

2025

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA
MINUTES
ANNUAL REPORTS
BUDGET

St John's
St Luke's
St Mary's
St Saviour's
Community of the Redeemer



11am - Sunday, 30th March 2025
Parish Meeting Room

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Anglican Parish of Wagga Wagga
Agenda for the Annual General Meeting
11am- Sunday, 30th March 2025 in the Parish Meeting Room

1. OPENING PRAYER AND WELCOME

2. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Members present will be invited to register their attendance by writing and signing their name on the Attendance Register. Apologies can be noted on the Apology Register.

3. STANDING ORDERS

4. CONFIRMATION OF 2024 AGM MINUTES

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE 2024 MINUTES

6. LOCUM RECTOR'S REPORT

7. ANNUAL REPORTS

8. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS

The reports will be tabled. Questions will be called for from the Chair. Summaries only will be presented but full and detailed copies of all financial reports for 2024 are available from the Parish Office. This booklet only contains information related to the budget.

9. ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE 2025 CALENDAR YEAR

The draft budget for 2025 will be tabled.

10. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Motions will be called for the appointment of auditors for the various accounts and financial statements for the Parish and Agencies for the 2025 year.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

a) For the year 2025 it is confirmed that:

- i) The three wardens from St John's and one warden each from St Luke's, St Mary's, and Community of the Redeemer are members of the Parish Council
- ii) The number of ordinary members of Parish Council is six (6). (One third appointed by the Rector/Locum Rector and two thirds elected by the Parish)

b) For the year 2026:

- i) The three wardens from St John's and one warden each from St Luke's, St Mary's, and Community of the Redeemer are members of the Parish Council.
- ii) The number of ordinary members of Parish Council is six (6). (One third appointed by the Rector/Locum Rector and two thirds elected by the Parish)

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

13. COMMISSIONING OF NEW PARISH COUNCIL AND CONCLUDING PRAYERS

ANGLICAN PARISH OF WAGGA WAGGA
Minutes for the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
11:00am Sunday, 24th March 2024 in the Parish Meeting Room.

1. OPENING PRAYER & WELCOME at 11am

2. PRESENT & APOLOGIES

Present

Rev Mike Perrott	Kerrie Perrott	Anne Carpenter
Lorraine Franzl	Janice Vrolyks	Udith Buik
Richard Franzl	John Vrolyks	Snady Wells
Doug Hill	Rev Colin Rush	Sharon Nicoll
Anne Flood	Ruth Rush	Rod Nicoll
Adrian Tregear	Lorraine Galvin	Graham Hornibrook
Trish Oliver	Elaine Campbell	Dawn South
Victor Dodds	Wes Campbell	Vivienne Sinderberry
Leanne Diessel	(Chair)	Kim Hoey (Secretary)
Leonie White	Mark Conyers	James Hamilton
Kerry Barnett	Christopher	(Treasurer)
Rev Mark Evers	Heazlewood	

Apologies

Jim Reynolds	Ray Togo	Patricia Hawkins
Andrew Bowcher	Wendy Smallwood	Geoff Bulkeley
Annabel Bowcher	Jan Rees	Lola Bulkeley
Sue Painting	Daphne May	Judy Wood
Phil Morrison	Charles Oliver	Betty Hornibrook
Julie Morrison	Linda Pelletier	
Sandra Wait	Jean Downey	

STANDING ORDERS.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2023 AGM.

AGM 01/24: It is resolved that the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes as presented, be accepted.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE 2023 MINUTES.

5. LOCUM RECTOR'S REPORT.

Resolution AGM 02/24: It is resolved that the Locum Rector and Associate Priest's report be adopted as presented.

6. ANNUAL REPORTS.

Northern Life Anglican Church

- Omission from the report but would like to include our thanks to Dorris Bowcher for all that she does around hospitality at the NLAC service.

Resolution AGM 03/24: It is resolved that the reports presented to the Annual General Meeting reflecting activities for 2023 be adopted as presented.

7. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS.

Resolution AGM 04/24: It is resolved that the Financial Report for the Parish Working account as at 31st December 2023 be accepted as presented.

Resolution AGM 05/2024: It is resolved that we receive the audit reports as tabled and presented.

8. ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2024.

Resolution AGM 06/24: It is resolved that the Annual Parish Working Account Budget of a projected income of \$548,26 and projected expenditure of \$580,862 for 2024 with a deficit of \$32,636 and deficit to be funded from past savings is accepted as presented.

9. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS.

Resolution AGM 07/24: It is resolved that we engage Bush and Campbell as auditor for the Parish and Preschools for the 2024 financial year.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION.

Resolution AGM 08/24: It is resolved that:

a) For the year 2024 it is confirmed that:

- i) The three wardens from St John's and one warden each from St Luke's, St Saviours, Anglican Community of the Redeemer, and the Northern Life Anglican Church are members of the Parish Council.*
- ii) The number of ordinary members of Parish council is six. (one third appointed by the Locum Rector and two thirds elected by the Parish).*

b) For the year 2025:

- i) The three wardens from St John's and one warden each from St Luke's, St Saviours, Anglican Community of the Redeemer, and the Northern Life Anglican Church are members of the Parish Council.*
- ii) The number of ordinary members of Parish council is six. (one third appointed by the Rector and two thirds elected by the Parish).*

Proposed amendment which was lost: ii) The number of ordinary members of Parish council is three. (one third appointed by the Rector and two thirds elected by the Parish).

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

- i) St John's site concept plan**

Proposed motion AGM 09/24: that Somewhere concept plan LO3 dated March 2024 for the establishment of a preschool precinct of up to 90 places on St John's site is accepted in principle subject to appropriate funding and relevant approvals is lost.

Resolution AGM 10/24: It is resolved that we fully support the development of a church precinct on the north side of/ the river and encourage the development of relations between The Riverina Anglican College and Northern Life Anglican Church.

- ii) It is resolved that we extend a vote of thanks for Wes Campbell for his role as Parish Chair for six years and many more as a Parish Councillor.**

12. COMMISSIONING OF NEW PARISH COUNCIL & CONCLUDING PRAYERS

13. Close at 12:37

ANGLICAN PARISH OF WAGGA WAGGA
Minutes for the EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
11:00am Sunday, 28TH July 2024 in the Parish Meeting Room.

1. OPENING PRAYER & WELCOME at 11am

2. PRESENT & APOLOGIES

Attendance

Anne Carpenter (Chair)	Vivienne Sinderberry	Sue Painting Adrian Tregear
Rev Mike Perrott (Locum Rector)	Lola Bulkeley	Ruth Rush
Kim Hoey (Secretary)	Dianne Watson	Coin Rush
James Hamilton (Treasurer)	Judy Wood	Kerrie MacMurray
Jodie Coles (Preschools' Manager)	Reynell Togo	Geoff Bulkeley
	Graham	Anne Flood
	Hornibrook	Sandra Wait
	John Vrolyks	Sandra Wells
	Janice Vrolyks	Elaine Campbell
	Betty Hornibrook	

Apologies

Leanne Diessel	Anne-Maree Rake	Wes Campbell
Rev Mark Evers	Jan Rees	

3. Ground Rules

One person speaks at a time
Everyone has the right to their opinion
We are discussing the proposal not the person

4. ST JOHN'S SITE PROPOSAL

Motion: *The concept plan for St John's proposed preschool precinct of up to 90 places on the plan LO3 dated 2nd July 2024 by Somewhere is accepted in principle.* Moved James Hamilton. Seconded Lola Bulkeley

- Jodie Coles: Spoke to the proposal talking about using the building as shelter from the weather extremes, rather than the focus.
- Anne Carpenter: The outdoor play area plan has been designed around giving the children outdoor activities; that the design took advantage of the slope of the land allowing all children access to these outdoor areas.

James Hamilton & Jodie Coles

- The idea is for preschools to be an outreach ministry.

- Clergy prefer to live off site no days for safety and security and separation from church life out of hours. Suitable premises would be purchased for the rectory.
- This is a concept plan. Should we be successful in funding applications and funding the project, then and only then would the project go ahead. We are a long way from this currently. Wanting to get things organised and ready to go pending funding.
- If 90 places fill, there will be approximately 220 families on site during school term.
- The St John's site idea came about due to the challenges in relation to the Northern Preschool Precinct.
- This site would build a connection to the church that is not there at this time.
- So wonderful to see the church full to overflowing when the preschool comes to St John's is a wonderful thing to see.
- A gift back to the Wagga community for preschoolers and their families who are from all socio-economic backgrounds.

Questions & Answers & information

- Graham Hornibrook: How many educators are required? 15 for 60 children and 20 for 90 children. Ratios are set at 1 to 10 but we operate above ratio with 3 or 4 for thirty. Is this a project for financial reasons to keep St John's alive?
- James Hamilton: This is a secondary focus. Ongoing conversation with TRAC has hit brick walls. Growth has been in day care centres but not preschools.
- Mike Perrott: This is only looking at the project as an option. No guarantees. It will ultimately be up to the rector of the day. It is important that we don't lose sight of our main mission of preaching the Gospel. A concept that can be taken forward.
- Leanne Diessel: Concerns about parking availability, and the traffic impact at drop off and pick up time. Council regulates the number of parking spaces to ensure there is adequate.
- Jodie Coles: It is economically viable. We are well resourced with staff to ensure our preschools operate above capacity. We would not be at threat of sending children home because we are unable to staff it. Preference would be to have St Mary's Rainbow ultimately move to the site.
- Graham Hornibrook: Concerns about the narrow road on this site.
- Jodie Coles: Doors open at 8:30am and families start dropping off early and are all there by about 9:30. Naturally, the way families work the parking works for drop off and pick up.
- James Hamilton: Parking is 1 car park for 4 places in the preschool. Enter the northern access point and move around the site from north to south and exit on the southern side of site. One area at the rear of St John's will need to be widened. Car parking has been factored in for the project.
- Sandy Wells: How are we as a parish addressing the connection to prospective parish, preschool families?
- James Hamilton: COVID hit as we opened the St Luke's preschool. We've had two chaplains so broken connection. Part of the Chaplain's role is to connect with families – parents and children – and bring them through relationship to church.
- Lola Bulkeley: We've learned from what has happened at the Northern Precinct and move forward.
- Mike Perrott: Perhaps the chaplain and rector need to sit down and work out how this happen going forward.
- Jodie Coles: There are multiple layers to building connection with families. If the children and families are not on site, then there is no chance of connecting with them.

- Colin Rush: When this was first discussed, I was opposed to the concept. Today, I want to speak in favour of it. This project got tangled up with the Northern Precinct and the supposed church plant in the northern suburbs. The proposal today has cleared itself of the entanglements of the other issues.
- Colin Rush: Support James. He mentioned three other proposals for the use of the land – asset. In the past we have struggled to find a worthwhile project to utilise the land asset. This project meets basic ideas for the site.
- Colin Rush: Reminder of what we do and what it means to be a Christian. Focus on people and where they are. Contact people and work with them from there, as they are.
- Lola Bulkeley: Staffing concerns. Students at Canberra Institute of Technology in Canberra would jump at the opportunity to work in a preschool like this or those we as a parish we operate.

Chair reread the motion

Resolution 01/07/2024: It is resolved that the concept plan for St John's proposed preschool precinct of up to 90 places on the plan LO3 dated 2nd July 2024 by Somewhere is accepted in principle.

Moved James Hamilton. Seconded Lola Bulkeley

5. CLOSE WITH THE GRACE at 11:45am



Locum Rector Report

The year 2024 has been an interesting one as I continue in the role of Locum Rector, one of ministry and waiting. I have enjoyed the opportunity and the challenge of ministering to and with the Parish of Wagga Wagga and am happy to continue until a new Rector is appointed. At this stage I have no health issues that would prevent me fulfilling the role I have been appointed to.

I have discussed this continuum with the Bishop and Wardens who agree, as it provides stability and certainty to the parish as the Clergy Appointment Board (CAB) process continues. I have tried to give the parish a sense of purpose and a forward direction in this time of transition, rather than allow it to sit on its collective hands whilst we wait for the CAB process to be completed.

During the year the CAB team met, and two candidates were interviewed for the position of rector, and both declined the Bishops offer of the role causing some disappointment for the CAB team and the parish as a whole. Hence the process continues.

This is a time of waiting for the parish, and a time of assessment of what their core mission focus is to be moving forward. Plus, it is a time of hope as we wait on our Heavenly Father to send us the person that he has anointed for the task of taking Wagga Anglican Parish into the future.

One question that has been raised with me is “What is wrong with our parish? Why do people not want to come?” To me the answer is threefold, one of distance and logistics, one of lack of available clergy, and one of spirituality where the parish is focused more on material issues, property acquisition and survival resulting in spiritual barriers, rather than focusing on ministry.

The “Hope 25” outreach may be one way to change this.

Ministry:

Ministry in the parish continued and God’s word shared through our regular services in St John’s, St Luke’s, Anglican Community of the Redeemer, St Saviour’s and St Mary’s’, and through our Preschool outreach.

Weekly attendance at services across all parish centers remaining, on average, consistent with an average of 50 attending St John’s and another 60 across the other congregations.

Christmas and Easter services were well attended with the influx of visitors and C and E Christians. The 2024 Family Christmas Eve Service had around 160 attend, many of whom were children.

During 2024 the Parish conducted two weddings, 32 funerals and 46 Baptisms. Added to this are home visits and communions, hospital visits, calls for last rights and attendance at ecumenical and community functions. Along with the many meetings and sorting of issues

Ministry continues through Rev Leonie as Pastoral Care to the Wagga Base Hospital and Chaplain to Calvary, and Rev Mike and Ven Grant as chaplains to Forrest Centre.

In 2024 the ministry in North Wagga moved from the TRAC premises back to St Mary’s. This decision was made as the arrangement with TRAC were not working. There were several issues from both sides of the arrangement that contributed to this. The move to St Mary’s, North Wagga has allowed ministry in the northern suburbs to continue and allow time for consolidation of what had been achieved and time to plan for the next phase of this ministry.

In 2024 Rev Kim and Rev Leonie were added to the preaching roster. This has been well received and has enhanced our expounding of the scripture. Kim and Leonie’s inclusion also gives them space to exercise their calling to the diaconate and ministry.

Personally, I have been well supported in this Locum ministry by my wife Kerrie, Rev Kim, Rev Mark, Rev Leonie, Rev Vicky, James Hamilton, Anthony Ireland and Wes Campbell as wardens and Anne Carpenter as Parish Chair, alongside the Parish Council and parish family.

It is this support and fellowship of the whole parish family which has helped Kerrie and I feel at home in the Parish of Wagga Wagga.

Parish Vision for ministry.

The parish vision statement was completed some five years plus ago in the time of a previous incumbent. As the interregnum continues, I feel that it may be time to review/revisit our parish vision and ministry statement.

Part of this review is to find a way for us to attract some younger families and folk to our style of worship at St John's primarily, and to review the way we seem to spend more money on property maintenance than ministry development and outreach.

Also, part of this review would be to visit and assess the way the parish does services, service times and locations to see where we may be more effective.

This process could start now and give the parish and a new incumbent, more clarity as to our mission and priorities. Something to consider.

Thank you again for your support as we minister together for God's Kingdom.

God bless each of you.

Your Brother in Christ

Rev'd Mike Perrott



Pomegranates growing at the rear of St John's

Associate Priest Report

My time at Wagga Anglican has continued to be a time characterised by change. At the end of 2023, I stepped down from the position of chaplain to our Preschools, as my role and responsibilities within the wider Parish continued to grow and evolve. They have continued to change ever since and are still somewhat in a state of flux. Part of that is the reality of life in a large Parish, with ever shifting ministry and events, and part is simply the natural result as I continue to learn and understand more about the character and ministry of our wider Parish.

Across 2023 and 2024 I was involved with **The Journey Partnership**. This is a course consisting of a series of five one day workshops (two in 2023, with three in 2024), where I spent some time with five other clergy (including Anglican, Baptist and Church of Christ), learning about managing and leading churches. Some of the topics we covered included church governance, useful position descriptions, recruiting, training and motivating volunteers, effective administration, tough conversations, constructive meetings, and succession planning.

However, by far the most helpful was thinking about churches and leadership at the higher level. And it was here that I learnt much that I think can be of great benefit to our wider Parish.

Unsurprisingly, church leadership begins with the Leader. There are many models of leadership you can follow; we were looking at the “**4 Cs**” model of Church leadership. Even more important than the **Calibre** of the Leader, is that they **Care** for their people, who understand the **Cause** of their church (or organization), and they know how they can **Contribute**.

We then spent some time looking at the importance of a clear and well communicated Vision and Mission (the 3rd C - Cause), how the church knows who we are (and who we are not), and why we do what we do (and do not do). This then naturally flows through into a well-articulated and logical organisational structure that greatly aids members in understanding exactly just what everyone’s roles and responsibilities are.

Taking a candid and honest assessment of our Parish, I feel this is where we are most lacking. As a Parish we feel somewhat adrift, just floating along, with no clear plan or objective, beyond simply continuing to do what we have always done, how we have always done it. Over the next few months, we need to come together as a Parish and decide **Who we are**. What are we about? What is important to us? How are we different (and the same) as the other churches in town? We need an answer to the basic question — If you are a new Christian in Wagga, then why should you join our parish? If we can answer those questions, then regardless of when we do (or don’t) get a new Rector, we at least will know where we want to go (which should also influence the appointment of our next Rector).

The other significant development this year has been wrapping up Northern Life Anglican Church (NLAC - our Church plant based at TRAC), and instead begin a new service at St Mary’s in North Wagga. It is unfortunate, that despite two years (post COVID) of hard work and diligent effort from a committed team, NLAC was not as successful as we would have hoped. There are three main reasons for this which were present pretty much from the very beginning, and in the end proved intractable with the vestry team unable to find solutions to chart a path forward.

1. **Insufficient Launch Team.** The research into successful church plants all indicates that ideally you want to begin with a **core team of 20 -30** (with 12 as an **absolute** minimum), committed, energetic people that are energized, excited and enthusiastic about being involved in a church plant. **NLAC had six.**

2. **Unclear Mission and Vision.** Just as I outlined above, the church planting literature also points to the need for a very clear **Mission** and **Vision** for the church plant, so all members of the team know exactly what they are signing up for, to provide a clear and focused direction, with clarity about who the target audience of the church plant is. In all the notes regarding NLAC, all I could find was a vague sense of “hold a Contemporary, Anglican, Family service at TRAC.” A Vision we did actually achieve, but which was proving unsuccessful at reaching the wider community of the northern suburbs.

3. **Rocky Relationship with TRAC.** From the very beginning there were issues between NLAC and TRAC. We never really felt welcomed and supported by the school, at best we felt begrudgingly tolerated. Every week we would turn up, unsure just what we would face, sometimes, the staff room would be locked (and so we were without access to hot water and washing up facilities), or the screen we asked them to provide would be missing, or we would be informed at short notice that we needed to move to different room, or there would be school equipment left in the room we planned to use, or any number of other issues we faced in our two years at TRAC. Issues that left us without a sense of permanence, as if we were in a temporary holding pattern, and so the Vestry team became stressed, anxious, disillusioned and unenthusiastic about remaining at TRAC.

Fortunately, the move to **St Mary’s** has so far been a success. It has bought a sense of permanence, peace, and belonging to the congregation. Numbers have remained mostly stable, or slightly increased, with God already bringing several visitors to our service, some of whom have returned as regular members, and others who we are continuing to pray will return in the future.

One of the great blessings of Parish ministry, especially in a Parish as large and varied as ours, is the great variety of ministry situations we have the privilege to serve in. This year, as well as regular involvement across all our Sunday services, I have also taken over the Wednesday 11am service (following the retirement of Rev. Daphne), have continued taking services at Settlers (Apartments and Community Centre), as well as being involved in the ever-changing variety of services held across our Parish. I’ve also had the great opportunity to be involved in the Clergy Appointment Board (CAB) process for a couple of Parishes across the Diocese.

The future, while unknown, certainly is full of promise and with the faith that God, our Loving Father, is sovereign over all, we can confidently look forward, knowing that in his strength, and the power of the Holy Spirit, we can serve him whatever we face, as we bring the great news of Jesus to our city.

It is my prayer that God has got big things in stall for our Parish, despite what it might look like at times. We need to remember that God has blessed us abundantly in the past, and we can look forward with hope that he still has amazing plans, not only in our Parish, but across our city. I know He also has great plans for us each individually, as we prayerfully continue to faithfully work at living lives of loving service to our Great Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Rev. Mark Evers
Associate Priest

Presiding Member's Report on behalf of the Parish Council

The Parish Council consists of Anne Carpenter (Chairperson), Rev Mike Perrott (Locum Rector), James Hamilton (Treasurer), Wes Campbell, James Okerenyang, Reynell Togo, Kerry Barnett, Sandra Wait, Anna Conyers, Rev Kim Hoey (Secretary), Rev Mark Evers.

Each Parish Councilor supports the ongoing mission of God's work and is an important conduit for decision making within our Parish which has the responsibility for operating five worship centre, two Anglican Preschools, the Anglican Opportunity Shop, as well as providing chaplaincy to the two branches of the Forrest Centre and Settler's Village. We continue to develop good working relationships with our centres and with Anglicare at Anglican Community of the Redeemer (ACR) Ashmont and at St John's. Not to single out one contribution above the others, I have to pay tribute to our Treasurer, James Hamilton, who tirelessly works to pay our bills and keep us financially afloat which is becoming more difficult in a time of rising costs and reduced income/donations.

The Parish Council usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month to digest and discuss the reports of the subcommittees and worship centres, as well as issues that have arisen. The subcommittees and worship centres do a great job of providing us with an up-to-date picture of the Parish. Please take time to read their reports. The Parish Council has tried to do a monthly summary of the issues discussed at the meetings; however, we have not always succeeded in providing a timely overview.

Filling all positions on Parish Council has been an ongoing issue. We have operated with one position vacant all year. In October, the resignation of Anthony Ireland (Rector's appointment), left two positions vacant. We were very sorry to lose Anthony. He was an asset to the Council. Wes Campbell, already a Parish Council member, took on the role of Warden to keep the Parish Council viable until the Annual General Meeting. I hope parishioners have prayerfully considered if they are able to put themselves forward for the 2025/26 Parish Council. We need a strong Parish Council.

While we have been very grateful to Rev Mike Perrott, supported by the very able Ministry Team, for standing in and guiding us as our Locum Rector ("thanks" does not seem enough for the time and effort he has put in), we have been disappointed that the Parish has been unable to attract a willing and suitable candidate to lead us into the future. The Clergy Appointment Board (CAB) has only been able to formally interview two candidates. Each, after taking the maximum reflection/decision time, has declined. The CAB has also approached individuals who were identified as being suitable, but all have declined to have their name put forward giving family reasons. The CAB has advertised nationally as well as in New Zealand. The CAB will be discussing our situation with the Bishop in the very near future as it appears that no one is prepared to be our permanent Rector.

The proposed development of a preschool on a site within the Charles Sturt University continues to be a source of frustration and concern. We appear to be out of the loop in the decision-making process and yet we have been asked to sign a Loan Agreement. The Parish Council has written (twice) to the Bishop expressing our concern. The last correspondence was specifically concerning the Loan Agreement which we have deferred signing until a few matters/issues are clarified. The Bishop has responded to the second November

correspondence saying that he will look into it; the first correspondence has still not received any response. Hence the Loan Agreement has remained unsigned by the Parish Council.

Any progress on the draft plan for a preschool on the vacant land at the back of St John's has been put on hold until it can be fully and independently financed.

Our reputation in the Diocese was damaged by the poisoning of the tree outside St Luke's Preschool. The Bishop has accepted our report into the investigation of the incident and no further action will be taken.

It was a delight to see Bishop Vanessa visit us, for no particular reason than to visit and meet us. She talked freely with the parishioners at morning tea and specifically met with the Parish Council. From all reports, everyone is impressed with her.

2025 is ahead of us with many challenges. With God's support, we will meet those challenges. Please keep praying for our own, permanent Rector.

Anne Carpenter
Parish Chair



Festival of Christmas Trees – Connecting with our Community

Warden Report for St John's Complex

Wardens Role & Responsibilities

The churchwardens for a worship centre are responsible to the Bishop and the parish for:

- ensuring the provision of all things necessary for the conduct of public worship at that worship centre;
- the maintenance in good order and repair of the property of or used by worship centre.

Where there are no churchwardens for a worship centre, then churchwardens for the principal worship centre or for the parish will be responsible.

The churchwardens of the parish are responsible to the Bishop and the parish council for:

- the safekeeping of parish registers and other parish records; and
- the maintenance in good order and repair of the rectory, other houses provided for the staff of the parish and other parish property.

The churchwardens of the parish have a duty to provide a written report to the Bishop, signed by a majority of them, on any serious irregularities in the performance of public worship or any wilful neglect of duty or any serious misconduct on the part of the rector.

The churchwardens have the functions and duties conferred or imposed by the laws of the Church, including canons of General Synod and the ordinances of this Diocese.

Worship Services

We thank Reverend Mike Perrott locum rector and the local ministry team including locum deacons/priests for conducting worship services during 2024 and providing chaplaincy services to The Forrest Centre.

Rev'd Mark Evers commenced as full-time associate priest for the parish at the commencement of the year after leaving the chaplaincy role at the Wagga Anglican Preschools at the end of 2023. Rev'd Mark was to focus on Northern Life Anglican Church, building relationships with baptismal families, and general parish tasks.

The parish applauds Rev'd Kim Hoey on becoming the Archdeacon of the Household of Deacons. Ven Kim is now a member of the leadership team of the Diocese plus a member of Bishop in Council. Admittedly these extra roles consume part of Kim's weekly time. We wish Kim all the best in her additional roles and responsibilities.

The parish farewelled and celebrated the life of Rev'd Judy Begent, ordained as a Deacon in April 1998 at St John's. Judy was truly one of God's servants. Judy had many gifts and talents, especially the gift of caring for people. Judy could communicate with any person irrespective of background, culture, gender etc. Judy was a listener and an action person putting God's work into action. Judy was extraordinary person in providing pastoral care across many communities. Judy was certainly one of the stalwarts of the parish in many ways. We miss you Judy in many ways. Rest in Peace.

The parish farewelled Rev'd Dick Goodman, who provided worship services and pastoral care at the Community of the Redeemer for many years. The parish, and especially the congregation of the Community of the Redeemer will miss you. Rest in Peace.

We thank Anthony Ireland for his period as Rector's/Parish Warden. Anthony has wide experience with various Christian groups, and he is willing to speak his thoughts. The resignation of Anthony left me as the sole parish warden which is not a healthy situation. I give thanks to Wes Campbell for taking on the role of interim Parish Warden until the 2025 elections take place.

The introduction of technology to provide digital worship services commenced in 2024 in St John's. The change to digital was accepted by many parishioners. Parishioners who wish to use the hymn and prayer books have the option to do so.

Anthony Ireland's uses his skills and time to produce virtual worship services using YouTube channel allowing parishioners and other community members to access worship services online. Specific equipment was purchased to improve the recording capability and presentation of worship services. The recording of services will enable people who cannot attend face to face worship services, for whatever reason, to watch and listen to worship services weekly.

The number attending Sunday 9am services (excludes special festival services) during the year has fluctuated with numbers around 30 to 55 in the winter period to around 45 to 60 in the warmer months. The weekly Wednesday 5pm service continues with Rev Mike Perrott, and the 11am worship service on Wednesday is conducted by Rev'd Mark Evers. The parish recognises the retirement of Rev'd Daphne May and gives thanks for her ministry over many years. The parish conducts regular worship services at Settler's Village, Estella. The Northern Life Anglican Church services at 4pm Sundays were transferred from The Riverina Anglican College (TRAC) facilities to St Mary's church building, North Wagga in the 4th term of 2024. Worship services are conducted weekly at Community of the Redeemer, Ashmont and St Luke's, South Wagga Wagga, and fortnightly at St Saviour's, Ladysmith.

A few long-term parishioners have passed away during the year or relocated to other towns/cities. We give thanks for the lives of the departed and their Godly living.

There were two weddings and sixteen funerals conducted in parish worship centres during the year. Live streaming of funeral services took place for most funeral services. A few public concerts were conducted.

We give thanks to all the volunteers in the sanctuary party each week.

Vacant Parish Rector's Position

It is now two years since Venerable Dr Grant Bell retired as parish rector. Ven Grant was my 9th Parish Rector over the past 50+ Years. It is quite notable that the incumbency period of Rector's is decreasing and the hiatus or interregnum period between Rector's is increasing. This trend is quite disturbing and frustrating (not just for me but many parishioners) as the church organisation needs an appointed leader for stability and guidance, spiritual leadership and governance as the parish travels forward into the future to spread the word of the gospel.

Church

The church building was opened during weekdays when Parish Administrator is on duty.

The Samoan community ceased using the St John's building for worship services.

Electronic fund transfer facility was upgraded to 4G network capacity due to the closing down of the 3G network. Visitors and parishioners make donations or give using debit or credit card facility.

A Heritage Architect was engaged to update the 1990 Conservation management plan for the church building. The final version of the Conservation and Heritage Management plan was received in 2020.

A professional maintenance organisation was asked to provide an estimate of cost for the regular maintenance of the building which came in as \$72,000 per year.

Parish Council is endeavouring to establish a Heritage Trust account for the sustainability of the church building.

Facilities within the church building

The lighting and virtual recording equipment have been purchased to enable good quality of recording of services. We thank Anthony for using his recording equipment and his time and skills for virtual recording.

The Vestry Meeting Room has been changed from Boardroom to a meeting room.

New storage cabinet has been installed which was placed next the bell tower wall. The cabinet will store various electrical equipment. New roving microphones and video camera were purchased.

Safe Ministries

The Diocese is implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional responses to Child Sexual Abuse which emanated from the wrong doings in the past of some. All people involved in any activity/tasks of the church are required to complete the appropriate Safe Ministry form and undertake Safe Ministry training. The level required is dependent on the level of activity or position held within the Parish. This aspect will affect the number of volunteers who contribute to various tasks/activities.

Organ, Sound, Security systems, and Flood lights

On the 12th November 2022, storm and lightning activity struck the Church building.

The power circuit on the southern side of the building was struck causing a power surge through the circuit on the that side of the building.

The organ, sound system, part of security system and some flood lights were hit and fried, burning out the systems.

Insurance paid for the replacement of the organ and other equipment affected by the lightning strike. All equipment is in place and functioning. The new organ required some adjustments.

External works to the church building

Professional advice and estimate of costs are being sought for cement rendering or use of other material for the external surfaces of the church building, as several areas of cement rendering is cracking and lifting from the brick surface.

A couple of the lead light windows need some maintenance. Parish is seeking professional advice.

Some External painting still to be conducted which commenced in March 2022.

Calvary Garden (situated between church building and rectory)

It is planned to connect the calvary garden with the prayer path.

Parish Centre

The parish appreciated the presence of Anglicare on church grounds as they are part of the welfare and caring arm of the church.

We give thanks for the parish administrator (Kim) who encounters various situations, circumstances, and personalities each day but still presents a professional approach to providing the necessary services to the parish with a smile.

Archives

The archivists with two volunteers are digitising photos and history text for the purpose of displaying material on a plasma screen in the foyer area.

Parish Green (the lawn area between church building and parish centre)

The intention of upgrading the parish green area is to encourage greater use of the area by the parish and community members.

Riverside precinct

Discussions are still taking place with Wagga Wagga City Council on how St John's complex can be incorporated into various activities that will take place now with the completion of stage 2 of the Riverside

precinct project. The master plan for St John's site includes the Riverside Precinct plan which will become the main entertainment centre for the city.

Prayer path

The Arts Fund committee is investigating to increase the number of stations for the prayer path, possibly with the inclusion of a labyrinth and a viewing platform. The inclusion of the Calvary Garden with the memorial wall is being considered to be included in the prayer path with the lamentation pool, and curved seat.

Discussions with project manager of WWCC has formed a partnership with for the purpose of connecting St John's site with the Wiradjuri track and the Riverside precinct.

Rectory

Refurbishment of laundry has taken place along with external painting and some internal painting. New vinyl tiles were laid over the existing cork tiles as no trade was willing to undertake necessary maintenance work on the cork tiles. Removal gas heaters were carried out during the year.

35 Gunn Drive Estella Residence

The Evers family moved into the cottage during January 2023. During the year all gas appliances were changed over to electric appliances (Hot water system, Reverse cycle air conditioning, and hot plates). The gas meter has been turned off. The toilet/shower facility in the parish room at the rear of the building are complete. The bathroom leaking water into bedroom four has been treated with a leak buster. The external painted surfaces were repainted.

5 Shaw Street Residence

The residence is occupied by new tenants since November 2022. All external painted surfaces repainted.

2A Blakemore Street Residence

The pergola at the rear of the property was refurbished.

72 Docker Street Residence

Tenants departed October and new tenants moved in mid-November.

All interior painted areas were repainted and some repairs to cracks in walls and ceiling.

Risk Management and Emergency Aspects

Risk assessment is conducted on an ongoing basis for all buildings during the year to ensure safety of all people and property and providing good stewardship of buildings and land.

The insurance risk assessor arrived in 2024 who assessed St John's church building to ensure that the parish is minimising risk to people and property.

Procedures have been put into place on how to treat people who fall ill during a worship service as in accordance with the professional advice.

Motor vehicle movement and parking on site has been reviewed by a professional traffic management officer because of the serious safety concerns associated with both pedestrians and vehicles using the same pavement area. Professional advice was received, and Parish Council approved of a traffic management plan for St John's complex. Currently, waiting on contractor to conduct necessary signage and line marking.

Currently, there are six official parking bays on site for people with disabilities. St Johns is the only church complex within the Wagga Wagga church precinct that provides on-site parking. A letter has been forwarded to Wagga Wagga City Council requesting two parking bays for people with disabilities on the eastern side of Church Street.

Prior to commencement of any public event in St Johns church building, announcement will be made about emergency procedures and housekeeping matters.

Grounds

We give thanks for the work of various volunteers who conduct maintenance of the grounds during the year. Phil Hoey is the engaged contractor for mowing the grounds.

Cleaning and flowers and office

We give thanks for the work of volunteer for building and brass cleaning up until the brass items were cleaned and coated. Brass items now only require dusting brass items.

We give thanks for the volunteers who arrange the flowers for special church services.

We give thanks for parishioners who assist in the parish office in a variety of ways.

The contract with Charles Sturt Campus Cleaning services was renewed in December for a three-year period for general cleaning of toilets, kitchens, windows, and floor areas.

Tower Bells and Hand bells

It is great to hear the tower bells calling the people to worship.

We give thanks for the volunteers who ring the tower bells.

The hand bells are with the tower bell group for training purposes but otherwise not in use.

Sunday Morning tea after worship service

We give thanks for the volunteers who prepare the space, serve and clean up for morning tea.

St John's Activity Group

We give thanks to the Activity group for financing the new flip tables in the Parish Meeting Room.

Christmas Tree Festival

We give thanks to the volunteers who organised the second Festival of Christmas Tree which was conducted the four days leading to Christmas. The festival consisted of twelve Christmas trees sponsored by individuals or businesses who decorated them. Volunteers opened the church building each day of the festival from 5pm to 9pm for viewing by the public. Hospitality was provided.

Food Pantry

We give thanks for the people who donate money and non-perishable food to the pantry for issue to community members in need through Anglicare and the Community Centre at Ashmont.

St John's Community Building – 3 Johnson Street

The facility was refurbished early 2018 and has been in use since April 2018. The playgroup was placed into recess due to lack of coordinator at the commencement of 2024. Other community organisations have been using St John's community building. A few parishioners have been using the facility. We thank the volunteers who maintain the grounds.

Choir and Organist and Concerts & Music

Choristers from the Riverina Conservatorium of Music have provided vocal support to 9am worship service on a regular basis. Worship services are enhanced by their presence. There is a concerted effort with the Riverina Conservatorium of Music (RCM) to ensure concerts are held on a regular basis, with the intention of connecting with the general community as a Church for the City.

We give thanks to the organists who accompany the congregation in hymns.

We give thanks to Keith Radford and Adrian Wintle for playing the organ for many years and leading the choir. Both are now retired. Leigh Ladd has been appointed as Director of Music and Enoch Fandrich has

been engaged as a new organist on a rostered basis. We give thanks to Andrew Wallace for his service as an organist/pianist.

Side persons and Readers

We give thanks for the parishioners who are side persons each week who greet people, handing out pew sheets, hymn and prayer books, and collecting and storing books at the close of services. We give thanks for side persons who organise the collection of offertories during worship services and the placing of offertories in a safe place. COVID19 safe policy has changed the collection process.

We give thanks for all the readers and intercessors who participant in worship services.

General Community members

We give thanks for all parish tradies who conduct various tasks in a timely and professional manner with quality materials and at a reasonable cost.

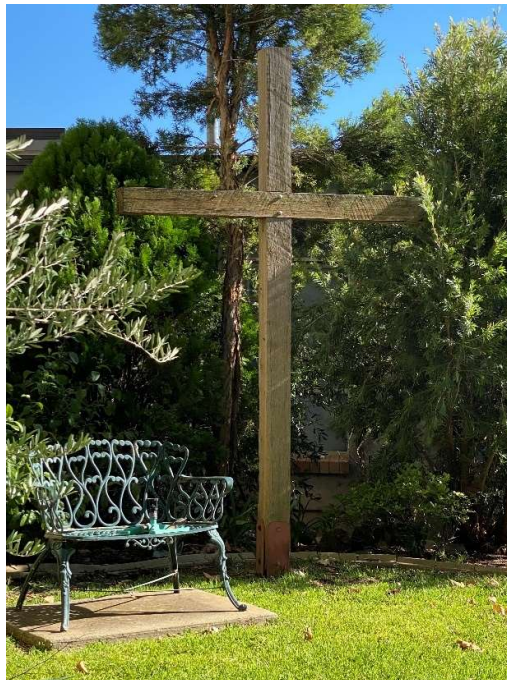
Further Development of Site

The parish conducted a Special General Meeting in July where a concept plan for a 90-place preschool facility be constructed on the vacant land on the eastern side of St John's site. Representatives from the Diocesan Property Development Commission visited the site on the 8th July to view the landscape and the concept plans.

The main objectives to develop St Johns site are to meet and generate additional income to finance parish outreach mission initiatives. St John's site is one of the best land locations in the city of Wagga Wagga, being in the central part of the city and next to the Murrumbidgee River.

Heritage Trust Fund for St John's

Parish Council has agreed in principle to establish a trust fund to raise funds with the purpose of ensuring sustainability for the church building into the future. The reason for this is to inform the wider community of the historical and iconic significance of St John's Church building and to gain support to ensure its sustainability. A promotional video of St John's is being prepared to present to the parish and wider community.



Calvary Garden Grounds

Warden Report for St Mary's Complex

Church Building

The Indian Orthodox Church congregation has been using the church for worship services on Saturdays and Sundays and using the toilet and kitchen facilities of the playgroup.

The Northern Life Anglican Church congregation commenced Worship services on Sunday's at 4pm in October relocating from TRAC facilities.

A new stand and large screen were purchased for digital services at St Mary's.

A licence agreement needs to be signed by the Indian Orthodox Church group.

Two long pews stored in the church have been sold and removed.

The historical organ has been relocated to the Riverina Museum to be placed on display.

Two window frames have been replaced so they now open and close properly.

A new base bolt has been affixed to one of the entry doors to improve security.

Grounds

A contractor does the lawn mowing and volunteers maintain the garden areas.

A landscaper has been improving facilities.

Due to poor or no drainage along George and McPherson Streets, Wagga Wagga City Council has been asked to improve kerb side drainage.

The overhanging tree at the entry gate has been trimmed.

The side fence panel shared with neighbouring property has been reaffixed.

Playgroup Building

NSW Playgroup meet on Wednesdays in the warmer weather using the basic shelter and toilet/kitchen/storage areas.

Hall building & Activity areas.

St Mary's Rainbow Preschool is the occupant of the building. The preschool is responsible for the maintenance of all buildings in the complex and surrounds including outdoor activity areas and bush block.

A new staffroom for the preschool has been approved but plans have been revisited in order to utilise part of the playgroup building.

Refurbishment of external signs to be undertaken.

A windstorm in November damaged a few trees in the bush block as well as the structured outdoor area.

James Hamilton
Warden

St Mary's Church Report

We are grateful to be able to worship at St Mary's Church, North Wagga.

Following a year of many changes and challenges at The Riverina Anglican College, an opinion was formed that, as a church community, we needed to be in a stable worshipping space where new people could come and readily see where 'church' is and come and join us. The initial focus of being an 'Anglican worshipping community' to the TRAC school and the local community has not been achieved, so new focus needs to be found.

The decision to move to St Mary's gave the wardens some breathing space over the Spring holidays and we commenced services at the beginning of Term 4, 2024.

Regular Prayer and Wardens meetings recommenced with a weekly fellowship meal at the 'Palm and Pawn' but have not continued this year, due to changing priorities and family matters.

The Sunday afternoon worship services are finding their own 'service style' with Rev Mark developing forms of liturgy; prayers, confessions, absolutions to reflect an everyday style that is readily understood and appreciated by newcomers and the faithful.

Our congregation is ever changing, and we have yet to formalise any promotion on a regular and current basis. Christmas services were advertised through Facebook community pages but had little effect on attendance.

We thank Rev Mark for his diligence for serving the community with regular services, and Rev Kim, Rev Vicki, Sharon, Rod and Sandy for their contributions over the year.

We dream to see St Mary's fully operating as an Anglican church where families, especially St Mary's Rainbow Preschool families, and the local community, 'North of the River' can gather to join for special events and regular worship services.

Rod Nicoll
Sharon Nicoll
Sandy Wells



St Mary's Church, North Wagga

St Luke's Vestry Report

St Luke's Chapel has had another successful year enabling us to worship the Lord from a place which has become very special to us. Our services are always open to visitors to have them join in our worship anytime a service is being held.

We give our very special thanks to Rev Mike Perrot and Kerrie, Rev Angus MacDonald and Anne, and Rev Mark Evers.

Our thanks go to Rev Mike Perrott and Kerrie, Rev Angus MacDonald and Anne and Rev Mark Evers and on one occasion Rev Kim Hoey, for the wonderful service they have given to our congregation. The services are always interesting and reflect the hours of preparation needed to maintain this standard. Audio Visual system in the chapel has given us untold problems until September this year a technician we hired solved the problem identifying the cause of the malfunctions we have endured. Now each week the system works well and the singing in the congregation has never been stronger or more purposeful.

During the year the Chapel has been hired to Methodist Church of Fiji in Australia on a weekly basis, and Janelle Noack who runs sewing/patchwork group using it two weekends a month. These hirings have proved very satisfactory to all concerned.

We have hosted several occasions where food has been served. Our kitchen facilities, appliances and setting all have proved to be most suitable for efficient service. Our Fifth Sunday catering was a lunch again this year. We served a delicious range of soups and crusty bread as well as lovely slices and desserts all provided by the St Luke's congregation and parishioners. Thank you to everyone as we had a really enjoyable time.

We have a very supportive congregation some of whom are rostered each month to set up for services, pick up the 'box' from Kim, present prayer, assist the priest and maintain the items used in services. We give very special thanks to Judy Buchhorn and Noleen Williams for the laundering and pressing of the cloths used during the communion service and for the maintenance of all of the materials used with sacramental services. This is a big task requiring work every week of the church year. Thank you so much Judy and Noleen! Special thanks go to Bede Mecham, Maureen and Brian Coggan and Richard Spurway for their assistance with services and general support.

As our congregation ages our numbers are slowly falling with an average service each Sunday of twelve communicants. We are keen to try to make the service more popular and for younger folk to join us. It seems that the hour of the day, 7:30am, when the service begins is too challenging for many.

Kerry Barnett
Warden

Anglican Community of the Redeemer Report

At Ashmont we are blessed by having our doors open on weekdays for the community and to have Shannon Daley working in the Facilitator role. Unfortunately, more people than ever are needing food and financial assistance. Numbers of people dropping in to access computers or attend craft sessions have also continued to increase, and community breakfasts and lunches are well attended. We have a bi-monthly meeting with Parish and Anglicare representatives to ensure we have a safe and well-maintained premises to continue all of these activities. Thanks to James Hamilton and Mark Conyers.

Anglicare hosted a large NAIDOC week gathering once again in July with Service providers and locals all coming together to make this a very memorable occasion. Sandra Mitchie and Trevor Ament from Anglicare made the trip from Canberra to make connections and see the Centre in action. Also, Sue Robertson, the new Chaplain to Anglicare Western, Southern NSW and ACT was there.

The December Christmas party for the whole community at the Community Centre was also well attended.

Sunday Services have continued with about 8 -14 people attending each week. Our thanks to Rev Angus McDonald and Rev Mark Evers for offering us regular Holy Communion Services. We are missing Rev Dick Goodman, who died on 25 January 2025. He regularly preached and gave us Holy Communion Services and was much loved by us all.

We hosted a Parish lunch in September and enjoyed meeting with many from our Parish. Thanks to all who came along.

In December there was a working bee with TRAC students in the garden and packing Christmas hampers. This was greatly appreciated by us, and it was also good for the students to see a little of how the Centre functions.

Our prayer chain has continued to have many requests with countless prayers of both thanks and appeal.

Our Wednesday Bible Study has continued with studies on Women in the Old and New Testaments in addition to a Lenten Study. Our numbers vary with any number from 4 to 12 but there is always lively discussion and new perspectives offered.

We look forward to future ministry within the Parish and the Ashmont Community and thank all in the Parish for their prayers for our vestry and people. We particularly thank Rev Mike Perrott for his ongoing support and trust in us as we lead our own Morning Prayer services.

Sandy Wells
Sandra Wait
Anna Conyers

Tower Captain's Report (with Steeple Keeping Report)

Active Ringers: Kerrie Macmurray – Tower Captain
 Elaine Campbell – Vice Captain
 Charles Oliver – Steeple Keeper
 Katie-Leigh Riley
 David Pyke

Cheer squad/admin: Di New - secretary and advertising

January Kerrie created safety instructions and emergency protocols for the tower.

 On 22nd Kerrie had a radio interview with the ABC about bell ringing. Attempted recruitment but no takers. However, a friend's mum in Newcastle heard it and got very excited.

March Team rang for Easter Sunday.

April 16th April the 'Orange Pealers' visited the tower. Large band visited, loved our bells and hospitality. \$80 donated for eigh ropes rung.

 Team rang for ANZAC day.

May 15th May a team of ringers from Turramurra came to visit. St John's ringers were unable to ring with them, as it was a mid-week, daytime visit. \$60 donated for six ropes rung.

 Kerrie sent a piece into the Ringing Note after the team looked back through the sign in book.

- David was almost at his 3.5yr anniversary
- Katie-Leigh celebrated her 8yr ringing anniversary on 31st May
- Charles and Elaine have been ringing sings December 1997, now 26yrs ago
- Kerrie has been ringing for 34years
- First and second peals were rung in St Johns in 1998 and 1999
- Elaine Lee from Turramurra rang in the 2nd peal and visited again, 25years later with the rest of her team.

July Ancient Society of College Youths reached out to arrange ringing in Wagga in Feb/March 2025. Were looking at visiting 28th Feb or 1st of March 2025 but sadly cancelled beginning of Feb 2025, due to reduced numbers compared to those expected.

Aug While ringing on Sunday morning at the end of July, there was a "clunk" of something falling in the belfry. Maintenance was completed in August. Charles and Kerrie found a loose nut and bolt and one nut that had fallen off the bolt on bell 7. All bells checked and made safe.

 The producers of "The Sound of Music" production, to be held at the Wagga Wagga Theatre in October, reached out for a recording of our tower bells, to be used in the show. Most practices in September had been cancelled, due to

ringers being on holidays, so a recording of the peal of Wagga Wagga Surprise Major was forwarded, from April 2023, but sadly not used in the end.

September Andrew Cole (ANZAB) organised a ringing tour around Albury, Wangaratta and Beechworth. Kerrie attended Albury only, was great to catch up with ringing friends and have an opportunity to try new things. ANZAB are keen to organise more trips like this in regional areas.

Kerrie Macmurray
Tower Captain



Bell Tower – St John's

AGM - Media Committee Update as at 31/12/2024

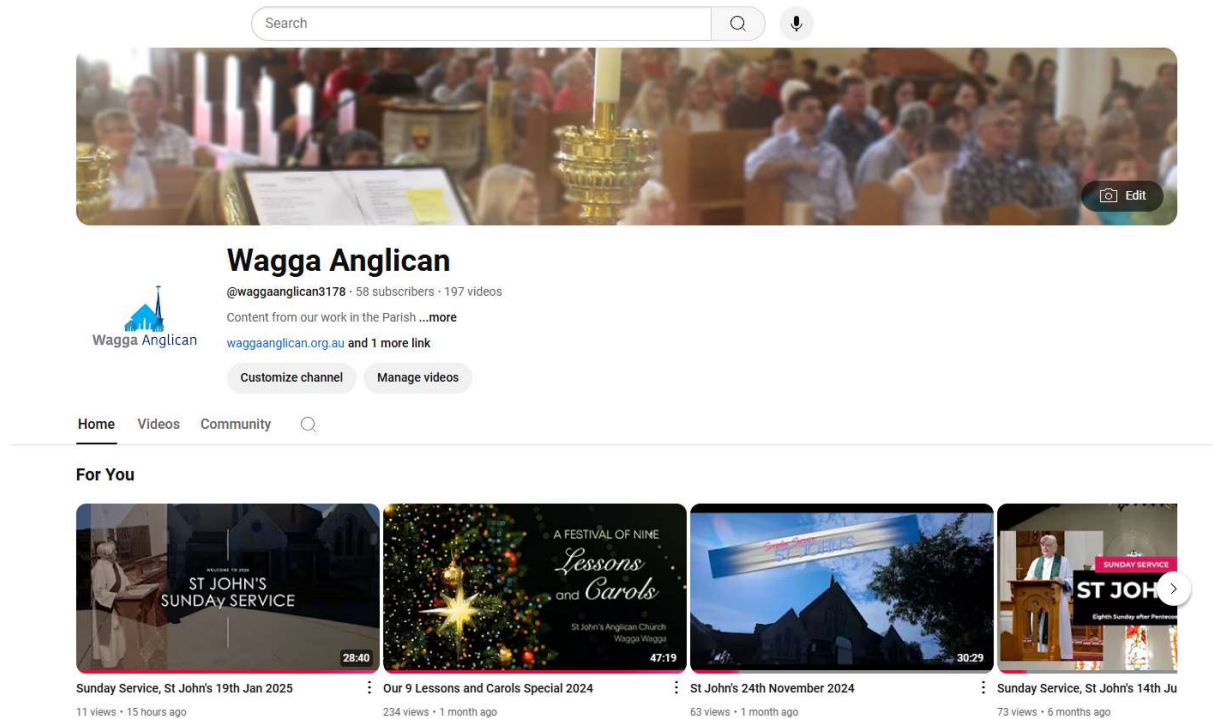
Media Committee Currently – Anthony Ireland, Anna and Mark Conyers

Promotional Content and Online Services:

We continue to promote the Wagga Anglican with weekly content (where possible) providing online videos on YouTube and other news related content on Facebook.

YouTube Stats:

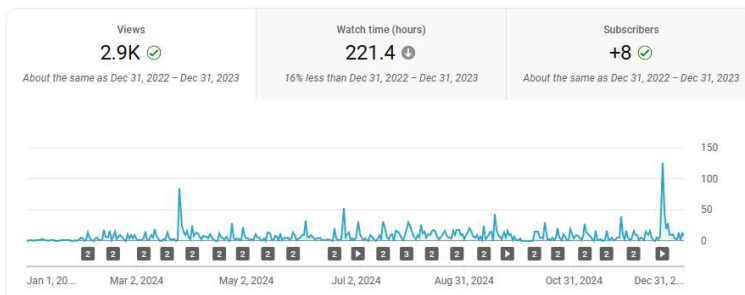
Our home page look remains the same:













We currently have 58 subscribers (gaining 8 more in 2024) – these people receive automatic notification of uploaded videos.

Yearly statistics for our YouTube content 2024:

Your videos got 2,853 views in 2024



Your top content in this period

	Content	Average view	Views
1	 Our 9 Lessons and Carols Special 2024 Dec 20, 2024	4:49	218
2	 Sunday Service St John's 24th Mar 2024 Mar 26, 2024	2:24	162
3	 St Luke's Pre-school Introduction Dec 11, 2020	2:25	150
4	 60th Anniversary of Rev Colin Rush's Ordination Jul 30, 2024	10:28	123
5	 Sunday Service at St John's 4th August 2024 Aug 7, 2024	3:18	117
6	 Sunday Service 2nd June 2024 at St John's Jun 4, 2024	5:22	115
7	 Sunday Service at St Johns, 23rd June 2024 Jun 25, 2024	3:17	108
8	 StMary's Pre-school - An Introduction Dec 11, 2020	2:58	96
9	 Sunday Service at St John's 15th Sept 2024 Sep 17, 2024	2:44	86
10	 Sunday Service, St John's 14th July 2024 Jul 17, 2024	4:14	73

Major Video Projects 2024:

Christmas Special

Our Christmas special, “Nine Lessons and Carols” for 2024 has had 218 views in December. This was a major success from the previous year (2022) that only had 55 views in December 2023. The extra effort put in by all involved to shoot a “Special” instead of just the service proves that a special filming has better results, spreading the Christian Christmas message to many more people.

Overall Stats:

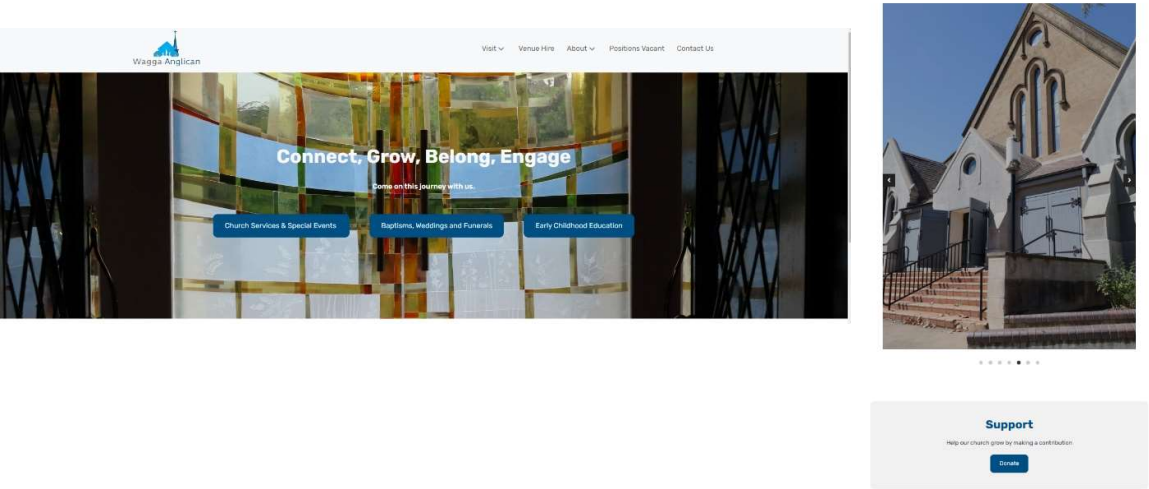
Since we launched the YouTube channel in 2020 the total views stand at 12,235 with 200 videos uploaded.

The overall top 10 videos since we started are:

Duration	Publish date	Views
<input type="checkbox"/> Total		12,235
<input type="checkbox"/> 4:31	St Luke's Pre-school Introduction	803 6.6%
<input type="checkbox"/> 6:08	StMary's Pre-school - An Introduction	569 4.7%
<input type="checkbox"/> 40:28	7 Lessons With Carols	538 4.4%
<input type="checkbox"/> 24:12	St John's Sunday 10th July 2022	248 2.0%
<input type="checkbox"/> 47:19	Our 9 Lessons and Carols Special 2024	234 1.9%
<input type="checkbox"/> 40:00	Wagga Anglican Christmas Special 2021	174 1.4%
<input type="checkbox"/> 31:53	Sunday Service St John's 24th Mar 2024	162 1.3%
<input type="checkbox"/> 31:48	Extracts from Sunday Service St John's Wagga on 5th ...	161 1.3%
<input type="checkbox"/> 52:17	Extracts St John's Service 24 Jan 21	158 1.3%
<input type="checkbox"/> 46:51	An Easter Message from Wagga Anglican	123 1.0%

Website Update:

Anna Conyers remains vigilant in keeping details on our website up to date. This is the current look of the main page:



Facebook:

Anna Conyers and Kim Hoey have kept the news and information flowing here with an increase in followers by 233 since last year:



Anthony Ireland
Media Committee

Arts Fund Inc

The purpose of the Arts Fund Inc is the provision of money, property or other benefits for the enhancement of the artistic or cultural life of the Anglican Parish of Wagga Wagga and its mission, the community that it serves, and in particular the support of choral and instrumental music; crafts; painting and sculpture; drama; stained and painted glass works; metal and wood works; poetry; and literary works.

We meet every three months and are always on the lookout for new members.

This year, we have supported the parishioner lead Festival of Christmas Trees which ran over four days, saw 332 people through the doors of St John's, had singers from Murrumbidgee Magic and Wagga City Men's Rugby Choir perform as well as students from the Conservatorium of Music, and raised \$1,826.39 for Anglicare's Emergency Relief Fund.



And Creators' Hands which meet on the first Saturday of the month in the Parish Meeting Room. The photos show a selection of the crafts the group undertook.



Copper enameling



Paper making



Making angels for the group's Christmas Tree



Weaving on a hand loom



Paper collage

Preschools' Management Committee

Both St Luke's Preschool – Rooms 1 and 2, and St Mary's Rainbow Preschool began the year with enrolments at capacity. Under the strong leadership and management of our Preschools' Manager, Jodie Coles, our preschools are run extremely efficiently and effectively.

The Preschool Management Committee began the year with two vacancies. One was filled by local solicitor, Miranda Cooper. With the resignation of Julia Ham (Industry Representative) we find ourselves again with two vacancies. It is with God's grace and the diligence of its members that the committee operates as well as it does. Our thanks for the time and talents of Rev Mike Perrott (Rector/Chair), James Hamilton (Treasurer), Kim Hoey (Secretary), Annabel Bowcher (Parish Rep), and Miranda Cooper (Community Rep) on the committee.

The most significant item on our agenda for the 2024 year is the preschool building proposal on CSU land in Boorooma, to the east of the old printing works, parallel to Farrar Road. While the Capital Works grant funding was successful, there have been significant matters to impact the project moving forward. The Property Development Commission (PDC – responsible for all Parish/Diocesan property) of the Canberra Goulburn Diocese has assumed and taken oversight of the project excluding Parish representatives from the process. No lease has been signed between CSU and the PDC. No access to and from the proposed site has been agreed on by the Wagga City Council (WWCC), CSU and PDC. A loan agreement for the project was put to Parish Council for signing but this rang significant alarm bells with the size of the loan, the possibility of paying it back, the ongoing impact to the Parish as money is redirected to fund repayments. The building plans have been hugely impacted to reduce costs and the available land size has been reduced due to the imposition of a new 'Bush Fire Zone' on the site. There is considerable anxiety around the project no longer in the hands of the Parish and the lack of communication or place at the table when decisions are made.

St Mary's Rainbow Preschool's staffroom does not meet regulation requirements for a facility whose funding is from the NSW Government and therefore must adhere to the regulations they put in place. Addressing this matter was initially put on hold as it was hoped that the Capital Works grant and proposed building of a new preschool at Boorooma would negate the need to attend to this. Due to the lengthy delays in the project and the poor conditions staff at this site contend with, plans have been developed to address this situation. It is hoped this will be addressed and finalised during 2025.

The installation of an electronic sign on the St Luke's site has been problematic. The initial proposed positioning of the sign was on the point of our land at the intersection of Docker and Shaw Streets. WWCC would not approve this. A second proposal to put it inside the fence line further along Docker Street was approved by WWCC. The incorrect screen size was sent to Wagga. Eventually the signage was installed with the correct screen size. The position of the sign meant that it was poorly, if at all visible to those travelling Docker Street. Reflecting poorly on the Parish, it became apparent that someone purposefully poisoned one of the trees on the nature strip by drilling holes and presumably inserting poison, it would seem as if to make the sign more visible from Docker Street. This action was not successful as WWCC will not remove the dead tree unless it becomes a danger. Consideration needs to be given to the future placement of the signage on Parish land for its best use given the cost of purchase and its installation.

On a very positive note, a new chaplain was appointed to the preschools. Parishioner Sandy Wells has been appointed chaplain. Sandy comes from an extensive educational background, she is a parishioner with a long faith background at Anglican Community of the Redeemer, our Parish and the Diocese. This has been an extremely successful appointment with both the children and staff engaging with Sandy and enjoying her position within each of the preschools.

Kim Hoey
Secretary



*Images from Preschools
and the Bush Block*



Wagga Anglican Opportunity Shop Report

Summary

2024 was a challenging year for the Op Shop. The cost of living, very competitive retail market in our sector, continuing shortage of volunteers to staff the shop on the weekday shifts, and the irregularity of quality donation of goods for sale in the shop all contribute to this.

We thank our loyal, volunteers and leaders, for their support and willingness to assist.

Many of our customers, both local and other, continue to comment favourably on the presentation of the shop, and the quality of items displayed for sale. We are diligent in maintaining this standard, ensuring the shop is always clean, tidy and presentable. Donations of suitable clothing are washed and ironed if needed and other items cleaned and repaired if necessary to enable a higher standard and price.

Suitable items donated daily, are placed in the shop pronto to ensure constant variety.

Those in need continue to be an important focus of the shop. Significant donations of clothes, shoes and household items have been made to individuals on a regular basis.

Managing the level of stock in the shop has been and will remain one of our major challenges. We receive significant quantities of lower quality fast fashion which reflects the attitude of the modern-day consumer to trends and the desire to discard clothes after little use. Quality and branded goods are priced at a higher level for resale. Most of our stock carries a low price to ensure quick turnover.

Our sales strategy in 2024 has therefore been to keep average prices low, apply higher prices to good quality items and maintain a small number of racks of slow-moving merchandise and lower brands at sale prices.

Operations

We continue to emphasise safety to ensure a safe working environment. Management of clothes and other goods is straightforward despite the large volume of donated goods. This has been assisted by:

- Maintaining a high turnover of stock by keeping average prices low.
- Recycling clothing
- Recycling electrical goods and metal items through a service based in Coolamon.
- Donating surplus books to the Rotary Book Fair.
- Regularly donating undergarments to the McGrath Foundation
- Donating sanitary items to the Wagga Women's shelter.
- Donating new clothes for premature babies to Ronald Macdonald House in Wagga.

Hanging all clothes on racks in the storeroom continues as it is convenient to choose items for placement in the Shop. Other improvements in the storeroom continues to give easier access to books, linens and towels, bedding materials and shoes which cannot be displayed in the showroom due to insufficient space. On occasions, shoppers are given access to these stocks if the items they are seeking are not available in the showroom.

Total takings through the cash register including Eftpos for 2024 totalled \$106,064.76, whilst sales are down \$14,000 to the previous year, we still paid \$9000 off our loan commitment and contributed \$42,363.00 to the Parish Working account, which is about \$16,500 under the budget figure, due to our reduced sales.

We have continued to apply significant cost savings through:

- Volunteers do housekeeping.
- All lights in the Shop continue to be replaced with LED
- Managing in house recycling ourselves by filling all bins weekly to save costs
- Monitoring Solar panels to continue ensure they work effectively and efficiently

A grant from the Wagga Wagga City Council has covered the costs of dumping unsaleable goods at the Gregadoo Waste Management Centre. Unsaleable goods have included broken suitcases, storage bins and poly bags, polystyrene boxes and building waste, none of which fit into the Council kerbside collection bins.

The vacuum cleaner was upgraded

Carpets were cleaned whilst shop closed over Christmas break

We advertise online and on Triple AAA Community Radio, free for charities when advertising sales.

Cindy Glanville

Co-ordinator



Children's books \$1 unless marked otherwise



Images from The Anglican Op Shop Displays

Parish Archives

During the year records have been scanned and saved on computer. Thank you to Anne Carpenter for completing the St Mary's records. Thank you to Anthony Ireland for advice on how this is to be done, and Di Watson, who is helping with the scanning.

St Mary's North Wagga Wagga – Peddle Organ

In January 2025 the organ from St Mary's was moved to storage at the Museum of the Riverina. The congregation at St Mary's in 1903 purchased the organ from Messrs Cornish & Co of America (Washington New Jersey USA) from a Piano and Organ Catalogue at a cost of £20. It was placed in the St Mary's Church in August 1903 debt free. The organ has survived numerous floods and it is of high providence for the museum to have it as a survivor of the North Wagga floods.

There has been a constant flow of requests though the year.

Research

- 1951 baptism at St John's for Roy
- 1947 baptism at St John's for McDermott
- Photos of Evelyn and Dora Day for the Museum of the Riverina
- 1952 and 1960 burials for Bickley
- 1959 marriage at St John's Teir and Dingwall
- 1946 marriage Bishop & Hubbard
- 1953 burial information for Lovekin
- 1960 baptism at St John's
- 1990-92 baptism at St John's
- Information on St John's Gundagai Memorial Archway for James Hamilton (application for a grant for its restoration)

Items that were Donated

- The Evangelist July 1966 – Michael Pym
- Two small prayer books belonging to the Francis family – Margaret Francis
- Walk to the Cathedral file – Colin Rush
- Framed photo of Bishop Clements – Wal File Room
- Op Shop documents, Pew and Funeral sheets, newspaper articles – Elaine Campbell
- Various booklets, Funeral sheets, service sheets, Update magazines, photos – Michael Pym
- Books (relating to Canberra Goulburn Diocese) – Wal Fife Room

Items that were Archived

- Centenary of St Luke's 2013 (two booklets)
- Pulpit research
- Faculties: Storage cabinet St John's (2018); Kids Corner (2018); St Mary's Chapel (2015); St Luke's (2014) and Community of the Redeemer alterations (2019)
- St John's Baptism Register 2007-2024
- Wedding sheets 1981-2014 and some funerals 1983-2012 from the Community of the Redeemer Ashmont

Donations of any church items, local or within our Diocese of Canberra Goulburn, are welcome. These include newspaper articles, old service sheets, pew sheets, photos etc. and will be added to our collection.

Judy Buik and Leanne Diessel

Archivists

Director of Music's Report

2024 has been a difficult year in music for St. John's, but at the same time a year of beginnings. At the end of 2023 Mr. Keith Radford resigned from the position of Director of Music with little warning and no succession plan. The St. John's Singers at the time consisted of five members, one bass (Dr. Charles Oliver), one tenor (Dr. Leigh Ladd), one alto (Dr. Victoria Edwards), one mezzo soprano (Mrs Cathy Prescott) and one soprano (Ms Roley McIntyre). Roley had been temporarily absent due to illness directly associated with her singing apparatus. Mr. Adrian Wintle was at that time our Organist and shared work with Mr. Radford and Dr. Andrew Wallace. Mr Wintle had already informed St. John's of his partial retirement, intending to play only on a limited basis in 2024. I recognise the efforts of the singers, who had worked well and hard to produce wonderful music. Of course, the foundations of the music of St. John's at the time was contingent on having two brilliantly trained professional musicians, Messrs Wintle and Radford, without whose efforts we would presently have nothing.

When the singers automatically dissipated at the end of 2023, St. John's continued with organ music supplied by Mr Wintle and Dr. Wallace, and I imagine some others (although I was not present at the time to know who – I do not live in Wagga Wagga). One week before Easter 2024, all those involved with the Singers including the Ven. Kim Hoey who had helped us with so many things had a reunion/farewell dinner. The Ven. Hoey requested that we should “put something together for Easter”, which was one week away. A tall order, we determined that, with only one practise after three-months, we would come up with something. We sang “God so loved the world” from Stainer's *Crucifixion*. That day, the St. John's singers were asked to continue. We were happy to, but under whose directorship? My name was suggested by somebody other than myself, on the basis that I do have minor qualifications in music and my background was an upbringing in the Royal School of Church Music tradition in St. John's Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane, where I sang for eight years. I asked the members of the choir if they would be happy for us to continue to work together under my directorship and they assented. The St. John's Singers provided music on a monthly basis for the residuum of 2024. I am delighted to report that I believe the singers to have produced some wonderful quality music for such a small group. Some people expressed interest in joining us, and we had the pleasure of working with Madeleine Johnson, who has alas been temporarily removed from us by a surprise but serious illness, the recuperation from which will be slow.

Discussions had apparently been had about a new director of music; indeed, my name had been suggested: I was asked to consider this role in late October. I feel unqualified to continue in the footsteps of people like Keith and Adrian for whom I have the greatest respect and regard, but I probably was “the most qualified person in the room at the time”. Having been in the RSCM chorister training system for a little over eight years (to red ribbon standard – the usual end at the time), having at the time developed a profound love and passion for the traditional sacred music that is so central to Anglicanism; and having successfully completed the AMusA examination in classical voice, I do have some suitable background. I also spent two thirds of my life as an ordained minister of the Gospel of Christ, so my entire view of the world is Christ-centred. My interest in St. John's music is therefore not one of music for its own sake, but specifically to glorify Christ both directly in my worship and in doing so, concomitantly ministering to the congregation in making the worship at St. John's as meaningful and as beautiful as we (together) can.

“O, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him!”

On these bases, I accepted the position. I am thankful and moved that the congregation of St. John's have accepted our offering. My appointment to this position was from the first day of November, 2023, although the singers had already been working hard to deliver what I hoped would be a very special Nine Lessons and Carols service based the core Anglican tradition.

Working rationale: We are relevant!

It is very easy to be concerned in a world of atheists, and “Pentecostal” churches, that we are in danger of lacking relevance. Atheists are usually people that are cross with God that he didn’t give them the job, so they are not relevant despite their strenuous assertions to the contrary. So-called Pentecostal churches use mostly modern music that impresses younger people who like it. I have been deeply involved with several such churches and I observe that only rarely is the worship an offering to the LORD of the profoundest beauty. As time has drawn on, many of these churches are in danger of becoming rock concerts or places of man-worship. Can the Anglican church be relevant today? The answer is simple: Jesus Christ is, always has been and always will be relevant to humankind. If the Anglican church preaches Christ, him crucified and raised from the dead; then the Anglican church cannot help but be relevant. So then, the divergence of taste (as it might loosely be described) might inform people’s choices of which church they might attend (if any at all). Bringing people into the church is about putting Christ at the centre of all we do: “If I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me”...if I may be forgiven the inexactitude of context for the interpretation, which I think still holds. As for the matter of taste, our task is of course to look after the congregation that the LORD has given us and always to be open to all (as I believe we are), for he will “add daily to the church such as should be saved”. If people are looking for modern music, they will attend modern churches: we already have our reputation; but if somebody wants the beauty of holiness, or indeed, if they want the sanctity of worship such as at Christmas (for example) then they will find it in *our* Nine Lessons and Carols service and *not* in “Carols in the Domain” (at which they instead may bow the knee to Santa Clause and his reindeer if they so wish). If they want a time of quiet reflection in worship, or if they want to appreciate the LORD God in the fulness of his Truth and relate to His majesty and kingship in addition to His fatherhood, then these things can be found in the Anglican (and perhaps other traditional) churches. What’s more, they know this! To bring them in, I believe that we need to be *unashamedly* Anglican, secondary perhaps only to being unashamedly Christ’s. My belief is that the Anglican liturgy is an exceptionally well-written form of worship that is Christ-centred and considers all requirements of mature Christianity of which the New Testament speaks. Further, I believe that the still, small voice of God is easier to find in the beauty of holiness than in the noise of a rock concert that instead appeals to the need to feel liveliness; but “we walk by faith, not by sight”! The feelings that I hope our worship does kindle (for we are human and do have feelings) is the honour, the awe and the delight of being in the beauty of God’s presence. We do not seek a feeling of “fun”!

Comments on the year 2024

During the course of 2024, we have had several principal organists/pianists, whom we must thank: Mr. Adrian Wintle has played on a monthly basis, and Mr. Enoch Fandrich and Dr. Andrew Wallace have taken up the challenge to fill the month. Ms Elaine Armstrong has played the piano for us when organists were not available, usually the 5th Sunday of any month where it appears. At the end of the 2024 year, Mr. Wintle reiterated his intention to stand down completely from the organ roster, though he still is available to play at weddings and funerals. The 2025 year so far has thus had organist services provided by Mr. Fandrich who has kindly accepted playing on weeks 1 and 3 of each month and Dr. Wallace plays on weeks 2 and 4. For every month with five Sundays, the last is played by our pianist, Ms Armstrong. I thank them all for their work; and must also mention those who have stood in gaps where occasional needs arose: everybody has displayed such good will in these matters, my thanks to all! They have all been a pleasure to work with.

The Organ

The new organ installation has been slow for various technical reasons. Happily, we have obtained some very useful data from Anthony Ireland on the white noise response of the church building which, coupled with the fact that Johannes (the organ builder) has made available some new software, means that our technician Mr. Craig Douglas, has been able to spend a little extra time

here on his break time to come and tweak the final installation of the organ. Dr Wallace and I went through most of the ranks of the organ last year in preparation for Mr. Douglas's arrival and he made several initial adjustments based on our reports to set the organ to work well for the congregation's listening experience. He had little time and spent considerably longer than he actually had working on this and has reported his intention to come back and finish the finer details of the work. We thank Mr Douglas and Bernie's Music Land for the "extra miles that they have gone" in order to bring this organ to being a first-class installation. The work is not yet completed, but the way forward is now visible, and the end is in sight. Thanks also to Dr Wallace for acting as a go between in the process.

Future directions

We have, during the course of 2024, "held on" somewhat while we necessarily re-group with a sudden decrease in the numbers of available high-quality musicians, as outlined. Most choral work in the last year has been acapella owing to an inability to prepare with an organist for much of this time. I thank Mr Wintle, as this year he has acted as an unpaid, but no less honoured, keyboardist for choral rehearsals. This has made the job far easier for all of us. The singers head towards an impasse in that we are all getting older and semi-retirement serves to take some of our singers away on an occasional basis. In my case, I have today become part-time moving toward early retirement in 1 year's time. This frees me to do more music, but others, less owing to travel. I should also declare that I have two (one now past) long bookings outside Australia that were made in early 2023 when the singers had finished: the remaining long absence for me in April/May in 2026 will be difficult to work around. My not being in Australia in early February, coupled with some ill health, is the reason for the singers' starting their year almost one month later than we normally would.

For the Nine Lessons and Carols, we were blessed to have the wonderful Ms. Ali Hardy, the Kapooka Army Band singer, join us as soprano. We hope that she will continue to work with us this year, and indeed, there will be much of the year that we have no other soprano with us.

2025 Organ Scholar

Dr. Wallace and I have been working towards the appointment of an organ scholar. After consultation with other churches and input from other directors of church music, we have crystalised some ideas in a proposal to advertise for the position soon. Dr. Wallace has worked with unofficial reference to the Parish Council on this before I was appointed; and we have continued. We are hoping to finalise an approach that fits with the Parish Council's vision soon, in order for an organ scholar to be in place for the majority of 2025, whom we plan to be contracted to supply organ services for at least the following year. Thanks to Mr. Douglas for gathering a wider information pool for us also. It is the worst pun to say that our organ technician has been instrumental... but he was!

The St. John's Singers

One of the perceived problems with our current state is the absence of younger families. A recent UK survey of churches and church choirs performed by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) found that only very small numbers of church choirs have anybody under 18 years of age; indeed, many had only much older members. I had already considered a plan, (on which I am now free to work), to build an RSCM chorister training scheme at St. John's, providing outstanding musical teaching for children and bringing in younger people who will contribute to the worship here. At the same time, choirs of people under 18 usually attract their families, and the cross-section of the congregation begins to take on a more normal age distribution, making St. John's more attractive for young families to join. On joining the RSCM last year to commence planning for this purpose, I found that this exact plan had been deployed in the UK in one congregation with the exact results for which I was hoping. I will be attending an online seminar on that subject in the next couple of

weeks given by the RSCM for its members. Until certain “ducks are in line” I cannot divulge much in the way of the structure, but the aim will be to have a choir of children that develop in skill as they age and want to stay in the church community and continue to contribute to worship after their official chorister’s tenure is ended: this is how the choir in which I was trained worked. The RSCM also have considerable materials for training choirs and running them, which I have acquired (at my own expense) for this purpose. To make this work, there will be monetary requirements and the methods of providing scholarships and so forth must be settled between all “players” before we can confirm that the process is possible here, let alone exactly how it will work. Suffice to say that I believe I was given an exceptional chance as a musician (the skills from which I have carried and used all my life since even as far as semi-professional opera and musical work in Sydney) by being in the RSCM system. That system is now very well developed and designed to be more open but is still specifically aimed at development of music for worship.

Closing Remarks

I cannot comment on budget as I have no oversight of that aspect of the ministry. My job is to strengthen worship at St. John’s, glorifying Christ in so doing and improving the engagement of the congregation while bringing the musicians together as a team; as well as being a small part of the work to build St. John’s reputation in the community as a place of worship.

This could be extremely exciting, or perhaps the opposite, though we do our best. The first job of a church musical director is to submit his work to the LORD, and I know that if the LORD decides to bless such a venture, nobody will hold us back! I pray that the music we offer, the hearts from which we offer it and the works of our hands that we do to further it, will be acceptable to the LORD and will glorify Christ Jesus in St. John’s; and I pray that he gives us perfect direction and bless our efforts.

I thank the Church leadership team for their support, especially to the Ven. Kim Hoey, who is always ready to bend in whatever direction required to assist... (may she never get arthritis from that) and Rev. Mike Perrott, who has played the not always easy role of locum diligently and with good humour. He has always supported everything I have tried to do, and I thank him, particularly for supporting us in the Nine Lessons and Carols service in December 2024, which I believe to have been a crowning achievement for St. John’s worship in 2024.

I thank the St. John’s Singers (with whom it has been a privilege to work) and the players of organ and piano (without whom the worship would have been particularly dry) for their constant work to bless the congregation of St. John’s; and on behalf of those singers and the players, I also wish to thank the congregation for their strong encouragement in doing a job that isn’t always easy.

Dr. Leigh A. Ladd,
Director of Music.



CAMEO – Come and meet each other

CAMEO has bubbled away quietly throughout the year meeting each month on the first Thursday in the Parish Meeting Room. Those gathered enjoy catching up socially with each other over a cuppa and some morning tea and then moving on to mostly play cards together.

While CAMEO began a few years ago with strong attendance numbers, it has not continued in the same vein, with numbers between four and eight turning up. While ever those who gather enjoy coming together, it will continue. I encourage others from our Parish to come along and join the fellowship of those gathered.

Loreto Home of Compassion Chaplaincy Report

During 2024 in conjunction to the Parish ministry, I continued the role of Chaplain to Loreto Home of Compassion. When full, this facility has some 70 residents from all walks of life and church involvement.

In my time at Loreto, I visit as many of the residents as possible plus conduct a weekly Holy Communion Service in the Chapel. Unfortunately, I have also had to take a number of funerals for residents of Loreto.

It is a joy to journey with these folk and to help them on the final stages of life and to help them to prepare to meet Jesus and God, something we all must do in our time.

Rev Mike Perrott
Loreto Home of Compassion Chaplain

The Forrest Centre - Mary Potter Nursing Home

The origins of The Forrest Centre trace back to two generous and determined women – the Venerable Mary Potter, who founded the Little Company of Mary in the UK and a Wagga Wagga resident Miss Ethel Forrest. Miss Forrest died in 1977 and left her large estate to the Anglican Diocese of Canberra Goulburn for the establishment of a hospice like facility in the region. The parties involved went to court to change the details of the will to a nursing home. At the same time the Little Company of Mary expressed intent to construct a nursing home in conjunction with Calvary Hospital. In 1985 a 60-bed nursing home was opened, and it was the largest Catholic/Anglican joint venture in Australia. We celebrated 40 years of its opening in March this year.

I commenced employment with Mary Potter Nursing Home as a Pastoral Care Worker in May 2024 after returning to Wagga Wagga to live. We currently have 70 beds. Shalom Place, a twenty bed Memory Support Unit and a 10 bed Hospice, both of which opened in 2018. Our residents are Catholic and Anglican, and we also have many other faiths amongst our residents. A Catholic Mass is held weekly on Thursday and the Anglican Communion Service is held weekly on a Friday. These services are well attended. I am grateful for the help of our two volunteers, Anne and Pam, and for Ven Grant Bell, Rev'd Mike Perrott and Father Thomas Casanova, who come weekly to the home. Every one of our residents is precious and it's an absolute privilege to walk beside them in the later stage of their life.

Rev'd Vicki Hancock
Forrest Centre - Pastoral Care

1. In Appreciation & thanks

I wish to thank Leanne Diessel and Kim Hoey as our counters for the year. Thank you to Dianne Watson for her role as Assistant Parish Treasurer and for entering data into the computerised financial management system and authorizing various payments. Thanks to Kim Hoey for collating and processing the 2024 Parish Annual Report booklet. I thank all of the parishioners who have assisted and supported me in many ways.

2. Parish Finance & IT committee

The committee consists of parishioners and parish councillors with different skill sets which provide a better platform to enable cross fertilization of ideas and a representation of the general congregation. The committee role and responsibilities are to report to Parish Council on Budgeting, monitoring of parish finances, provide monthly financial reports to parish council, consider, and advise on missional and investment opportunities, and information technology which includes computer systems, record management systems, security of records, and promotion of various parish ministries and activities. A media committee was established in 2020 which has taken on board web site development, promotional various aspects including video productions of services. Microsoft Office 365 cloud based was set up in 2021. Microsoft office has provided enhancement in communication systems and storage of documents. Microsoft Office provides virtual communication by a system called "Teams". In 2021 a number of business support services were contracted to RSM Australia as part of succession planning. I thank all members of the committee for their contribution during the year. One of the main issues during the year is the changing landscape of parishioners due to aging and less energy to volunteer their services.

3. Electronic processing of Accounts (EFT) (receivables & payable) & XERO

EFTPOS systems at St John's and Opportunity shop have been functioning successful.

The payment system in the bank was set up early in 2017 to pay all accounts electronically. The parish has reduced costs in administration, postal and late fees and possibly the cost of hard copies of invoices. E mail boxes were set up for both the parish and the preschools for suppliers to send electronically all invoices for payment purposes. This system has been working effectively and efficiently. EFT eliminates lost cheques in the snail mail system and assists greatly in reconciliation process of payments. Issuing invoices from the parish is conducted electronically from the computerized financial management system XERO. EFT requires an additional skill set which limits the number of volunteers who are able to assist in processing. The inclusion of copies of invoices with transactions in XERO has assisted greatly in retrieval purposes for answering queries and assists the auditors. XERO system is accessible from any internet connection device anywhere in the world. With the recent spate of cyber hacking, it is comforting that the financial management system is cloud based with several fire walls and several back-up systems. Security of data and personal identity details is upmost importance.

4. Local Business Services Hub & Succession Planning

A number of ministry units in the Archdeaconry are now using XERO, a computerised financial system using iCloud which is accessible from any location. Business Services Support from Wagga Wagga has been provided to the ministry units when and where required due to lack of a Treasurer(s). The parish Treasurer has been the providing business support services for the Parish of Gundagai since August 2020 and he has taken on the treasurer role for the Parish of Junee since July 2022. The engagement of a business support group was approved in 2021 as part of succession planning. RSM Australia was awarded the contract to furnish business services to the parish and preschools. The business support services are functioning and operating efficiently & effectively and meeting regulatory compliance requirements. Funding business support services is to be made from Preschools and Parish working account.

5. *Financial Review for Y2024*

- In Faith, the Parish commenced the year with an initial **DEFICIT BUDGET of \$32,636 with no adjustments during the year.**
- The End of Year difference between recurrent Total Actual Income and Total Actual Expenses resulted in a **SURPLUS AMOUNT OF \$10,925 due to mid-year increase in rental income from Preschools & Office rental in line with CPI and current market rates but income from Opportunity shop below budget by \$16,637 and lower levels of expenditure to Budget on Stipends \$19,563, professional training \$6,884, music \$4,655, utilities \$19,347 (\$10,000 due to vacant rectory), and above budget on conferences & seminars \$1,413, Business support services \$4,570, Motor Vehicle running \$10,645 (replaced transmission in Subaru \$5,000), Rates \$1,644, building and ground maintenance \$3,817, & Security \$2,670.**
- This is the seventeenth (17) year where income from other sources exceeded offertories & donations. Total income from offertories & donations was \$103,617 or 18.9% in 2024 (\$98,505 or 18.9% in 2023) (\$105,038 or 21.6% in 2022) (\$105,172 or 22.5% in 2021) (\$108,101 or 24% in 2020) (\$116,903 or 28% in 2019) (\$120,000 or 30.6% in 2018) (\$126,154 or 32.5% in 2017) (\$133,183 or 33.7% in 2016) (\$136,889 or 32.9% in Y2015) compared to a recurrent total income from other sources of \$445,257. The parish is becoming more and more reliant on funds from other sources to finance ministries and provide finance for staff and good stewardship of buildings and property. Through rent collections from preschools and Anglicare is providing \$338,043 or 61.6% of total parish income.
- The **opportunity shop revenue for 2024 was \$106,064** (2023 revenue \$120,701) **total costs for 2024 were \$63,667** (with labour costs of \$42,552 plus leave liability). **Revenue down and costs up less contribution to parish working account.**
- **Total Recurrent Income was \$648 ABOVE initial Budget** Projection and **Total Expenditure was \$42,912 BELOW initial Budget** Projection.
- **Special fund raising and use of Duplex Envelopes funding Missions was ABOVE budget by \$6,093.**
- The net rent monies received from 5 Shaw Street is placed in parish working account.
- **The parish Working Account Cash Balance as of 31 December was \$91,269.**
- The **total expenditure on maintenance/repairs/grounds/capital replacement was \$3,817 ABOVE working account initial budget.** Please refer to details in the property section of parish working account.
- The parish was again in a financial position to **submit the full 13% of Net Income as Parish Contribution to the Diocese** (includes 1% for Diocesan Youth Leader).
- **Part time Preschool Chaplain is on the preschool payroll and funded from preschool funds.**
- **Solar energy generation system (45KWH- 180 solar panels) on Parish Centre.** Installed in 2013 and the expected life period of the solar energy system is 25 years (2038). Reduction in power costs projected at 40%+.
- **Cost analyses of operating and maintaining buildings** have been compiled for parishioner's information.
- There are **four major sources of income** for the parish. They are **Opportunity Shop, Preschools, Anglicare, and Giving.**

6. *Some Significant Achievements and Events during 2024*

- We gave thanks for Rev'd Mike Perrott ministry as locum Rector in the parish and wider community over the past 21 months. Rev'd Mike has wide experience in parishes mainly in the Riverina Diocese. Rev'd Mike provided one day per week chaplaincy services to the Forrest Centre. We give thanks for Kerrie's involvement in the parish.
- Rev'd Mark Evers as associate parish priest full time commenced in January with the tasks of growing northern life Anglican church and making contact and building relationships with baptismal families and some general parish ministry tasks. We give thanks for Genevieve & family involvement in the parish.

- **Ven. Rev'd Kim Hoey was bestowed the title of Venerable of the Household of the deacons.** Kim is now on the Diocesan leadership team and Bishop – in- Council. We give thanks for the ministry Kim provides to the parish and wider community.
- **The give thanks for the life of the Late Rev'd Dr Judy Begent a sister in Christ. Judy was ordained as a deacon at St John's in April 1998. Judy was the pastoral care person for the parish and wider community. Judy was truly a servant of God who had pastoral care gifts who could relate to anybody in the parish and wider community. Judy is dearly missed in the parish.**
- **We give thanks to Rev'd Daphne May for the ministry which she has provided to the parish and wider community over many years. Rev'd Daphne retired from providing ministry to the 11am worship service on Wednesday's during the year.**
- **We give thanks for the life of late Rev'd Dick Goodman who provided ministry services to the parish especially at Anglican Community of Redeemer Ashmont.**
- **We give thanks to the parish locum Rev'd Angus McDonald for providing ministry services at ACR Ashmont and St Luke's on a regular basis and elsewhere in the parish when required.**
- **We give thanks to our Preschool Manager, Jodie Coles, for her leadership and vast experience.** Jodie has brought a wealth of experience, and she has proved to be an excellent leader, team player, great communicator, thinker, displays initiative & motivation, innovative, and she has grasped the Anglican preschool ethos and philosophy and she has implemented preschool goals, quality improvement program, and strengthen the preschool culture.
- The **introduction of digital services in St John's** has generally accepted by parishioners. Some parishioners who wish to use the written material, the hymn & prayer books are available.
- The **virtual recording of services** will continue to enable people who are unable to attend worship services for various reasons, to view the service recordings. The parish gives thanks to Anthony Ireland for their efforts and time in producing the online services which will continue.
- **We gave thanks for and celebrated the lives of a number of parishioners who passed away during the year.**
- We give thanks for **donations and interest free loans from parishioners for the parish growth fund.** These funds enable small to medium projects to proceed providing there is a repayment plan.
- **Partnership arrangements with Riverina Conservatorium of Music** in relation to engaging chorist's for weekend services and conducting public concerts in St John's church building is working well.
- At ACR Ashmont there has been an **increase in Anglicare staff numbers to service local community members.**
- **St John's – a number of significant features:**
 - Storage cupboard for electrical equipment
 - Upgrading of sound and visual systems
- **St John's Community Building (3 Johnston Street) –** parishioner groups and community groups continue to use this facility.
- **Space Playgroup - commenced October 2013 ceased at the end of 2023.**
- **Approximately 55% of parishioners give via direct debit system which has remain steady over 2024.** Please refer to the brochure for further details or have a chat with the treasurer about the direct debit system.
- **Interest rates** remained steady at 4.35% during 2024. Income from interest on cash management accounts remained steady.
- **Archives –** The archivists are busy digitizing history documents. Photos and information will be displayed on a large LED screen in parish centre foyer.
- **Heritage fund proposal for St John's church building –** Conservation & Management Plan (CMP) was finalized early 2020. The CMP will be the tool to be used to devise a strategic plan to establish fund raising for the maintenance and sustainability of St John's church building.

Professional maintenance program has been received. “Foundation Trust for St John’s” group is being established for the future sustainability of St John’s church building.

- **Parish Strategic planning – Parishioners** at the 2017 AGM accepted in principle the Vision statement, strategic plan and goals of the parish especially connecting with the city and the wider community. Parish Council was tasked to implement the strategic plan including parish mission to establish a church plant in northern suburbs area and grow that congregation. Planning session was conducted by Parish council in October 2020.
- **Plans for a northern Preschool precinct of 90 places is progressing slowly due to a number of issues with the proposed site and obtaining appropriate approvals.** The cost of the project has increased by over 50% of original estimates due to various aspects of the project.

7. *Financial Situation for 2025*

- The parish Finance/IT committee and Parish Council **aim is to achieve a balanced budget**, but this is not achievable. The proposed Budget projection is a **BUDGET DEFICIT of \$28,779 (Income \$564,605 less expenditure \$593,384). The shortfall will be funded from parish working account reserves (past savings).** The parish Finance & IT committee when compiling the budget takes into consideration the need to balance the financial viability of the parish with the scriptural imperative to “go forth and make disciples”.
- The parish working account Budget is based on a full-time clergy person, part time Parish Administrator, part time chaplain for hospitals, and Part time Associate Priest. The part time coordinator for Opportunity Shop is funded by Opportunity shop sales. Various ministries are now competing for resources and ministry services will need to be prioritized.
- **Parish Council is exploring and embarking on ways of increasing income especially through giving and other sources including the multi-use of buildings and partnerships.**
- **The Parish will be seeking a minimum of \$7,500 through duplex envelopes and special appeals from the general community and the Parish.** The duplex envelopes will be used to assist in the fund raising for missions.
- Budget amount for **ground and building Repairs/Maintenance/grounds of \$85,000 (15.05% of total Budget) is an improvement** to maintain facilities to an acceptable standard to attract people and to be good stewards. Allocation of funds to Repairs/Maintenance should be in the order of **15% to provide adequate funding.** Please refer to the Property section detailing maintenance and repairs requirements for the whole of the parish.
- Employment of a **professional Parish Administrator is for 22 hours per week.**
- **The Opportunity Shop Coordinator cost of 23 hours per week is accounted for in Opportunity shop financial report.**
- Part time **chaplaincy for Hospitals of 5 hours per week.**
- Part time **chaplaincy for The Forrest Centre of 14 hours per week** is funded by The Forrest centre. Ven Grant Bell is conducting 7 hours of the 14 hours per week.
- **The Parish Contribution to the Diocese of 13% of Net Income** has been met in the Working Account Budget.
- The Budget includes an amount for **the music ministry of \$10,000** for the choir and organists and to enhance music for worship services and musical recitals/concerts. Includes \$65 per week for Director of Music.
- It is suggested that the **Parish actively seeks capital funds** either from gifts, loans and/or future bequests for the Parish to expand its revenue generating base and to free up its facilities used mainly for revenue generation.
- The need to **develop St John’s, Community of Redeemer Ashmont, and St Saviour’s sites** for ministry services and source of additional income is becoming paramount. Development of church resources is one of the three “D’s” which the Diocese is still espousing to my knowledge.
- All costs associated with St Mary’s complex and St Luke’s complex are paid by the Preschools.
- Any expenditure for church plant in Northern suburbs will be paid from a special ministry account.

- The X Factor may adversely affect the budget. It is projected that economic conditions in the latter part of 2025 will become very negative.

8. **Financial Situation for 2026 & 2027**

- All ministry units are encouraged by the Diocese (to my knowledge) to **embrace the three “Ds” i.e., deployment, development, and debt reduction.**
- The Parish will need to strive for a **BALANCED BUDGET** in **2026 & 2027** for Parish Working Account and try to maintain at least the current level of ministry activities and Repairs/Maintenance/Capital replacement.
- The Parish needs to **expand its revenue-generating base** for the Parish to fulfil its mission. One of the avenues is through the Parish Growth Fund with community members providing gifts, loans, and bequests to build a capital base. The second avenue is the further development of sites, possibly in a partnership arrangement.
- There is an increasing need to redevelop St John’s, Community of Redeemer Ashmont, and St Saviour’s sites to enhance outreach ministry services and derive additional income to support ministry services.
- All costs associated with St Mary’s and St Luke’s sites will be paid by the preschools.
- Need to explore other opportunities to enhance outreach ministries and provide an additional income stream.

9. **Parish Financial Risk Management.**

- *There is approximately 65+ families/individuals that are financially committed to the parish through the giving programme.*
- *The number of families/individuals on the planned giving programme on the average has decreased each year over the past 35 years from approximately 200 to currently around 65.*
- *The parish is dependent on income from other sources to maintain the level of ministries as the income from offertories/giving decreases.*
- *Aging Buildings, plant and equipment results in additional maintenance costs. Also, most buildings are higher than a single storey resulting in higher costs due to workplace health and safety regulations. Decisions will need to be made in relation to repurposing resources in order to be sustainable.*
- *In order to financial support a full-time assistant priest position (cost of annual package is \$152,500) from parish working account, income would need to dramatically increase involving an increase in the parish family by at least another 90 families/individuals who will be financial committed to the parish and/or sustainable income from other sources to reduce the financial risk to the parish.*
- *Based on the last Church survey, the average age of the congregation is now 83+ and the congregation is aging 11 months + for each 12-monthly period. The aging of parishioners is now adversely impacting on energy and participation levels of parishioners in various ministries and activities.*
- *Parish Council is exploring avenues to increase income for the parish from good stewardship of God’s resources.*
- *Parishioners are encouraged to explore the beneficial aspects of the Parish Growth Fund and direct debiting for giving electronically.*
- **Use of capital funds (bequests) to pay for day-to-day operating costs is not supported.**
- *The economic headwinds elevating financial Risks. Some of risks are reduction in income from Opportunity shop coupled with rising costs associated with its operation, unknown cost of the establishment northern preschool precinct, and changing regulations for Anglicare in delivering the Out of Home Care program. Also, the trump factor causing uncertainty in world markets and the cost of goods & services due to the proposed trade tariffs.*

10. General

The Anglican Parish of Wagga Wagga has always supported and implemented the Diocesan missions in the local area, supports Diocesan Agencies, and local ministry units. The Parish is actively involved in outreach ministries (wider work) of the church.

The parish strategic plan has been reviewed with the focus on connecting with the wider community and St John's church as the Anglican Church for the City. The parish is seeking to increase the number of active parishioners and to spread the word of the Gospel within the general community. It is apparent that the multi-use of buildings is needed to attract members of the community to spread the word of the gospel and to generate income. The parish needs to go out where the community is located to make connections.

Parishioners are encouraged to embrace outcomes of the City-wide conversation for the betterment of ministry services, sharing of resources both personnel and buildings, to support our brothers and sisters, and make better connection with the general community. There is a need to establish a local/regional hub of various skill sets and a team ministry approach for the City of Wagga Wagga plus the archdeaconry. May God give us grace, wisdom and discernment in our decision making for the betterment of ministries within the wider community.

Parish needs to embrace all acceptable type services at all centres (new expressions of church) to welcome people into the Anglican community to build relationships and to encourage them to become involved in Parish activities and ministries. The parish is embracing technology changes as a means of connecting with members of the wider community. Parishioners will need to meet people where they are outside the church building and worship services to be conducted at any place including outside the church building.

The parish needs to establish "Heritage Trust fund for St John's Wagga Wagga" to attract monies from various sources including corporate sponsorship to ensure the sustainability of St John's church building which is viewed as one of the iconic, heritage type, and historical church building in the church precinct of the City. The parish needs to use the advantage that St John's is located next to the Murrumbidgee River and can be connected to the Wiradjuri walking track and can be connected to the upgraded riverside precinct in order to make connection and build relationships with the general community.

One of the prime opportunities to make connections and build relationships is within the parish preschools. Young families come to parish facilities, so it provides a great opportunity to connect and hopefully make some disciples. This is a good example of the parish going out where the community is located.

We thank God for the devoted efforts of the ministry team including retired and honorary priests, deacons, lay ministers, locums, and families within and outside the parish are greatly appreciated.

We pray that God provides guidance and discernment in the selection of the next parish rector.

Parishioner's vision, faith, prayer, hope, joy, time, talents, energy, foresight, caring, service, and loving nature facilitate outreach, growth, and proclaim of the Gospel within the community.

May the God of grace and love be with you and your families, and we thank God for his blessings upon the parish and all of us during 2024 and keeping us all safe and we pray that God's blessings continue in 2025. We give thanks for timely rain and gradual recovery from the drought and the major bush fires. We pray for all people and small businesses directly affected by the drought, bush fires, floods and pandemic.

James Hamilton
Parish Treasurer

ANGLICAN PARISH WORKING ACCOUNT

Financial statement for 12 months ending 31st December 2024
and proposed budget for 2025

	Approved Budget for 2024	Adjusted 2024 Budget	Actual as at 31st December 2024	Actual to Adjusted Budget 2024	Variation %	Proposed Budget for 2025	Variation to adjusted 2024 Budget	Note
PARISH STEWARDSHIP								
INCOME								
Offertory Giving	98,500	98,500	103,046	4,546	5%	98,500	0	N1
Fundraising	500	500	0	-500	-100%	500	0	N2
Special Purpose donations	1,000	1,000	572	-428	-43%	1,000	0	
Opportunity Shop	59,000	59,000	42,363	-16,637	-28%	48,000	-11,000	N3
SUB TOTAL	159,000	159,000	145,981	-13,019	-8%	148,000	-11,000	
RENTAL INCOME								
Church usage	7,750	7,750	7,747	-3	0%	5,500	-2,250	
Parish Rooms	6,000	6,000	3,527	-2,473	-41%	4,750	-1,250	N4F
Parish Offices	134,266	134,266	138,482	4,216	3%	142,755	8,489	N4
Preschools	189,935	189,935	199,562	9,627	5%	209,400	19,465	N4A
Parish Archives	1,825	1,825	1,460	-365	-20%	2,000	175	N4C
Cottage	27,000	27,000	29,021	2,021	7%	27,000	0	N4D
Other facilities	1,750	1,750	2,975	1,225	70%	3,500	1,750	N4G
SUB TOTAL	368,526	368,526	382,774	14,248	4%	394,905	26,379	
			0	0				
GRANTS & MANAGEMENT FEES								
Admin support Preschools	16,000	16,000	16000	0	0%	17,000	1,000	N5
SUB TOTAL	16,000	16,000	16,000	0	0%	17,000	1,000	
INTEREST & INVESTMENTS								

Interest Earned	2000	2000	2851	851	43%	2000	0	N6
Parish Growth Fund Interest	2000	2000	1309	-691	-35%	2000	0	N6
SUB TOTAL	4,000	4,000	4,160	160	4%	4,000	0	
SUNDRY INCOME								
Music/Copyright contribution	250	250	0	-250	-100%	250	0	N7
Weddings-admin/travel	250	250	0	-250	-100%	250	0	N8
Various	200	200	-40	-240	-120%	200	0	
SUB TOTAL	700	700	-40	-740	-106%	700	0	
			0	0				
TOTAL INCOME - WORKING ACCOUNT	548,226	548,226	548,875	649	0%	564,605	16,379	
MISSION GIVING								
Offertories & special events	<u>5,500</u>	<u>5,500</u>	<u>11594</u>	<u>6,094</u>	111%	<u>7,500</u>	<u>2,000</u>	
PAYMENTS								
CLERGY & STAFF								
Rector - Stipend	124,941	124,941	105,377	19,564	16%	126,029	1,088	N14
Chaplain Hospitals	11,902	11,902	11,345	557	5%	11,975	73	N14
Honorary Clergy & Locum	3,500	3,500	2,753	747	21%	4,000	500	
Parish Administrator	52,369	52,369	52,750	-381	-1%	52,691	322	N14
Superannuation, LSL& ALL	31,152	31,152	33,165	-2,013	-6%	33,435	2,283	N14
Parish Clergy Hospitality	5,671	5,671	4,048	1,623	29%	6,218	547	N14
Professional dev & supervision	7,700	7,700	815	6,885	89%	8,000	300	N14A
Worker Compensation Premium	6,147	6,147	2,424	3,723	61%	6,541	394	N14
Stipend continuance Insurance	2,500	2,500	1,250	1,250	50%	2,000	-500	
Clergy Relocation	2,500	2,500	0	1,250	0%	2,500	0	N14C
SUB TOTAL	248,382	248,382	213,927	33,205	13%	253,389	5,007	
MISSION & OUTREACH								
Mission & evangelism	500	500	97.00	403	81%	500	0	
Christian Education	2,000	2,000	1,639	361	18%	2,000	0	

Parish hospitality	3,000	3,000	1,346	1,654	55%	3,000	0	N23
Welfare & Food pantry	2,000	2,000	120	1,880	94%	1,000	-1,000	
Music Ministry	10,000	10,000	5,345	4,655	51%	10,000	0	
SUB TOTAL	17,500	17,500	8,547	8,953	51%	16,500	-1,000	
ADMIN SUPPORT & RESOURCES								
Office Supplies	6,750	6,750	5,627	1,123	17%	6,750	0	N15
Diocesan Contribution	63,150	63,150	63,150	0	0%	68,069	4,919	
Insurance	25,000	25,000	26,379	-1,379	-6%	28,000	3,000	N22
Sanctuary Supplies	2,500	2,500	1,217	1,283	51%	2,000	-500	N29
Liturgical supplies	1,600	1,600	1,267	333	21%	1,600	0	
Archives	500	500	500	0	0%	500	0	
Promotion & Awareness	6,000	6,000	4,448	1,552	26%	6,000	0	N29
Conference/synod	5,000	5,000	6,413	-1,413	-28%	6,750	1,750	N28
Business Support Services	9,000	9,000	13,570	-4,570	-51%	14,000	5,000	N27
SUB TOTAL	119,500	119,500	122,571	-3,071	-3%	133,669	14,169	
BUILDING, PLANT & EQUIPMENT								
Motor Vehicles	4,500	4,500	15,145	-10,645	-237%	5,500	1,000	N16
Cleaning	13,650	13,650	15,434	-1,784	-13%	14,335	685	N17
Rates	6,500	6,500	8,145	-1,645	-25%	8,500	2,000	N21
Grounds Maintenance	3,000	3,000	4,070	-1,070	-36%	3,300	300	N18A
Building Maintenance	85,000	85,000	87,747	-2,747	-3%	85,000	0	N18
Utilities	40,000	40,000	20,653	19,347	48%	31,171	-8,829	N19
Depreciation	28,000	28,000	28,000	0	0%	28,500	500	N20
Security	5,000	5,000	7,670	-2,670	-53%	5,500	500	N26
Rent & Lease	580	580	604	-24	-4%	620	40	N25
SUB TOTAL	186,230	186,230	187,468	-1,238	-1%	182,426	-3,804	
SUNDRY EXPENSES								
Bank Fees	900	900	582	318	35%	900	0	

Audit Fees	4,350	4,350	3,982	368	8%	4,500	150
General	4,000	4,000	872	3,128	78%	2,000	-2,000
SUB TOTAL	9,250	9,250	5,436	3,814	41%	7,400	-1,850
TOTAL EXPENDITURE WORKING ACCT	580,862	580,862	537,949	41,663	7%	593,384	12,522
RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS - SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) WORKING ACCT	-32,636	-32,636	10,926	42,312		-28,779	3,857
Mission Agencies - Payment	<u>5,500</u>	<u>5,500</u>	<u>11594</u>	<u>6,094</u>		<u>7,500</u>	<u>2,000</u>

INDICATIVE PARISH WORKING ACCOUNT BUDGET FOR 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Preamble

- The X Factors are:
 - the pandemic, which is adversely affecting world economies, and
 - world unrest due to conflict in Ukraine and Gaza strip, and
 - Trump factor with trade wars, and
 - Net income from the opportunity shop, and
 - Northern preschool precinct loan and repayments, and
 - Anglicare renting of office space, and
 - Any indicative budget is subject to any economic meltdown.
- CPI for 2024 is 3.4%.
- Interest rates have increased from 4.1% to 4.35% and steady.
- Inflation is keeping above RBA desired level because of the extremely large debt at all levels of Government so costs will increase.
- The comments are made below for various line items that have significant changes in amounts and any other relevant important information affecting the indicative budget.
- Consideration should be given to increasing income from “Other Sources” as income from traditional base is decreasing.
- Conservation Management Plan has been completed for St John’s Church building. Maintenance management plan for St John’s church building has been received from a professional organisation.
- A conceptual site plan for St John’s site is being developed to ensure good stewardship of resources – on hold.
- Strategic fund raising is required for the sustainability of heritage/historically St John’s church building. A strategic approach for fund raising is the establishment of a “Foundation Fund” for St John’s church building seeking corporate sponsorship and other fund-raising aspects – in progress.
- Strategic promotion of St John’s church building as a church for the City of Wagga Wagga.
- Strategic approach for office accommodation for Anglicare for the City.
- **Guiding Principles for 2025 budget preparation were:**
 - 1. to present fully funded parish working account budgets or a small variation either side (no greater than \$10,000).**
 - 2. based on known parish strategies (road map) including developing pathways to connect with baptismal families.**
- The aging factor of volunteers is decreasing the time & talent input by parishioners.
- Master site plan is being developed for both ACR Ashmont and St Saviour’s Ladysmith to ensure good stewardship of resources.
- Preschool Precinct is proposed in a flood free area north of the river – seeking approvals from appropriate authorities progressing slowly. A large debt has been incurred by the ADS to construct the northern Preschool precinct.

- Preschool chaplaincy services are funded from the preschools and costs are accounted for separately within preschool accounting system.
- Business support services have been engaged in 2021 onwards to assist the parish and preschools in administrative and clerical aspects.
- North Life Anglican Church chaplaincy costs are kept separate.
- The Forrest Centre contribution and costs associated with the service are kept separate.
- The Parish Working account budget incorporates 2.5 days for assistant priest (one day for NLAC and one and half days for general parish duties).
- Funding for NLAC is paid from Special ministry account.
- St John's community centre – any income and any expenses included.
- Income from offertories is decreasing.
- Income from Opportunity shop has decreased by 28% compared with 2023.
- Rent of \$27,000 from 5 Shaw Street for 12 months is incorporated into budget.
- Income from rents is increasing due to CPI and general rental rate increases.
- All costs for St Mary's site are paid by the preschool.
- All costs for St Luke's site are paid by the preschool.
- St Saviour's site has low operational costs paid from parish working account.
- Does not include any extraordinary maintenance costs on St Johns Church building.
- The Bank balance for 31 December 2024 for parish working account is estimated at \$91,269 (commenced 2024 with balance of \$80,344).
- Rector of the parish retired in March 2023.
- Archdeacon services will be separate to the parish, so no costs associated with that service.
- Motor vehicle will be required for the locum and the next Rector.
- With the recent acquisition of a Blakemore Street property, until a decision is made on the use of the facilities, as an interim measure it is rented for 12 months and monies from rent to used to pay back part of the internal loan monies on the property.
- Need to explore Anglicare Chaplaincy on short term basis.

ACCOMPANYING NOTES

INCOME

1. Offertory giving

Based on reality that there are a declining number of parishioners on the planned giving programme mainly due to deaths and relocation. It is estimated that total giving of monies will by parishioners will decline as time progresses.

2. Fundraising

No fund-raising events are planned for 2025 at this juncture.

3. Opportunity Shop

The contribution amount of \$48,000 is the amount which the Opportunity shop sales can contribute which is based on amount received in 2024 period. The amount of contribution is subject to the need to have the opportunity shop open full time with volunteers. The retail sector is a very competitive environment due to cheap imported clothes.

4. Rent - Parish office space

St John's - The projections of income received from Anglicare are based on 90% of commercial rental rate as from March 2012. The parish offers a subsidy of 10% of commercial rental rate. The lease is due for renewal as at 30th September 2025. Rental rate increases are based on CPI annual adjustments. Current rental rate is \$9,115 per month. Projected rental rate as from 1st July will be \$9,466 per month (3.4% CPI increase). Includes the vestry area based on a shared basis.

ACR Ashmont - Church building – Anglicare - Exclusive use of area from 7.30am to 5pm weekdays based on 200M2 – $\$21,717 \times 1.034 = \$22,455$ - rental rate of \$1,871 per month. Area for food pantry excluded in the equation.

Rainbow building – Anglicare – Exclusive use of area from 7.30am to 5pm weekdays - $\$8,382\text{pa} \times 1.034 = \$8,667$ or **\$723 per month** (based on 54M2 $\times \$120/\text{M2}$ with discount of 10%).

4A. Rent - Preschools

St Luke's Preschool rental rate is 100% commercial rental rate ($R1 \ \& \ R2 = \$143,220 \times 1.05 = \$150,381$). Rental rate for St Mary's Rainbow Preschool is 100% of commercial rental rate ($\$56,280 \times 1.05 = \$59,094$). CPI adjustment plus general rental rates included equalling 5%.

4B. Rent – Other facilities

None

4C. Rent – Parish Archives

Due to much stricter guidelines on the storage of records for the Preschools, part of the parish archives is storing preschool records, and each preschool is paying a rental rate of \$2.50 per day (an increase of 0.50/day).

4D. Rent - Cottage – 5 Shaw Street

Rental income is incorporated into working account budget of \$595/week minus management and operating costs.

4E. Rent – St Marys Church building

Indian Orthodox Christian group is renting St Marys church building for \$200 per month plus paying for electricity used which is payable to St Mary's Rainbow Preschool.

4F Rent - Parish Meeting

Agreement with Anglicare the PMR room is available to them at a reduced rental rate.

4G Rent – St Johns Community Centre – 3 Johnson Street

External users of building located at 3 Johnson Street are required to pay \$28.50 per hour as cleaning contractor engaged and lawn mowing. External users of building commenced May 2018.

5. Preschool Administrative services

The preschools contribute an amount to the parish for administrative and governance services provided by parish volunteers.

6. Interest & Investments

Interest receivable will increase due to rising interest rates.

7. Music/copyright contribution

A contribution of \$100 from each wedding that users recorded music will be credited to this line item.

8. Weddings – admin/travel contribution

A contribution of \$50 for each wedding that occurs outside of a church building will be credited to this line item.

9. Northern Life Anglican Church chaplaincy

Conservative amount has been stated for donations collections for chaplaincy. These amounts are fluid subject to the progress of the church plant in 2025.

10. St Paul's Outreach Trust

Successful Application with SPOT of \$5,000 for the purchase of new digital equipment for new ministries.

11. Parish Ministry Funds in Special Purposes

These are funds initially set up for new ministry initiatives.

12. Preschool's chaplaincy Contribution

Each preschool is to contribute monies towards the engagement of a chaplain for the centres. Chaplain is on the preschools payroll.

13. The Forrest Centre

The fund equivalent to two days per week or \$42,000 to be received from TFC and it is kept in special purposes account as the funding is subject to the parish providing the ministry service at the TFC as per MOU.

EXPENDITURE

14. Clergy & Staff

- Stipend rates estimated to increase by equivalent of 4% on 2024 rates.
- Cost includes 50% of stipend & associated costs of Associates Priest (the balance of 50% to be funded from Special Ministry account)

- Please refer to spreadsheet for specific details.
- Funds for Rector's position can be used for Locum costs for the interregnum period.

14A Professional Supervision and training

Supervision is for 6 sessions per year X 2-hour session X \$200 per hour X 3 clergy (Leonie, Mark, & Locum Rector) (Kim stated she will finance the cost of her supervision). Total cost \$7,200

Other costs Safe Ministries courses, etc allowed \$500.

14B Vacant

14C Relocation

The parish will need to meet most of the cost of relocation for the next parish Rector.

15. Diocesan Contribution

The amount payable for 2025 (based on 2023 net parish income is calculated on the basis of 13% - 1% for Youth Ministry). Total contribution by parish will be estimated at \$68,069.

16. Motor Vehicles

As the parish rector will not be an Archdeacon, the parish will need to finance a motor vehicle and running costs.

The Subaru is presently used by Locum Rector and TFC chaplain. Costs associated with the operation of that motor vehicle is financed by Parish & TFC.

A new vehicle will need to be purchased for the new rector which will need to be paid from motor Vehicle Provision account.

17. Cleaning

The cleaning contract includes a full clean every week for parish centre and all toilet areas plus each week for St John's church building. New contractor commenced on 15th June 2021. New 3-year contract signed with cleaning contractor in December 2024. Contractor costs have been much lower than previous cleaning contractor.

Contract cleaning	10,635
Cleaning materials	800
Professional Carpet Cleaning	2,900
Estimated Cost	14,335

18. Building Maintenance

The total maintenance budget for the three centres (St John's, Community of Redeemer & St Saviour's) should be in the order of 10% to 12% of total income budget in order to provide appropriate stewardship to maintain buildings and other facilities and to meet all workplace, health and safety guidelines. The maintenance budget should be in the order of \$67,750 plus in order to have a sustainable situation for all buildings, facilities and plant. The indicative budget displays a similar amount in the 2025 budget as in 2024 as all costs for St Luke's and St Mary's are funded by the Preschools. There is no allowance in the projected budget for external cement rendering of St John's church building. Refer to attached list of Maintenance works planned for 2025 subject to funding.

18A St John's Yard Maintenance

The issue of engaging contractor to maintain St John's grounds was raised by Parish Council due to decreasing volunteer base. The amount of \$3,300 includes costs of:

Mowing surrounds	- \$1,300
Weeding	- \$500
Inground watering system	- \$1,000
Sundries	-\$500

19. Utilities

The cost per unit of energy is increasing at various percentages per annum over the past 10 years due to various factors. Indicative Budget has allowed an increase in energy prices for 2024 in the order of 10%. Included \$1,000 in budget for additional electricity consumption due to extra activities/events in St John's church building. Solar energy generation system located at St John's complex was fully paid in May 2018, but depreciation amount has been placed into depreciation account each year.

Electricity/Gas	20,171
Telephone	4,550
Water	6,450
Estimated cost	31,171

20. Provision for Depreciation

Depreciation - Office Equipment	3,500
Depreciation - Vehicle replacement	4,000
Depreciation - Plant & Equipment	5,000
Depreciation - Air Conditioning Equipment	5,500
Depreciation - St John's Carpet	3,000
Depreciation - St John's organ	3,500
Depreciation – Solar Panels	4,000
Estimated cost	28,500

Included additional plant & equipment based at ACR Ashmont in provisions.

21. Rates

Garbage/recycling - \$4,350

Sewer charges - \$4,150

Total \$8,500

22. Building/Contents Insurances

Building/contents insurances premium costs will possibly increase by 12% compared with 2024. Insurance of ACR complex buildings have been included and additional premises at 2a Blakemore Street adjoining ACR Ashmont.

23. Music Ministry

Budget of \$10,000 allows for payment of choir members and organist(s) for St John's 9am Sunday worship service and includes Director of Music at \$65 per week.

24. Northern Life Anglican Church chaplaincy

Costs for stipends & associated costs & some motor vehicle costs.

25. St John's Community centre – 3 Johnston Street

The annual rent amount payable has been reviewed and approved at the lower rental rate.

26. Security

Budget includes cost of security monitoring at 35 Gunn Drive residence.

27. Business Support services

This is a new line item as approved by Parish Council. Cost is \$450 per fortnight plus monthly IAS to ATO plus audit preparation plus some incidentals. Cost incorporated in budget is \$14,000.

28. Conferences & Synod

One synod is planned for 2025. Other costs include clergy conferences, retreats, and spouse's conferences.

29. Promotion & Awareness

Parish to purchase appropriate equipment as required for recording services. Includes web site hosting. Cost of Hope 25 activities will be financed from this line item.

SUMMARY PARISH WORKING ACCOUNT BUDGET FOR 2025

Total projected income - \$564,605

Total projected expenditure - \$593,384

Projected DEFICIT for 2025 - \$28,779

GENERAL COMMENTS

- 30.** The parish has been increasing income from sources other than offertories because of the realisation that the congregation average age is increasing each year resulting in a decline in total number of financial committed parishioners and energy levels are decreasing. Average age of parishioners at most of the services is 83 to 84. The parish volunteer base is decreasing due to aging and health issues.
- 31.** Over the past 16 years the number of parishioners financial committed to the planned giving programme has decreased by 82+.
- 32.** The parish is aiming to present a balanced parish working account budget for 2025 but was not achievable.
- 33.** The current cost of a **clergy person engagement package per year is \$152,500** based on 6 working days per year plus one day off per week.
- 34.** All income and all costs associated with Anglican Community of Redeemer Ashmont complex have been incorporated into proposed parish working account budget for 2025.
- 35.** All income and all expenditure for St John's Community Centre located at 3 Johnston Street have been incorporated into proposed parish working account budget for 2025.
- 36.** The budget presented is based on the premise that rent from 5 Shaw Street is included for 2025.
- 37.** Archdeacon advised that he continue to service the Loretta Home of Compassion section of TFC for one day per week for 2025.
- 38.** The 50% of funding of associate priest position from Special ministry account will run out of funds around the close of 2025.
- 39.** Need to explore the possibility of providing chaplaincy to Anglicare in Wagga Wagga for a short term.

40. Some administrative and clerical and treasurer tasks conducted for smaller ministry units. Small cost recovery for service is charged.
41. The position of Chaplaincy for Preschools (P/T) was filled in October 2024.

James Hamilton
Chair of Parish Finance & IT Committee

Commissioning Liturgy for Parish Council and Wardens

Priest: Are you willing to accept the responsibility of being Parish Councillors and Wardens of the Anglican Parish of Wagga Wagga?

Position Holders: I am

Priest: Each of you has been called from this parish community to serve as a member of the Parish Council, or as a Warden. Do you accept the responsibilities of parish leadership we are placing upon you?

Position Holders: I do

Priest: Will you strive to form yourself more into their likeness of Christ so that you will be better equipped to serve His people, seeking to be positive in the face of robust discussion and seeking the mind of Christ in your deliberations?

Position Holders: I will

Priest: Then may God, who has given you this call through this community, bring that call to fulfilment in you.

Prayer of Commissioning

(to be read by all present)

Heavenly Father, you have chosen us to be your people and have gathered us to live in this parish. Be pleased with all our efforts to love you and serve you in word, worship and work. Give your blessing to these parishioners whom we now appoint as members of our Parish Council. Let them be pleasing to you. Guide their activities by the light of your Spirit and help them to work for your honour and glory and for the benefit of all your people. May they be open to your word. May they lead us faithfully and well in service to the world. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A place to write your notes