

ANNUAL REPORT 2012 - 2013

**THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST STEPHEN AND ST MARY
383 HIGH STREET ROAD
MOUNT WAVERLEY 3149**

(FULL VERSION)

CONTENTS

1.	Vicar's Report	Page 3
2.	Warden's and Vestry Report	Pages 3-5
2.	Treasurer's Report	See Separate Report
3.	Parish Statistics	Pages 6-7
4.	Mission Allocation Sub-Committee	Page 7
5.	Social Justice Committee	Page 8
6.	Third Saturday Gardening Group	Pages 8-9
7.	Third Thursday Service & Fellowship	Page 9
8.	Ladies Guild Annual Report	Pages 10-11
9.	Friendship Group	Page 11
10.	Pastoral Care	Page 12
11.	The Net	Page 12
12.	Parish Choir	Page 13
13.	Minutes of AGM - 25th November 2012	Pages 14-17

VICAR'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2012

As Rev'd Dianne has only been Vicar for a short time, she will be giving a brief reflection verbally.

THE CHURCHWARDENS AND VESTRY REPORT

GENERAL

As always, we are grateful to God for the high quality of worship we experience in our parish and for the gifts of our clergy and lay people who contribute in many ways to enable this to happen.

Again our annual Jazz Night was enjoyed by many of all ages; sitting outside under the trees on a balmy summer's evening. This year's parish dinner had a Gatsby theme with everyone taking part in dressing in style! The Contemporary Eucharist congregation enjoyed a Hopper Night during the year with the children also enjoying hoppers and movies while the adults talked! As always, our thanks to the small team of people who organise, prepare and run these events for us.

Two Quiet Days were run during the year, which enabled those parishioners who attended to enjoy a day of refreshment and silence.

STAFF

The 2012-13 church year has been a year of farewells of staff and families. First we farewelled our Catechist, Nick White and his family as he moved to St. George's Malvern as their Assistant Curate. Nick, Sue and the family were a gift to us, both while they were parishioners attending the CE service, and then while Nick was our Catechist. He was always a great support to the Vicar, and also to Fr Grant E during Fr Grant B's long service leave. Quite a few of us were able to share with Nick in the celebration of his ordination to the Diaconate in December at St Paul's Cathedral.

Then followed the announcement of our Vicar's resignation from the parish, effective March 9, 2013. Fr Grant had accepted the position as Rector of St. Theodore's Toorak Gardens, with one day per week as Director of Ordinands for the Diocese of Adelaide. He and Kathryn were farewelled in March at a wonderful service of thanksgiving for Grant's 10 years of faithful ministry in the parish. We were extremely blessed to have a Vicar with many gifts, especially those of teaching; and knowledge and love of liturgy. Both he, and Kathryn with her gift of music and love of people, will be missed in the parish, but they go with our love and prayers for this next stage of their ministry (we are grateful though that they have left Hannah behind!).

Our thanks and prayers go with Fr Grant B, Fr Grant E, Nick and their families, and we thank God for their care of us.

Rachel Hardie, our assistant organist, left in June so she could worship closer to home with her, now retired Uniting Church minister, husband. The parish also farewelled several long serving families due to their moving to other parts of the state or overseas. We wish all these people well and thank them for their faithful service to our Parish over many years.

Fr Grant's departure in Lent 2013, although anticipated for some time, meant that the Vestry's business for the future months involved the work of planning for the parish in the inter-regnum and establishing the incumbency process to select a new Vicar. In the inter-regnum, our current Associate Priest, Fr. Grant Edgcumbe continued as Locum and helped prepare both the Vestry and parishioners for the changes ahead. We thank him for his 4½ years with us and his willingness to stay on as Locum and help provide stability and continuity in the time of transition for the parish.

Pastoral Care remains a very important part of our parish ministry and is co-ordinated by the PASTORAL CARE COMMISSION. The team continues to provide pastoral care to sick parishioners, both in their homes and in several residential aged care facilities and hospitals. Care is also provided to bereaved families. Members of the team run regular services at the care facilities which are attended by both parishioners who now live there as well as other residents, and sometimes visiting family members. We thank the members of the different teams for their faithful work and generous giving of their time.

GENERAL

Vestry continued to meet monthly (except for June) during the interregnum. During this time Vestry put on hold the work already achieved working on the MAP (Mission Action Plan).

Vestry was pleased that in January, Christine Newell agreed to co-ordinate the music for the Contemporary congregation which had been the role of Kathryn Bullen, but who was moving back to Adelaide early to find employment. We thank Christine for being prepared to step into this very important role at fairly short notice.

In February a Vestry Workshop was held to address a series of questions provided by the Bishop to identify the needs of the Parish and our vision for the future in the appointment of a new Vicar. These questions were also used as a basis for a questionnaire provided to parishioners.

Michael Mosely was appointed as the Vestry Representative on the Mission Allocations Committee and Geoff Crawford was nominated and accepted the role as the second Synod representative for the parish.

The culmination of the Incumbency Committee's search was the appointment of our new Vicar, Rev'd Dianne Sharrock. It was wonderful to see so many parishioners, old friends, family and visitors at the Induction Service on Thursday October 10. We welcome Dianne, along with her husband David, to the parish and look forward to working with her.

To assist with the Treasurer's work it was agreed that the Treasurer, Duncan McArthur, continue to control payment for goods and services for the parish and conduct the banking. The task of the payroll for all Clergy salary payments is now handled by the Diocese at no cost to the Parish. Monthly reporting and some assistance in the reconciliation of accounts and the calculation of the parish assessment was outsourced on a trial basis. This trial is now complete and the outsourced work has reverted back to being the responsibility of the Treasurer. The role carried out by Sharrock Bookkeeping as Auditor ceased during the year and the accounting firm of Rycrofts Pty Ltd was approved and appointed by Vestry as Parish Auditor.

A major challenge continues to be the meeting of our financial commitments. Income from annual giving via envelopes, open collection and direct giving does not cover the costs of running the parish. Costs including staffing, utilities, building maintenance, insurance and financial commitments to the Diocese continue to rise without an equivalent rise in our giving. The issue of stewardship has been discussed by Vestry but any decisions about a stewardship campaign were held over until the appointment of our new priest and will be addressed in the new vestry year. There is an urgent need for the direct giving to increase by a minimum of 5% for the period October 2013 to September 2014 to cover the costs of a half time Assistant Curate we hope will be appointed early next year.

It should also be noted that for the year 2012/2013 Vestry approved donations totalling \$26,000 to missions. This total included a \$1000 for the Mother's Union (via Ros Sahhar) to take to Zomba, Malawi to purchase 2 treadle sewing machines and fabric for the sewing group at St George's Anglican Church. This will enable the women to make a living as they make clothes for orphaned children.

Vestry also approved a donation of \$1000 to the Tasmanian Bushfire Appeal for the Sorell, Richmond and Tasman Parish which includes the town of Dunolly one of the worst affected areas in Tasmania. The Reverend Jill McCoy, a former parishioner, was the Rector of this parish at the time of the fires.

Buildings and Property

Vestry business has involved the discussion and approval of some major property expenses and the purchase of items to augment and improve the facilitation of worship in the church and the parish centre. This includes a flat screen monitor which has been purchased mainly from funeral donations. New sanctuary chairs and matching small table were approved and will be made by Fallshaws, the same company who made the pews, and will be funded from Bequest money. Research into the purchase of a defibrillator for the parish in the near future is underway.

The work needed to restore the "rose window" on the west wall in the Old Church has also been approved. The funds necessary to complete this task in time for the 150th Anniversary of the foundation of the church in 2015 will also come from bequests.

The major work undertaken during 2013 was the refurbishment of the Vicarage. We painted the exterior and interior, purchased new curtains for the lounge and dining room, cleaned the carpets and fitted LED lighting throughout. We also removed two large gum trees from the west side of the building due to safety concerns.

Another significant task completed during 2013 was the installation of drainage to take the storm water from two houses in Alice Street away from our carpark. The pipes needed to achieve this were located on our side of the east boundary fence and at the rear of the Vicarage. The work has been a complete success.

The upgrading of the electrical systems in the parish centre and office continued with the fitting of LED down lights where possible to reduce the running costs and increase the life of the fittings.

Contracts have been let to replace some of the fencing on the east side of the property. This work will continue in 2014.

The possum problem reported last year has been eliminated.

The painting of our buildings mentioned as being a priority in last year's report has commenced. The two Emergency Houses have been painted outside and other exterior painting will be completed as the weather improves.

Nick White and family continued to live in our unit at 461 Stephenson's Road, Mt Waverley which was rented at commercial rates by the parish of St. George's Malvern. Nick has recently moved closer to his parish and the unit is again on the market for commercial lease. The leases for our emergency houses with the Victorian Government Department of Housing have a further year to run before they will need to be renegotiated.

We again give our thanks to Chris Knight and all the volunteers in the gardening group. Without their untiring efforts we would not be able to keep the surrounds of our property in such a fine state, and this year this included looking after the Vicarage garden.

Finance

Details of the financial position of the parish as at September 30, 2013 are shown in the Treasurer's Report. Vestry has again approved a budget which contains an increase to the direct giving. Achieving this increase will be vital if the parish is to go forward with the correct level of clergy required to continue to provide the worship and pastoral care that the parish expects. It should be noted that the level of direct giving decreased when comparing 2011-2012 to 2012-2013.

CHURCH WARDENS AND VESTRY MEMBERS APPOINTED AT 2012 AGM

Church Wardens

Brian de Lacy accepted the Vicar's invitation to be Vicar's Warden. Rowena Ferguson and Bruce Chugg were elected unopposed.

Vestry

Duncan McArthur, Geoff Crawford, Elaine Fasken, Michael Mosely, Judith Gibson, Sue Retschko, Elizabeth Taplin, Helen Warren and Joan West were appointed to Vestry. Hillarie Griggs was appointed by the Vicar. Helen Warren was appointed Vestry Secretary.

Individual attendance at the 11 regular Vestry and planning days were:

Bruce Chugg (10/11), Geoff Crawford (10/11), Brian de Lacy (8/11), Elaine Fasken (8/11), Rowena Ferguson (9/11), Judith Gibson (11/11), Hillarie Griggs (8/11), Duncan McArthur (8/11), Mike Mosley (9/11), Sue Retschko (9/11), Elizabeth Taplin (9/11), Helen Warren (8/11), Joan West (6/11).

Acknowledgement

A big "thank you" to all those people who commit their time and talents to the parish in so many different ways. As always it's dangerous to name specific people or groups for fear of missing one, but we acknowledge and give thanks for those on the many committees and rosters which enable our parish to run so well. We do, however, name and thank Duncan McArthur, our Parish Treasurer; Barbara Aghajani our Parish's Clerical Assistant; and Helene Durkin for continuing to faithfully produce the pew sheet and the parish news. A huge thanks also goes to Keith Fullard who continues, along with the choir, to produce the wonderful music we enjoy each Sunday at the Sung Eucharist; and to Christine Newell and the musicians of the Contemporary Eucharist. The Wardens would also like to thank their fellow Vestry members for their commitment, enthusiasm and support, particularly during the time of the inter-regnum. We also thank Helen Warren who has been Vestry Secretary.

We thank God for 2013 and look forward with much anticipation to 2014.

Brian de Lacy, Bruce Chugg and Rowena Ferguson
Church Wardens
Members of Vestry
November 2013

TREASURER'S REPORT

Please refer to separate Report.

PARISH STATISTICS

	2011/12	2012/13
No. of people on Electoral Roll	213	212
Total attendance	13252	12210
Total number of communicants	10753	9641
Sunday Attendance	7975	7585
Sunday Communicants	7520	6996
<i>(not including Christmas or Easter Days if on a Sunday as these are listed separately below)</i>		
Thursday Attendance	818	814
Thursday Communicants	795	804
Christmas Services		
Attendance	453	438
Communicants	407	387
Lent / Holy Week / Easter Services		
Ash Wednesday		
Attendance	85	81
Communicants	83	81
Contemplative Eucharists/Stations - Attendance	N/A	N/A
Communicants	N/A	N/A
Lenten Teaching Sessions	~250	N/A
Maundy Thursday		
Attendance	101	80
Communicants	101	80
Good Friday		
Attendance	179	172
Communicants	170	164
Holy Saturday		
Attendance	36	53
Communicants	35	52
Easter Day		
Attendance	310	271
Communicants	288	239
Total number of services		
Sundays	143	140
<i>(not including Christmas and Easter Days if Sundays as these are listed separately)</i>		
Thursdays	45	45
Christmas	4	4
Holy Week/Easter	11	11
Funerals / Interments	15	20
Nursing Homes	32	35
Baptisms	3	2
<i>(not including 3 baptism services within CE or SE services)</i>		
Weddings	1	2
Miscellaneous	6	19*
		(*includes Morning Prayer)

BAPTISMS (*within CE or SE services)

Lois Hastings*	December 2, 2012
Molly Russell*	February 10, 2013
Harlee Wray	April 21, 2013
Mila Garabedian	April 21, 2013
Amelia Fairbairn	April 21, 2013
Zara Fairbairn	April 21, 2013
Aaliyah Simmonds*	June 9, 2013
Isabelle Walsh	August 11, 2013

MARRIAGES

Jonathan Clarke and Alison Burns	January 19, 2013
Shaun Williamson and Lucy Grego	September 14, 2013

FUNERALS

Monique Sansoni (interment of ashes)	October 13, 2012
Jack Betts	November 9, 2012
Beryl Ezard	November 29, 2012
Bery Ezard (interment of ashes)	December 19, 2012
Jack Betts (interment of ashes)	December 23, 2013
Reginald Smith	February 14, 2013
Judith Matthews (interment of ashes)	February 24, 2013
Gwenda Mills	March 5, 2013
Suzanne Farmer (interment of ashes)	March 7, 2013
William Irving	March 13, 2013
Colin Weller	March 19, 2013
Beryl and Tom Parkhill (interment of ashes)	March 24, 2013
Reginald Smith (interment of ashes)	April 7, 2013
Tom Morrissey	May 24, 2013
Herbert Kings	June 5, 2013
Yvonne Gray	June 14, 2013
Nancy Johnson	July 11, 2013
Don Miller	August 2, 2013
Nancy Johnson (interment of ashes)	August 20, 2013
Florence Kerr	August 22, 2013

MISSION ALLOCATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT 2013

This Sub-Committee is entrusted by Vestry with the task of recommending which Welfare and Mission agencies should receive donations from our parish "wider church" giving. For some years, the Sub-Committee has consisted of one Vestry representative, and one each for the Social Justice Committee and the Mission and Ecumenism Committee. We now have an additional member as Chairman.

The Sub-Committee wishes to thank Rachel Hardie for her dedicated commitment as a member of this small group since its inception up to her retirement in June. Her knowledge of the workings of each of the Missions was very much appreciated. Thank you, Rachel.

We welcomed John Russell, Chair of Social Justice Committee as a guest at our August meeting.

We look forward to working with the Vestry appointment, Michael Mosley as a team member.

We meet twice a year as a group but as Chair, I know that Ian Smith works tirelessly monitoring the many requests for assistance and organizing each Mission's Newsletter for circulation.

Details of the payments totalling \$25,000 were posted on the Notice Board and are included in the Treasurer's Report.

DOUG HASTINGS**Chair**

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Social Justice Committee has again worked to raise the awareness of parishioners to issues of social justice.

Issues promoted during 2012-13 have been:

- **Refugees and asylum seekers** through promotion of the weekly alms baskets (one of which is donated to the Asylum Seeker Centre in Dandenong) and coordinating the multilingual intercessions on Migrant and Refugee Sunday. The committee also promoted a local forum on asylum seekers.
- **Poverty** through promotion of the weekly alms baskets (one of which is donated to the Waverley Benevolent Society). The committee also coordinates the parish response to the Christmas Bowl which supports projects in a number of countries.
- **Indigenous and reconciliation** issues through the incorporation of liturgical recognition in the services on 2 June as part of National Reconciliation Week. The committee also promoted NAIDOC Week activities coordinated by the Monash Reconciliation Group, attended a Reconciliation Evensong and discussion of the Diocese reconciliation action plan at the cathedral, and replanted the reconciliation garden with indigenous plants.
- **Homelessness** through the "Winter Woollies" appeal which was held during June and resulted in significant donations from the parish of jumpers, coats, blankets, sleeping bags, etc. The gifts were blessed at the services on 30 June.

The committee members wish to thank parishioners for their generous contributions to the "Winter Woollies" appeal, as well as their continuing commitment to the weekly alms baskets.

To promote its focus issues, committee members have published articles on homelessness and asylum seekers in the parish newsletter. The committee has also reported on its activities on the parish website.

A representative of the committee, along with a representative of the Mission and Ecumenism Committee and a chair appointed by Vestry, made recommendations to Vestry on the allocation of the \$25,000 in parish funds made available annually to support the work of mission and welfare agencies working in Australia and overseas.

During the year, the committee farewelled two long-serving members who have moved to other parishes. Felicity Podger had chaired the committee since its inception in 2005, and Rachel Hardie had been an active contributor to the committee's work during her time with the parish. Their magnificent contribution to the committee over many years was acknowledged.

The members of the committee are Irene Donohoue-Clyne, Fran Ludgate, John Russell, Norma Schultz and Marg Taylor. If you are interested in joining, or would like to find out more about the Committee, please speak to one of us.

JOHN RUSSELL
Chair

THE 3rd SATURDAY GARDEN GROUP

The 3rd Saturday Garden Group meets regularly on the 3rd Saturday morning of each month (except January) from 9.30am, welcoming new members at any time no matter what their level of gardening expertise... there are no auditions! This year our numbers increased slightly.

Again, the year resulted in a great outcome and provided considerable satisfaction and enjoyment for participants... 2013 was a somewhat difficult and challenging year due mainly to the fickle weather and the ever increasing growth (particularly of weeds) in the various gardens around the Church grounds.

The on-again / off-again rains, dews and frosts made using herbicides to control weed growth almost useless, resulting in an on-going pull-pull-pull.

The continuing mulching program, which is provided free upon request by our "Tree Man", has helped enormously in general garden management and we thank the Waverley Help Mates for their assistance in barrowing loads of mulch from the rear of the carpark to designated locations to retain moisture, protect roots of plants and to suppress weeds.

A major make-over of the eastern end of the front bank, adjacent to the statue of St Stephen, was undertaken by several members of the Garden Group, clearing and preparing the area for replanting with donated and propagated plants... the effect will be seen over the coming months.

Our thanks also to David, husband of our new Priest, Rev'd. Dianne Sharrock, who has offered to undertake the ongoing maintenance of the Vicarage gardens and lawns which had been left in wonderful condition at the time of departure of Fr Grant Bullen and then maintained by the Garden Group during the inter-regnum.

Several very large Eucalypts have posed a significant problem during the year with both leaf-drop blocking drains, and with significant (and dangerous) limb-drop. One tree has been removed and the other is currently under review for safety reasons. Suitable replacements are already thriving nearby.

Thanks are due to the faithful band of Garden Group people who work diligently each month (despite aching backs) to maintain and improve the Church grounds... It is another expression of the atmosphere of love which abounds within the Parish, as expressed by Fr Grant Edgcumbe in a recent sermon.

Reminders of gatherings of the Garden Group are published in the weekly Pew Slip on the Sunday immediately prior to gatherings, and also those who have provided their email address receive an updated "Wish List" from which to select jobs just before each of the Saturdays. A wide range of mostly donated tools for the Group's use are available on-site, stored in our 'Red Shed'.

CHRIS KNIGHT
Convenor

3rd THURSDAY SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP

This gathering continues to be well supported with some parishioners unable to attend at other times enjoying the opportunity to worship and catch up with friends, enjoy a special morning tea and acknowledge those celebrating their birthdays each month.

This year we have seen some changes:

- In February we farewelled Fr. Grant Bullen whose last service was on March 3rd.
- We then welcomed Fr. Grant Edgcumbe our locum priest in March.
- In June we said farewell to Rachael Hardie our friend and loyal organist who had played for this service since 2003.
- Then in July we farewelled Fred and Elisabeth Hardy who moved to Inverloch. Their involvement with the Pastoral Care Team and Fred as a lay minister was gratefully acknowledged.
- Also in July we celebrated with Evelyn Waddell who was soon to turn 100 on the 29th July.
- In October we welcomed our new priest – the Reverend Dianne whose induction was on October 10th.

Our last services for the year are on November 21st at 10 a.m. and December 19th - commencing at 11 a.m. This will be our pre-Christmas lunch.

My heartfelt thanks once again to all who provide food, flowers, birthday cakes and assist with setting up, transport etc. Special thanks also to Gloria for her support and involvement in so many ways. Thanks also to Elizabeth for holding the fort in my absence.

All are welcome to the 3rd Thursday gatherings. If you wish to attend the lunch in December or if you need transport at any time please contact me on 9802 6725.

JILL DE LACY

LADIES GUILD ANNUAL REPORT

On behalf of the Ladies Guild, I have pleasure in presenting the 78th Annual Report.

Brian de Lacey chaired the Annual meeting held on 13th September 2013.

The following Office Bearers were elected.

President	Margaret Lawrey	Moved:	Di Scrivener
		Seconded:	Yvonne Woods
Secretary	Marj Collas	Moved:	Janice Miller
		Seconded:	Yvonne Jeffs
Asst Secretary	Carol Macdonald	Moved:	Janice Miller
Treasurer	Di Scrivener	Seconded:	Maxine Ashwin

Our sincere thanks go to Russell Payne for auditing the treasurer's books this year. Our thanks too are extended to Helene Durkin for putting our notices in the pew slip and Parish News and our thanks also go to Barbara in the Parish Office.

Currently we have a membership of 22 members with an average attendance of 13 members at meetings.

Our main fund raising efforts are the Waverley Lions Opportunity Shop and our Annual Morning Tea.

At our June meeting, we had an Afternoon Tea for the Anti-Council Campaign which we raised \$120.

Our Annual Meeting Tea was held on Tuesday 14th May 2013. Our Guest Speaker was Mrs. Jane Dikiloo, a Sudanese migrant. She spoke about her journey to Australia and her life now living in Australia which was very interesting.

In July, we were saddened by the passing of our past Treasurer Nance Johnson. Nance was our Treasurer for 20 years. She was a hard worker and loving person to everyone who knew her. We in the Guild will miss her advice.

Our group has also been represented at our neighbouring churches, guild functions and A.C.W. Services.

Members continue to assist with:

- Meals on wheels
- Flower, silver and linen rosters
- Staff the Brotherhood of St Laurence Opportunity Shop
- Refreshments after Sunday Services
- Sandwiches for 3rd Thursday Service Lunch

Our Christmas Luncheon was held at the R.S.L. Glen Waverley in November. We wish to thank Di Scrivener and Janice Miller for the prizes, etc. for the Luncheon.

President Margaret Lawrey and Treasurer Di Scrivener join me in thanking Father Grant and Office Staff for all their help and support throughout the Year.

God Bless.

MARJ COLLAS

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY AT ST STEPHEN'S AND ST MARY'S

Pastoral Care in the Parish is an essential sign of a caring Christian community and it is this compassionate care that we are called to extend to one another at St Stephen's and St Mary's, Mount Waverley.

A friendly visit to a parishioner either at home or in hospital from someone who is known or familiar to them from the Parish reminds them of their unbroken connection with their Parish and also speaks of God's love to them at whatever stage of life they are at.

Home Communion and General Visiting

This group takes Home Communion and visits the housebound; Ian Smith coordinates this team with the help of Jenny Bowers, John Hobbs, Carol McDonald and Michael Moseley.

Aged Care Chaplaincies

Cabrini Ashwood, is coordinated by Trevor Bickerstaff and the visiting team consists of Ian Smith, Bruce Chugg, Liz Monahan, Judy Duncan, Margaret Noblett and Margaret Lawrie.

At Wahroonga, Glen Waverley, Felicity Podger (with Hillarie Griggs when Felicity is away) leads a monthly Holy Communion Service; there are usually 15 residents attending and a couple from our parish live there and regularly attend monthly worship.

Bruce Chugg, with assistance from Hillarie Griggs, coordinates the team at Scotchman's Creek, Mount Waverley with the assistance of Judy Duncan, Ian Smith, John Hobbs, Celia Gant and Jill deLacy.

Val Dyke and Bev Anderson provide regular Holy Communion services for the residents at Rosewood Gardens, Ashburton.

Hospital Visiting

This year there has been a number of calls to visit parishioners in a range of city and local hospitals. Sue Retschko responds to referrals and requests from the Vicar and parishioners, arranges a visit and brings Holy Communion to the bedside. Trevor Bickerstaff and Helen Warren assist in this ministry.

Pastoral Care in the Contemporary Eucharist

Hillarie Griggs, with Rowena Ferguson and Judith Gibson have taken the initiative of supporting their congregation in offering pastoral care, organising casseroles and visiting when required.

Each one of us is called in one way or another to participate in the ministry the Jesus spoke of, particularly in offering our presence, as a gift of the self.

As we recall the words of Galatians 6:2, - 'Bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ' we are reminded of our Christian call and the gift of God's grace as we share Christ's ministry of compassion with others.

SUE RETSCHKO
Secretary

THE NET

The monthly gathering of the men's breakfast continued throughout the year on the second Saturday of each month, apart from January, providing an opportunity for relaxed and informal fellowship.

The breakfasts have been held at 9am on the designated Saturdays at the Airstream Café, Century City Walk, Glen Waverley. Notices are placed in the pew sheets of the preceding Sundays, followed by reminding emails to those who are online.

The invitation is always there for the men of the parish to attend and to enjoy the fellowship and the healthy breakfasts.

MICHAEL MOSLEY

PARISH CHOIR

There tends to be a sameness about choir reports from most years to the next and this report seems no different.

Firstly, let me begin by thanking all members for their continued support of and interest in the music ministry of the parish as offered by the parish choir and expressed through regular attendances at choir practices and services and a willingness to make music by paying attention to detail. I wish to acknowledge too, the contribution made by cantors who begin their preparations at least a week before moving to the lectern.

After the Easter season and during the winter months, fortnightly practices were appreciated by members again this year and were well attended.

Whilst we do not seem to be able to produce the same volume of new music as in the past, we nevertheless have added to our repertoire throughout the year.

The choir once more participated in the annual Ecumenical Choral Festival hosted by the Glen Waverley Uniting Church and which St. Stephen's and St. Mary's is expected to host in 2014.

The choir has adequately fulfilled its prescribed role throughout 2013 and is well placed to face 2014 and beyond.

KEITH FULLARD

Parish of St Stephen and St Mary, Mount Waverley
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
November 25th 2012

Chair: Fr. Grant Edgcumbe (Locum). The Vicar Fr. Grant Bullen was on Long Service Leave

Fr Grant Edgcumbe welcomed everyone to the AGM and opened the meeting with prayer.

Attendance (as per attendance book)

Hillarie Griggs, David Duncan, Michael Mosley, Liz Monaghan, Elaine Fasken, Brian de Lacy, Christine Newell, Avril Foenander, Alf North, Phoebe Wilkinson North, Adrian McKenzie, Helen Warren, Elizabeth Mounas, Ron Ritchie, Bev Anderson, Judy Duncan, Glenda Biddle, Shirley Betts, Paul Rowlands, Yvonne Woods, Sue Retschko, Adrian Assauw, Verna Assauw, Lillith Blomley, Keith Fullard, Julia Cornelius, Joan Strudwick, Larelle Skingsley, Elizabeth Taplin, Chris Knight, Alan Wasington, Dennis Blomley, Marg Taylor, Rachel Hardie, Sophie Clapperton, Jane Scoble, Rowena Ferguson, Judith Gibson, Joe Sinnathamby, Joan Janka, Russell Payne, Grant le Huray, Darrell Lieversz, Shanti Lieversz, Bobbie Humphrey, Ros Sahhar, Joanne Burns, John Podger, Brianny Mainwaring, Gavin Bower, Eleanor U'Ren, Vivienne Rowlands, Ruth Chatwood, Pam Knight, John Hobbs, Bruce Chugg, Hugh Foenander, Geoff Crawford, Luke Cornelius, Bill Harvey, Melissa Harvey, Anne Richardson, Susan Manley, Frank Miller, Janice Miller, Milton Biddle, Duncan Mc Arthur, Tony Syfret, Margaret Syfret, Felicity Podger, Margaret Noblet, Bill Noblet, Val Dyke, Nick White, Jenny Bowers, Jean Clarke, Alison Washington, Margaret Sparrow, Des Sparrow, Alex Burke, Helene Durkin, Ruth Hastings, Howard Brown, Jenny Brown, Jill Bond, Jill de Lacy, Shirley Swindon, Tom Swindon, Morna Sturrock, Gloria Smith, Peter Northwood, June Puddy, David Sturrock, Fran Ludgate, Douglas Hastings, Denise McKenzie.

Apologies

Reis Flora, Nima Flora, Geoff Tait, Andrew McCoy, Sue Batten, Michael Batten, Fiona Rudd, Nathan Goode, Jim Monaghan, Leonie McLachlan, Joan West, Erol McArthur, Trevor Bickerstaff, Jonathan Clarke, Geoff Taylor, Kathryn Bullen, Caryl Molineux, David Molineux, Tony Sahhar, Dorothy Kean, John Bisset, Fred Hardy, Elisabeth Hardy

Reception of Parish Electoral Roll

The Roll was tabled and accepted.

Minutes of previous AGM October 23rd 2011

Tabled and accepted as read.

Vicar's Report

As presented in the Annual Report (pages 3-5)

Moved: Fr Grant Edgcumbe

Seconded: Bruce Chugg

Carried

There were no formal questions to Vicar's Report.

Warden's Report

As presented in the Annual Report (pages 6-7)

Moved: Bruce Chugg

Seconded: Rowena Ferguson

Carried

There were no formal questions to Warden's Report

Vestry Report

As presented in the Annual Report (pages 8-9)

Moved: Adrian McKenzie

Seconded: Hillarie Griggs

Carried

Hillarie Griggs spoke to the meeting highlighting some of the strengths of the parish and some of the challenges facing it in the near future. Adrian McKenzie also spoke to the meeting about the Vestry's Discernment Process.

There were no formal questions to Vestry Report

Adoption of Tabled Reports (as printed in the Annual Report)

The Annual Report is available in various forms, hard copy (short and long version) and an electronic copy (available via email) and will be placed on the Website.

Moved: Judith Gibson

Seconded: Jill de Lacy

All reports were adopted.

Treasurer's Report (including audited accounts for the Parish Year 2011/12)

The Financial Report sent out prior to the meeting was superseded by the white copy that was available at the meeting. Duncan McArthur presented this revised and amended report with an explanation.

Val Dyke had a number of concerns about how the accounts were presented and the issue of how the bequest and the monies received from the Diocese relating to the Vicar's Long Service Leave were recorded. She proposed the following Motion

I wish to move an amendment to the Financial Accounts that the invoice issued to the Diocese be deleted in total of \$17,177 from the accounts.

Seconded by Douglas Hastings

Luke Cornelius asked whether the accounts were prepared in accordance with Diocesan requirements and the Treasurer confirmed that they were. The Treasurer and the Wardens and the Auditor had been in discussion with the Diocese since these issues had been raised.

The motion was put to the vote

For 26 votes

Against 30 votes

This motion was not carried

Frank Miller encouraged people to think about leaving a bequest to the church in their wills and would like to see this idea more widely published. Bruce Chugg answered him by reminding everyone that it had only recently been removed from the pew sheet. It is hoped a notice would be alternatively placed in the pew sheet and in the Parish News which has a wider circulation list.

In answer to a question by Dennis Blomley about how much was spent on incense in a twelve month period an exact figure could not be given as it would be included under Church Supplies in the accounts.

Motion: That the amended Financial Report be accepted

Moved: Duncan McArthur

Seconded: Brian de Lacy

Carried with 3 votes against

Election of Honorary Auditors

Sharrock Bookkeeping was appointed as Honorary Auditors. The Wardens thanked Val Dyke for her work as auditor over the last 4 years.

Business

No motions other than the one relating to the Financial Report, and minuted above, were received for discussion.

Election of Wardens and Vestry

A motion was required to allow the names of candidates over the age of 72 to be put forward to be appointed as members of Vestry or as a Warden.

Motion: That Duncan McArthur, Brian de Lacy and Bruce Chugg's names be put forward

Moved: Joanne Burns

Seconded: Julia Cornelius

Carried

Brian de Lacy has accepted the Vicar's invitation to continue as his Warden. There were 2 nominations for People's Warden (Bruce Chugg and Rowena Ferguson) and they were duly appointed

There were 9 nominations for Vestry: Geoff Crawford, Elaine Fasken, Judith Gibson, Duncan McArthur, Michael Mosley, Sue Retschko, Elizabeth Taplin, Helen Warren and Joan West All were duly appointed.

Election of Lay Members of the Incumbency Committee

There were 2 nominations: Sue Retschko and Judith Gibson. They were duly elected.

The Wardens will elect their member for this committee during their first meeting.

Formal Questions

The formal questions received from Val Dyke about the Financial Report are minuted above.

Presentation of list of Lay Assistants at Holy Communion

Forty two people were listed on the agenda as Lay Assistants in this Parish. With the addition of Doug Hastings the list was tabled. New names may be added by Fr Grant and these names will be advised in the pew sheet. Any concerns regarding the people on this list are to go direct to the Vicar.

Soapbox

This is an initiative where any parishioner is invited to present a 3 minute presentation on any matter relating to the state/future/direction of the parish. The following presentations were made.

Chris Knight (Car Parking Team)

Chris thanked the Wardens for their co-operation and advice on the organisation of the car parking team.

This is used when there is a major parish event particularly a large funeral providing a more caring welcome to visitors who are on unfamiliar territory and feeling quite stressed. Many visitors expressed their thanks at the efficient and helpful manner the volunteers carry out this ministry.

In the last twelve months it has been used on about six occasions and is triggered by the Vicar when in excess of one hundred and fifty visitors are expected. There are now about fifteen parishioners on the roster. Generally it requires six to form a team. They are equipped with a 2-way radio, a set of instructions, a fluorescent jacket and a wand. Vehicle parking locations are divided into four sections, parishioners, family, friends and the disabled and those needing dropped off, visitors and an overflow.

After discussion with Mount Waverley Bowling Club they have agreed to share their bitumen car parks and a courtesy phone call is made to their club secretary prior to use.

Judith Gibson (Faith Formation)

Judith gave thanks for the opportunities for growth and learning within the parish. This includes the two Parish Quiet Days led by our Spiritual Directors Michael Mosley in March and Val Dyke in November and the excellent Lenten Study given by the Vicar entitled *"Dying to live - The Christian Process of Transformation as seen in the lives of the Household of Bethany"*

There are now two home groups running (as a new one started in March). These groups give an opportunity to read scripture together, discern where God is in their lives and provide pastoral care to fellow members.

She also gave a reflection on the ELF programme, which although finished continues, to bear fruit for the individuals who attended and for parish life as a whole. Some of "ELF fruits" for those who attended are seen in roles, during worship, leadership and Vestry, in pastoral care, home groups, children's education and mutual support and prayer.

Judith thanked Fr Grant Bullen and Fred Hardy for their excellent teaching and encouragement to reflect and grow in faith. Many of the ELF members continue to find time daily to pray, read scripture, Lectio Divina, and reflect. They are become more open to talking about their faith and noticing those around them. Many of them through Spiritual Direction are being open to where God is leading or encouraging them. ELF members continue to be encouraged by the example and interest of our clergy and Fred Hardy and by the example of other faithful parishioners who are "kindred spirits" and "soul friends".

Felicity Podger (Parish Social Justice Calendar)

The calendar is available for sale and costs \$10.

Margaret Taylor (MWICC)

This year the MWICC is organising "Carols in the Village" on Friday December 14th. It will start at 4:30 pm in Hamilton Place in Mount Waverley and at 6:30pm will move to near the branch of the ANZ bank in Hamilton Walk.

Erol McArthur (A thank you letter read by Fr Grant Edgcumbe)

Erol thanked the Pastoral Care Team for their care, as well as all parishioners who have supported and sent cards and messages to her during her illness these last months.

Closing Remarks (Given by Brian de Lacy)

On behalf of the Vestry and the Wardens I thank you all very much for attending at this AGM. Your support is appreciated.

Last year I made some comments about the various problems the parish had in trying to maintain a stable ministry team, it has turned out that this year was not much better than last.

We started the Church year off with an Assistant curate and Catechist in place to support our vicar then half way through the year we lost our assistant curate Mother Jane and were then forced to revert to the staffing arrangement referred to as the patch.

Once again I would like to record (in his absence on LSL) our thanks to our Vicar Grant Bullen. I would ask you all to carefully read the Vicars report. It is interesting to see that he has split his time with us into three defined sections, but no matter where he was or is now on his journey with us, his care for us as a parish and the high quality of his preaching and our worship remains second to none. For his service to us we offer him our most heartfelt thanks.

We also express our thanks to our Catechist Nick White. Nick will leave us in the near future to become Deacon located in a new parish .Nick despite being very involved with his studies has made a very significant contribution to the parish supporting Grant B and also being involved with the vestry playing a leading role in the discernment process that after many months work produced a Mission Action Plan which will be invaluable as future vestries try to define the direction and form of the parish. We wish Nick every success and our Lords blessing's on all his future activities.

Last but not least we owe a great debt of gratitude to Father Grant E .Grant thank you for your willingness to step in as our assistant priest every time our need has become critical. Your willingness to serve this parish despite your own busy schedule has made it possible for all our staff problems to almost go un noticed and the high quality of our worship to remain unchanged. I also thank you very much for taking on the role of locum priest enabling Grant B to take a well-earned 8 weeks long service leave. May God's blessings remain with you and we all hope that your association with this parish will remain in place well into the future.

Ladies and Gents please record our thanks in the usual manner.

The meeting closed with a reflection and a grace.

Hillarie Griggs
Vestry and Executive Secretary