with us, and for the vibrant enthusiasm that Father John and Carolyn bring to our Christ Church family.

Alan Wilson,  
Parish Secretary



## *Catering & Social*

Once again, there have been few occasions that catering has been required as the current trend of this parish is to either get caterers in or go out to eat! Is this a sign of our economic "well-being" or apathy?

The annual Pancake Evening was its usual culinary and social success as were the Easter Sunday Hot Cross buns. This year a Parish Picnic was held in Woodlands Park. Several people and children had fun eating, chatting, kicking a footy or going for a walk.

The Patronal Festival /AGM luncheon was celebrated at a local hostelry. The BBQ before the 9 lessons and Carols Service was well attended with a variety of salads provided by the parishioners to accompany the meats supplied by parish funds, and the desserts were scrumptious.

There were two unique functions this year, the first being a meeting of the Victorian Police Chaplains at Christ Church and in appreciation of this and their afternoon tea, we received a lovely certificate (now in the kitchen). The second, of course, was the 125th Anniversary and Founders Day; what a grand occasion this was. The Archbishop was in fine form (wearing his Essendon scarf and hat) and over 80 people shared the tasty morning tea and spit roast luncheon. It was a great day and congratulations go to those few people who organised it, especially Fr. John.

Sue MacMillan

## *Fundraising & Social*

The Social/Fundraising Committee has had a busy year.

The Special Easter Effort plus the Christmas Special Effort raised approximately \$1200 and combined with some donations, this enabled 14 pew cushions to be purchased as a memento of the 125<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of our church, Christ Church. The 125<sup>th</sup> celebrations on Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup> were enhanced with approximately 100 people in attendance including Archbishop Philip Freier. Bookmarks and pens were available for sale as reminders of the Church's special day. (There are still some available should you wish to purchase them.)

All the social groups, from the First Friday Film Night group to the Young Adults group, the Ladies@Leisure and Men@Leisure, held successful events throughout the year and look forward to seeing you next year.

Once again, Thank-you to everyone who participated in all fund raising activities. Your willingness to not only buy tickets but to also donate items is always appreciated.

Christine Angus

## *Maintenance & Hall*

### *Bookings*

Unfortunately old churches and buildings require lots of maintenance, and our Church and buildings are no exception.

Material costs are high for the jobs we can do ourselves, and specialist tradespeople are even more expensive, when we need them.

Guttering has been cleaned, doors repaired, lights globes installed and items repaired in the Op Shop attended to throughout the year. Fences were erected between the Church and the Development which meant a concrete path could be finally laid. Additional security lighting has also been provided.

A garden has been planted near the hall decking which will enhance the area, and this will also provide a source of fresh herbs for parishioners. Repairs have also been made to two of our toilets.

The wardens are looking at the broken concrete in the front of the Church. This

damage is partially caused by tree roots (from the footpath) and we are talking with Moonee Valley Council about appropriate remedies, and hopefully, a sharing of the associated costs.

As always, the time and efforts of those who volunteer their time to carry out these works, and jobs like mowing the lawns is appreciated. Additional assistance is always very welcome, as there are heaps of jobs which simply get prioritised down the list.

Weightwatchers continue to be valued tenants of our hall, and a number of young mothers groups use it on a regular basis. The young mums groups are welcome as an element of the Parish Mission, but they only cover their own costs. Narcotics Anonymous and a Dance Group are the newest people to hire the hall. We are reluctant to hire the hall more and thus impinge on the requirements of the Parish.

Bill Howard

## *Men @ Leisure*

It is important for men to gather and to chat and support each other.

A small group of men have been meeting with Fr John at the Lincolnshire Arms Hotel, Water Gardens Hotel, Keilor Hotel, Dousta Gala Hotel, Mamma Lina's & Ameer's Indian Restaurants for an evening meal and Café Two and half Beans for breakfast. Some men also joined the Ladies@Leisure for lunch in China Town.

Fr John cooked a roast also for the men continuing a tradition started in 2010. These events have been very enjoyable and a lot of fun.

Hopefully this program will continue next year and that more men will join and enjoy this relaxed social night.

Fr John

## *Ladies @ Leisure*

Our monthly group is known for our coffee and cakes!

We are a group of ladies who love to have fun exploring Melbourne (and further afield) which includes coffee and cake and sometimes a glass of wine. In 2015, we have had Gelato ice creams, High Tea at the National Gallery of Victoria, perused craft stalls, expanded our cultural insight, enjoyed fabulous views of the city and the surrounds from mountain tops, leisurely Sunday afternoon walks around autumnal gardens, dressed in garments from a TV series, willingly eaten Devonshire teas, overcome a fear of heights on the Melbourne Star and finished our year by lunching in China Town.

If you would like to have fun then come and take part. This is a great way to meet people and visit places you might not normally go to by yourself.

Carolyn Mathes and Chris Angus.

## *Young Adults Group*

The young adults group was created in September this year. It aims to bring in the young adults of our parish to strengthen relationships with each other in a fun and relaxed way. The first night we went to Laser tag. Eight people came which was a promising start. We had heaps of fun running around a dark maze shooting each other with lasers. In October, we went to Bounce, a massive trampoline park. It was amazing to jump so high and try some cool tricks. I sincerely hope that the young adults of the parish come along to the next event and connect with other Christians. Please tell family members and friends about this great program!

Jilly Webb

## *Music Report*

Over the past year the choir has continued to contribute to the parish's worship through their assistance with a new communion setting, new hymns, singing the psalms, items at the carols service, and the occasional communion anthem. A highlight was the 125th anniversary service, when we welcomed former members back to join us. I (again) encourage members of the congregation to consider joining the choir, even on an occasional basis if they would consider a regular commitment too onerous. No previous experience is necessary! The more even occasional members we have, the greater the numbers each Sunday and the more music we can rehearse to share with the congregation. As per the last few years, this year's carol service will again feature musicians from within our own parish community and I invite anyone interested in contributing a solo or group item to contact me as soon as possible. I have been in contact with the new director of music at Christ Church Brunswick (where the choir are no longer singing evensong even in their own church) and will investigate ways we may be able to continue co-operation between the two choirs. The organ continues to be regularly maintained. My thanks extend to Daryl Higgins for his assistance during my absences, and to the choir, Vicar, wardens and congregation for your continued support.

Samuel McMahon

## *Christ Church*

### *Opportunity Shop*

Another year has flown by at the Opportunity Shop and a notable one as we celebrate 50 years of the Opportunity Shop's existence. During the year I have been thinking about those courageous

ladies who were our first Committee and I applaud their vision and commitment. I have been trawling through the archives, reading correspondence and minutes and looking at old photos, rosters and news paper clippings. As secretary, I mourn the loss of such elegant correspondence: everybody wrote a formal RSVP to any occasion, pretty notelets contained acknowledgements of flowers and good wishes sent in happy and sad instances and handwritten letters on Parish note paper were sent regularly from the Vestry thanking the Opportunity Shop for their many and generous donations. It provides a vivid picture of events and shows the depth and breadth of the Op Shop's influence. The Opportunity Shop was a member of the North Essendon Traders Association later the Chamber of Commerce and sent donations to a myriad of local churches of all denominations thus showing their commitment to the welfare of all folk in the area. I have enjoyed reading of the tough negotiations on the leasing of the various premises in Leake Street, the meticulous bookkeeping and management of our various investments over the years and of the first Parish luncheon in 1995, which morphed into the annual Musical Luncheon, the huge logistical effort of moving to our current location and the care and concern for all the volunteers.

The last 12 months has, again been a busy, productive and interesting time. We have welcomed new volunteers, had vigorous discussions over our sale policy, helped innumerable customers to find just what they were looking for, processed an enormous volume of stock and had a lot of fun in the process. Our new sign and the "Sale" and "Open" sails outside are a welcome boost to our profile and we regularly serve first-time customers. We have had the usual difficulties with rostering especially in June/July but as usual everyone has stepped up to help. Sue MacMillan has an unenviable task being the roster secretary but having three volunteers rostered for each session gives us a buffer. The information afternoon was well attended and covered a lot of ground.

The Winter Fashion Parade masterminded by Carolyn Mathes, and the Musical Luncheon were both very successful and greatly enjoyed by all who attended. Our book sale this year was not hampered by building vehicles or bad weather and so went very well; Marilyn and Chris had put a lot of work into it, we sold plenty of books and again reminded people in the area of the Op Shop's location. Thanks to Father John and Bill Howard for their practical help and moral support throughout the year. The informal Monday working bees are well attended and the work done is invaluable. The shop opens on Tuesday clean, tidy and well stocked and many customers know that there will be new stock available so it is always a busy day. Committee meetings are always noted on the roster and the minutes are posted on the notice-board in the storeroom so we hope that Op Shop volunteers continue to suggest any items to be discussed at the meeting and express their opinions directly to Committee member or use the suggestion box. As I reflect on this Golden Jubilee year, despite any ups and downs there have been, I am heartened and inspired by the contribution that this Opportunity Shop has made to the wellbeing of Christ Church and to the wider community and to the significant difference that the volunteers have made over its 50 years. I believe that we are all continuing that honourable tradition and I congratulate and thank you all who have worked for the Op Shop in the last 12 months.

Megan Rankin  
(Secretary)

## *Flower Guild*

Once again, this report highlights and thanks the very small band of ladies who supply and decorate our church with flowers. They would dearly love to have someone help them! If this is not an option, perhaps you could consider donating money to the ladies in memory of someone or for yourself or to remember a special

date.

For the first time in a number of years, there have been several weddings, in which case the bridal couple pay for the flowers. It is such a delight to be part of their special day.

Again, many thanks to Megan, Chris and Sue.

Sue MacMillan

## *Aged Care*

Monthly services have continued, except for January, over the past year. A service of hymns, bible reading and prayers is held at Essendon Nursing Home with an average attendance of twelve.

A service of Holy Communion using the Reserve Sacrament takes place at Trevi Court, Bulla Road and at Ron Do, Avondale Heights. Numbers have increased at the Trevi Court Service but sometimes the Service competes with outings for the residents; attendance may vary between two – six. Two residents who requested the Service at Ron Do rarely attend but an additional two residents have joined the numbers with four – six attending.

Residents are asked, at the three services, whether they have something they would like prayer for, request are sometimes made, this enables residents to take an active part.

Jesus has said that whenever two or three are gathered in his name, he is there. (Matthew 18:20) If numbers are reduced we are assured of the Lord's presence with us and residents are always pleased to take part in worship.

Fr John and I both take the reserve sacrament to a number of parishioners who are either house bound or in nursing homes. These are done on a fortnightly basis with some parishioners receiving communion fortnightly and others monthly. It is important to still care for the faithful who cannot come to church

Sue Hurren.

## *Messy Church*

Messy Church is a window ministry where children, parents/grandparents come to have fun and learn about the Christian faith. From 4pm to 6pm the first Sunday of the month six families have been gathering for nearly two years. It has been a blessing to see how this ministry is developing.

We thank the parents for marking Messy Church a priority in their busy schedules and for being involved in the Christian development in their children's lives. A lot of effort and planning goes into each month by the leaders to make the environment suitable for the children and your prayers and support is welcomed.

Yes, it is Messy Church and the children love permission to make a mess learning about Jesus. It is absolutely beautiful seeing how the children love the catch up with each other monthly and enjoy themselves with their parents.

We invite parishioners to come and see this exciting ministry within their church.

Carolyn Mathes

## *Bible Study Program*

During Lent we have run two different Lenten programs. Gail Paxman encouraged many to read the book "He chose the Nails" by Max Lucado and to email group members reflections and thoughts on the book as they read each chapter.

We also during Lent combined with All Saints, Ascot Vale to run five nights reflecting on the Jewels of the Anglican church. Sessions included "What is the Anglican Church", "Bible & Creeds", "Sacraments & Ministry" & "What do we do on Sundays"

We have also started on Wednesday at 11am a study Groups looking at the New & Old Testaments. We watched video by Professor Bart Ehrman and Professor

Amy-Jill Levine then spend time discussing what he says.

Bible Study should be a priority to building up faith and belief. I hope more will join our groups.

Fr John

## *EssACC Committee*

EssACC is Essendon, Aberfeldie & Strathmore Anglican Churches working together, Although EssACC was disbanded it was decided that we might do some things together occasionally.

A combined service was held in August at Essendon and a dinner was held in May and an indoor bowls night was held in June.

Unfortunately while the other churches supported EssACC, Essendon has not.

In the coming year another church service is planned in September, an indoor bowls night in June and another dinner in May.

Thank you to Sue MacMillan, Chris Angus and Fr John who have represented Essendon on the Committee.

Please get involved with these important activities.

Fr John

## *Christ Church Craft Group*

The past 12 months as leader of this group presents me with several things to reflect on. We continue to achieve a much needed community outreach to many of our ladies who enjoy the socialising and camaraderie that happens every Tuesday. The group has done well to cope with the ever-changing logistics around the Parish such as parking and the presence of workmen whilst the town houses are completed.

Sometime in October 2014 we had our usual Arts & Crafts (Horizons of Hope) lady

who always brings us lovely wares from all over the world, and many of us buy up early Christmas gifts. In November Fr. John put on a slide show of the Parish trip to Greece and Turkey which everyone enjoyed. Our break-up day lunch for December 2014 was organized by Barbara, helped by Fr. John and Andrea, many thanks for a job well done.

During the holidays some of the Committee members got together to take on the arduous job of de-cluttering the craft cupboards, Thanks ladies, your efforts are much appreciated. Happily, the local schools benefitted from our old stock and put them to good use in their art rooms.

In March 2015 a Fashion Show (Kays Classic Fashions) was held, and well attended. These shows give the craft ladies a chance to do some on-hand shopping, which they sometimes find difficult due to distance, health, etc, plus bag a bargain.

In April for ANZAC day (2015 being the 100th year Anniversary of Gallipoli), the craft group had previously donated some hand-knitted, and crocheted poppies to go on display at Federation Square, in the city, it was pleasing to know that some of the poppies had special significance, especially as they were dedicated to many of the soldiers from this Parish, thanks to Fr John for giving us the list of names involved.

We had a talk from TAC about mobility for older people in May, which we enjoyed. These sessions are well attended. I am endeavouring to source more such speakers from other areas of interest.

The month of June brought many cold days, which meant lots of sickness and attendance was down a little...however as mentioned previously, the ladies within this group, really do enjoy getting together. Its pleasing to hear from them about other members of the group with whom they are currently in touch with, and who have been away due to prolonged illness. Get-well cards signed by all are soon on their way, and the thankful response is worth the effort. We also had a special birthday during June, that of our Treasurer Barbara, and

we sincerely hope that she continues to be blessed with good health and happiness.

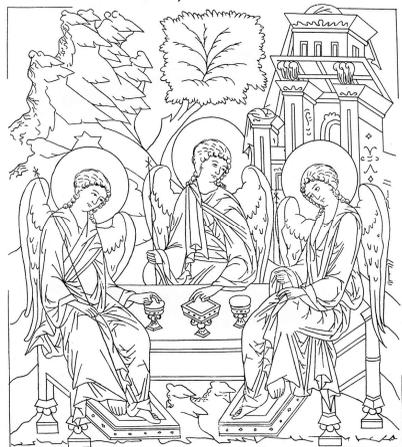
Our cancer Biggest Morning Tea for 2015 was held in July, it was a small group, but we had a good day and it was a pretty sight to see so many of the ladies wearing pink plus all our pink food, not forgetting the pink cupcakes. Ladies you do me proud, whilst supporting such a worthwhile cause as the Cancer Council of Victoria. My special thanks to Margaret (M) for the new bunting banner, its lovely.

Once again, to all who help with keeping the ladies occupied on Tuesdays Thank you, we couldn't do it without your input. The members of the committee do a fantastic job every Tuesday, sadly we are down in numbers on this Committee, and we could do with a couple more, so, if you feel you could assist us it would certainly help. Think about it please.

A craft group donation of \$500 was made to the Peter McCullum Leukemia Department. Again, this is quite an achievement for such a small group, well done ladies. Hopefully we can do likewise in 2016 God willing.

May this Group continue to flourish with good health and God's blessings to each and everyone of you.

Margaret Pereira  
Craft Leader



# ANGLICAN PARISH OF ESSENDON

## MISSION STATEMENT

We are disciples of Jesus who are seeking to love God, and our neighbour.  
We are committed to being God focussed, Jesus centred and Spirit led.  
We are determined to build up the Kingdom of God and renew our Church.



**FROM THE REGISTER**  
**October 2014—September 2015**

## VISION STATEMENT

We also commit ourselves:  
To listen to God.  
To be nourished by God's word and sacraments.  
To meet together to pray and worship God.  
To use the gifts God has given us.  
To explore our faith and spirituality.  
To link into and serve the local community.  
To continue to strengthen and build up our Church.  
To care for our environment.  
To care for those in need.  
To support family life.

## SERVICE TIMES

8am SUNDAY EUCHARIST  
9.30am SUNDAY SUNG EUCHARIST followed by morning tea  
10am WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST followed by morning tea

Morning and Evening Prayer is said each day. See Fr John for details.

The Parish Priest, Fr John, is available for baptisms, weddings, confession and other services by appointment

## BAPTISMS

We welcomed these people  
05.10.2014 Rose Matilda Pooley  
09.11.2014 Kayden Tiki Stone  
23.11.2014 Abby Anne Iliopoulos  
22.03.2015 Thomas Joshua Evans  
28.06.2015 Ezekiel Benjamin Cunningham  
28.06.2015 Olivia Evie MacMillan

## WEDDINGS

12.04.2015 Sam Patto & Amal Fanous  
19.09.2015 Dean Jansen & Chantelle Ellis

## FUNERALS (date of death)

02.09.2014 Heather Jean Lee  
24.11.2014 Jack Pascoe  
01.03.2015 Lorraine June Bentley  
24.03.2015 Jean olive Riddell  
16.06.2015 Alexander Pung  
19.07.2015 Civilla Mitchell  
05.08.2015 Norman James Webster  
18.08.2015 Margaret Gage  
24.08.2015 Albert Victor Alan Besanko

**Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord  
And let light perpetual shine on them.**



## PARISH DIRECTORY 2014-2015

**Parish Priest:** Fr John Mathes  
**Associate Priest:** Fr Richard Murray  
**Associate Deacon:** Rev'd Sue Hurren

**Wardens:** Alan Wilson & Jilly Webb  
(elected) and Bill Howard (priest  
appointment)

**Vestry:** Wardens plus Sue MacMillan,  
Katherine Anderson, Tony Clayton & Deni  
Cameron (elected), Chris Angus &  
Margaret Elsey (priest appointment)

**Secretary:** Alan Wilson  
**Treasurer:** Margaret Elsey

**Incumbency Committee:** Margaret  
Elsey, Bill Howard and Alan Wilson

**Synod Reps:** Fr John, Jamie Lingard  
& Sue MacMillan

(Alan Wilson- Supplementary)

**Sacristan:** Margaret Elsey

**Hall Hire & Maintenance:** Bill Howard

**Organist:** Samuel McMahan

**Assistant Organist:** Daryl Higgins

**Flower Guild:** Sue MacMillan, Chris  
Angus & Megan Rankin

**Grounds & Mowing:** Don Pereira, Paul  
Miles, Bill Howard & Fr John

**Re-development Committee:**

Bill Howard, Alan Wilson, Jilly Webb,  
Margaret Elsey and Fr John

**Opportunity Shop Office Bearers**

Chairman Fr John Mathes

President Carolyn Mathes

V President Sue MacMillan

Secretary Megan Rankin

Liaison Treasurer Barbara Szczurko

Roster Sec Sue MacMillan

**Opportunity Shop Management  
Committee**

The Office Bearers plus Gwen Forsyth,  
Chris Angus, Margaret Pereira, Chantal  
Ripp, Margaret Broughton, Janette  
Roulston, Cheryl Howard, Joan Sach &  
Robyn Bulluss.

**Craft Group Committee:**

Margaret Pereira (leader), Barbara  
Szczurko (treasurer), Alma Henshall,  
Jean Black & Mame Bibby

**Young Adults Group**

Jilly Webb

**Lay Ministers / Eucharistic Assistants:**

Margaret Elsey, Alan Wilson, Tony  
Clayton, Sue MacMillan Deni Cammeron  
& Robert Koren

**Thurifers:** Alan Wilson, Margaret Elsey

**Readers:** Ed Wilson, Nell Axon, Gail  
Paxman, Chris Angus, Carolyn Mathes,

Sue Adams, Rosalie Baldrey, Vera  
Burrows, Michael Pang, Jilly Webb,  
Katherine Anderson, Deni Cameron, Blair  
Galloway & Chrisanthi Jayatunga

**Choir:** Sue MacMillan, Sue Adams,  
Vera Burrows, Margaret Elsey, Rosalie  
Baldrey & Barbara Szczurko

**Welcomers:** Carolyn Mathes, Paul  
Miles, Gail Paxman, Deni Cameron, Blair  
Galloway, Esther Cross, Jilly Webb, Anita  
Mason, Dolly Mason & Katherine Anderson

**Morning Tea Roster:** Sue MacMillan,  
Chrisanthi & George Jayatunga, Vera  
Burrows, Esther Cross, Dolly & Anita  
Mason & Carolyn Mathes

**Messy Church Committee**

Gail Paxman, Sue Hurren, Sue MacMillan,  
Carolyn Mathes, Katherine Anderson &  
Fr John

**Ladies@Leisure:** Carolyn Mathes &  
Chris Angus

**Men@Leisure:** Fr John

**Archives:** Fr John

**Parish Pantry:** Sue MacMillan

**Reach Out Magazine:** Margaret Elsey  
(editor) plus many contributors

**Pew Sheet:** Fr John

**Web Page:** Fr John

[www.essendonanglican.org.au](http://www.essendonanglican.org.au)

**Face Book:** Trudy Mathes

[www.facebook.com/essendonanglican](http://www.facebook.com/essendonanglican)

*(apologies to anyone I have missed)*

<b>PARISH STATISTICS</b>	<b>2010– 2011</b>	<b>2011– 2012</b>	<b>2012– 2013</b>	<b>2013– 2014</b>	<b>2014– 2015</b>
Number on Electoral Roll	<b>56</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>46</b>
Baptisms	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>
Confirmations	<b>-</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>
Weddings	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Funerals	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>
Attendances at public services (excluding weddings, funerals, private baptisms, residential facilities)	<b>3003</b>	<b>3120</b>	<b>3875</b>	<b>3749</b>	<b>3534</b>
Attendances at Public Sunday services (excluding weddings, funerals, private baptisms, residential facilities)	<b>2361</b>	<b>2446</b>	<b>2913</b>	<b>2987</b>	<b>2744</b>
Acts of Communion at public services (excluding weddings, funerals, private baptisms, residential facilities)	<b>2864</b>	<b>2881</b>	<b>3381</b>	<b>3291</b>	<b>3054</b>
Acts of Communion at Public Sunday services (excluding weddings, funerals, private baptisms, residential facilities)	<b>2151</b>	<b>2055</b>	<b>2506</b>	<b>2495</b>	<b>2456</b>
Other Acts of Communion eg residential facilities	<b>126</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>229</b>
Attendance Christmas Eve / Day	<b>111</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>137</b>
Acts of Communion Christmas Eve / Day	<b>98</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>101</b>
Attendance Easter Vigil / Day	<b>94</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>120</b>
Acts of Communion Easter Vigil / Day	<b>86</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>109</b>

# *FF Awards*

**2010**

Wal Tinney  
Merv Smith  
Joyce Smith  
Margaret Treadwell

**2011**

Joyce Tattam

**2012**

Barbara Szczurko

**2013**

Margaret Elsey  
Sue MacMillan  
Vera Burrows  
Sue Adams  
Margaret Pereira

**2014**

Ruth Tinney  
Nell Axon  
Bill Howard  
Jamie Lingard  
Alan Wilson

**2015**

*To be announced*

