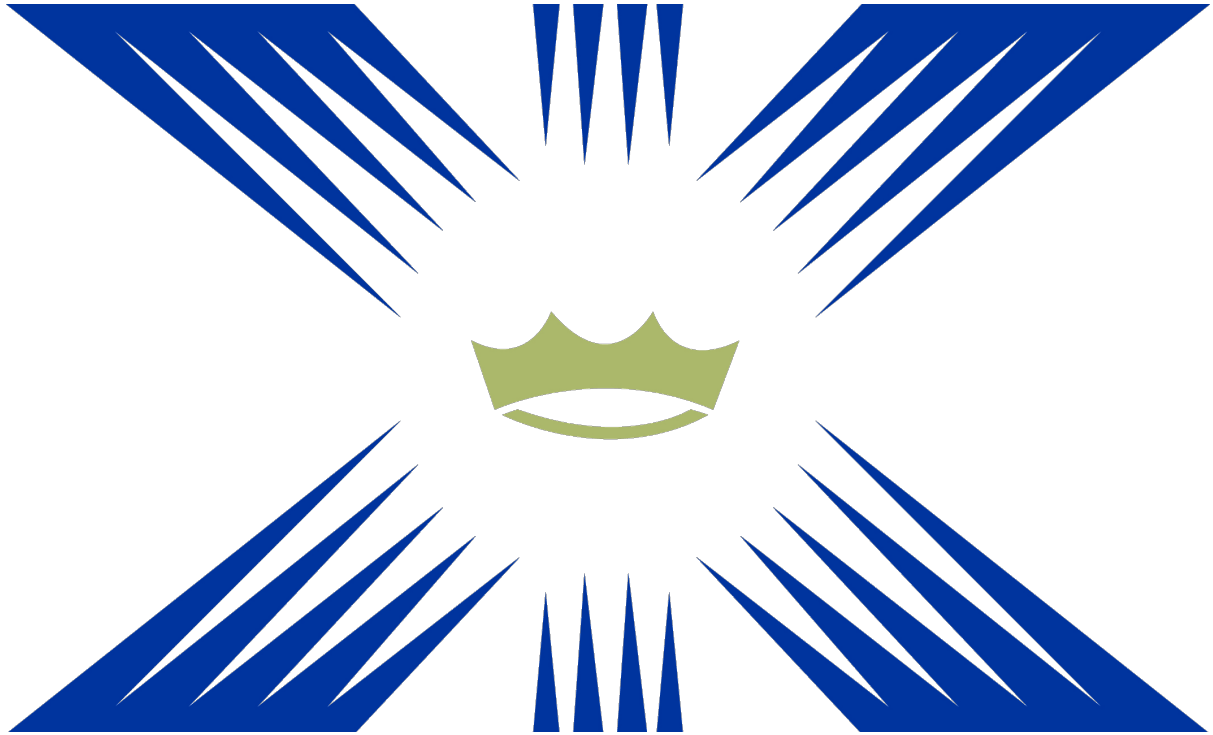


Christ Church – South Yarra



Annual Reports

November 2020

Annual Meeting Time: Nov 29, 2020 11:30 AM Australia/Melbourne

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82648966453?pwd=ZjR4YzdTRXdIS2wySS92b0x5Nk05UT>

09

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING



The Annual Meeting of the Parish of Christ Church South Yarra will be held
at 11.30am on Sunday 29 November 2020 in the Church via Zoom

Nominations of Candidates for the offices of:

- 2 Churchwardens
- 6 Members of Parish Council
- 2 Members of Incumbency Committee

shall be given to the Vicar on or before 8am Sunday 22 November 2019.

After prayers, the order of business shall include -

1. The reading of this notice;
2. The minutes of the previous annual meeting;
3. Reception of the electoral roll of the church of the Parish;
4. An annual report by the Incumbent;
5. An annual report on the proceedings of the Parish Council and on the financial affairs of the Parish by the Parish Council;
6. The audited accounts of the Churchwardens for the year ended 30 September immediately preceding the meeting;
7. A report from the Parish Council on the pastoral care, evangelism, community service and educational programmes of the Parish;
8. A report by the Churchwardens on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church of the Parish and the vicarage and other buildings of the Parish;
 - (a) A report by the Incumbent on the entries in the registers of the Parish for the financial year, including numbers of baptisms, persons received into communicant membership, confirmations, marriages, funerals, Sunday services, acts of communion and other such statistics from the registers as Archbishop in Council determines;
 - (b) A report by the Churchwardens and confirmed by the auditors on the Parish assessment for the current financial year as calculated in accordance with the requirements of the Archbishop in Council.
9. The election and appointment of Churchwardens and members of the Parish Council;
10. The election of auditors;
11. The election of **2 lay** representatives to the Parish Incumbency Committee;
12. Presentation of list of Lay Assistants at Holy Communion.
13. Any other matters of parochial or general church interest.

By the order of the Parish Council

Signed: Sandra Ivory Clark (secretary)



The Annual General Meeting of the Parish of Christ Church South Yarra

Sunday 10 November 2019

Minutes

The meeting commenced with prayer

Apologies were received from:

Greg Wayman
Stephen Hehir
Alistair Barker
Siegfried Franke
Thelma Castles
Elizabeth Ewert

1. Reading of the Notice of Annual meeting
Notice of Annual Meeting 2019 was taken as read
Moved: Helen Farrell
2. Minutes of previous meeting 12 November 2018
Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed
Moved: Greg Scott
3. Reception of the electoral roll of the church of the Parish
Electoral Roll of the Parish was received
4. Annual Report by the Incumbent
 - Fr. Craig showed the short film on Church planting in the Melbourne Diocese, 'Growing Christian communities'.
 - The film and Fr. Craig's comments about Church planting were well-received.
 - Comments from parishioners were around our outward ministry, being authentic, modelling Jesus and the need for us to work collaboratively
 - There were also comments around the Mission Stall closure and our outward ministry
5. Report by the Incumbent on the entries in the registers of the Parish for the financial year, including numbers of baptisms, persons received into communicant membership, confirmations, marriages, funerals, Sunday services, acts of communion and other such statistics from the registers as Archbishop in Council determines

- Fr. Craig drew attention to the Parish statistics provided in his Report as the reason for showing the video on Church renewal

6. Annual Report on the proceedings of the Parish Council and on the financial affairs of the Parish by the Parish Council, including the Report from the Parish Council on the pastoral care, evangelism, community service and educational programmes of the Parish

- The Report of the Parish Council was circulated in advance

7. Report by the Churchwardens on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church of the Parish and the vicarage and other buildings of the Parish

- There was a question regarding the re-instatement of the altar rails. Fr, Craig said that the total altar platform needed to be replaced. This will happen when the funds become available

The reports of the Incumbent, the Churchwardens and the Parish Council were approved as a block

Moved: Patrick Power

Seconded: Jim Short

8. (a) Audited accounts of the Churchwardens for the year ended 30 September 2019

- The Treasurer commented on the finalisation of the CCGS lease, the Diocesan insurance assessment, the appointment of a new bookkeeper and general changes to the formation of the accounts and the three-year budget
- Comments were made about establishing a planned maintenance programme for the Parish
- The Treasurer was thanked for his Report and his work improving the chart of accounts

The audited accounts were tabled with comments from the Vicar

Moved: Patrick Power

Seconded: Jim Short

(b) Report by the Churchwardens and confirmed by the auditors on the Parish assessment for the current financial year as calculated in accordance with the requirements of the Archbishop in Council

- A conservative estimate of the Parish Assessment is provided in the budget

9. Election and appointment of Churchwardens and members of the Parish Council

As the number of nominees did not exceed the places available in any category, there was no need for elections, and all nominees were declared elected.

Churchwardens:

Sarah Benfield

Stephen Hehir

Christine French (Vicar's nominee)

Parish Council:

Sandra Ivory Clark

Brian Hauser
Garry McCarthy
Patrick Power
Judith Armstrong
Mandy Burritt (Vicar's nominee)

- The Vicar thanked the Churchwardens and Parish Council members who are retiring at this meeting

10. Election of auditors

The following were duly elected:

Ryecrofts Pty Ltd

Moved: Patrick Power

11. Election of two lay representatives of the Parish Incumbency Committee

The following was duly elected:

Stephen Hehir

12. Presentation of Lay Assistants at Holy Communion

A list of the existing Lay Assistants was tabled

13. Any other matters of parochial or general church interest

The Vicar was thanked for his direction and welcomed again to the Parish

The meeting closed with the Grace at 12.50pm

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INCUMBENT

At the end of 2019 I commented to several in the parish that I was proclaiming 2020 as the “year of having fun” at Christ Church. I’m not sure that anyone would describe the past year as “fun”, but it has certainly been an interesting time to be your vicar.

In this report I would like briefly to review the events of the past year and to make some notes of thanks, and then to offer a reflection on some of the things we have learned from the “COVID experience”; things that might be both challenges and opportunities for the longer-term future of the parish.

First, the year in review, and some thanks.

Staff

In November 2019 Fr Paul Bower concluded his long ministry at CCSY, to become incumbent of the parish of St James the Great East St Kilda. Paul’s final Sunday at CCSY was, appropriately enough, the feast of Christ the King, which was an occasion of great joy and thanksgiving.

In July, Mother Linda Fiske, who had already moved from Sunday duties at CCSY to St George’s East Ivanhoe, concluded her role as Chaplain at Christ Church Grammar. Since then Mother Roxanne Addley has performed a great service for the parish and the school by acting as locum chaplain half-time, and modelling a new structure for the chaplaincy role. Her ministry has enabled both the parish and the school to proceed with confidence to engage a priest in a joint parish-school position from January 2021. It will be a delight to welcome The Revd Emily Fraser, who has accepted this new role, back to Christ Church.

In March, Mother Jill Renison accepted an offer to become Honorary Assistant Priest at St John’s Camberwell. Jill was farewelled in the unusual circumstances of the beginnings of the COVID shut-down period. May I thank Jill for her decade-long contribution to ministry at Christ Church, and we wish her well at St John’s.

Mother Roxanne has continued as Assistant Curate in 2020 and in addition to the above-mentioned work at CCGS, she has coordinated pastoral care activities, and performed a very fulsome range of liturgical, pastoral and administrative duties. Roxanne’s curacy concludes at the end of 2020, and I thank her for her fine ministry here, and her collegial support.

Kim Bong has continued as a Pastoral Worker. Much of her work in Sunday School ministry has been compromised by the church closures, but she has been an invaluable member of the pastoral team, and has assisted greatly with COVID-related compliance when the church has been open for worship.

Mother Marilyn Hope has continued as Parish Deacon, and in addition to liturgical duties has also been an invaluable member of the pastoral team, especially during the church closure period. I have valued Marilyn’s support and counsel.

Mother Jenny Nelson continues as Honorary Associate Priest, 'though her duties this year have been limited by some medical issues and the COVID closure. She remains a valued member of the Ministry Team.

In July I was pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Jack Lindsay as a part-time pastoral worker in the parish. The COVID closure period meant that Jack was not able to commence work until November, but he will certainly make an energetic and engaging contribution to ministry here in 2021.

Michael Fulcher continues as Director of Music, and has had to deal with the huge impact of COVID not only in terms of the church closure, but also on singing in public. Throughout, Michael has thrown himself into providing solutions to enable us to deliver at least some music throughout the year, and supporting the choir to meet via Zoom and maintain that group in both musical and collegial terms. It is appropriate here to thank the trustees of the Christ Church Music Foundation, who have continued to support the choral scholars throughout 2020, and all the members of the choir who have continued to meet virtually even when in-person singing has not been possible.

Siegfried Franke continues as Parish Organist, and it will be a delight to welcome him back regularly to the organ in coming weeks and months.

Parish Administrator Lance Coughlin has spent much of 2020 working from home, and has continued to support the smooth working of the parish operations, assisted by significant improvements to our IT infrastructure. Those improvements, and some equally significant streamlining in administrative procedures, will see Lance move to a part-time role in the parish office in 2021.

Lay leadership

The churchwardens – Christine French, Sarah Benfield and Stephen Hehir – have formed a magnificent team this year, and have been a great personal support for me. Along with treasurer Patrick Power, and the other members of Parish Council – Judith Armstrong, Mandy Burritt, Brian Hauser, Sandra Ivory, and Garry McCarthy – we have met regularly, including weekly during the early stages of the church closure, to assist with devising the best strategies for parish life to continue. Even with all the challenges that we have had to face, this has been an excellent year in terms of the work of the wardens and parish council. Much has been done, and adversity has been turned into opportunity at several turns. Considerable maintenance activity, the renewal of our IT and phone infrastructure, and the reconfiguration of the parish budget that has seen us report a small cash surplus after a large cash loss in the previous year, all stand as evidence of hard work and commitment. I commend the reports of the Churchwardens and the Treasurer for your attention.

It is appropriate here to make particular mention of Stephen Hehir and Patrick Power. Stephen has been churchwarden for the past six years, and is required to take a "sabbatical" year this year. His contribution, especially to the maintenance of the fabric of the buildings, has been enormous over that time. I have found his counsel helpful

and supportive, and it is my sincere hope that after some time off, he will consider returning to the leadership role he has acquitted so well.

Patrick Power has been Parish Treasurer for less than two years, but in that time has overseen the management of the parish's finances from substantial cash deficit to cash surplus, the tidying up of the chart of accounts, convening a group to review the parish's investments, regular detailed reporting to the wardens and Parish Council, and dealings with the diocesan finance department that have been to the parish's considerable advantage. Despite his protestations of being an "amateur" in financial matters, the results speak for themselves. Patrick and Isabella are shortly to move back to their native Queensland. They will be greatly missed, and we wish them both well.

In addition to the finances and "bricks and mortar", parish life has continued with several online groups meeting regularly to maintain care, companionship, and learning. The reinvigorated Film Group, facilitated by Leigh Mackay, has proved to be very active and lively. Explorations has actually grown by moving on to Zoom. The choir has continued to meet online. EFM ditto. The gardening group has had their work interrupted, but good rain and benign neglect has seen the garden thrive, even if removing the accumulation of weeds is going to be a challenge! One of the things we lack at Christ Church is any formal "small group" structures, however informal groups such as those mentioned above have been crucial ways for people to meet, and to sustain one another, in these difficult months.

At Christ Church Grammar the new principal Neil Andary commenced work at the beginning of 2020. Notwithstanding the considerable challenges of COVID, Neil has made a very fine start at CCGS, and the school is in good heart. Neil and I have worked together extremely well, and we both look forward to a deepening of the relationship between the church and the school. Neil's report to the parish can be found later in these papers.

Services

Worship has always been at the heart of the ministry of Christ Church, and our first priority during the long period of restrictions has been the maintenance of the worshipping and prayer life of the parish.

Since March, Sunday services have largely been delivered online via YouTube, and more recently we have been able to livestream the 10am service. It has been a very odd experience for the clergy and the small group of others allowed in the building to conduct the service. Providing video of the services has, however, ensured continuity in our worship life, and I have been heartened by the positive responses of many, and the understanding that has been shown on those occasions when things have not gone quite to plan! A positive outcome of being forced into this "brave new world" is that livestreaming is here to stay, providing an option for those who are housebound, in aged care, or unable to attend for other reasons, to continue to pray with those gathered in the church building. I have to say, however, that nothing beats "the real thing", and I look forward eagerly to the day when we can gather again in larger numbers as God's people at prayer.

It is appropriate at this point to thank Rod Reynolds, whose *pro bono* work as a recording engineer enabled us to deliver a much better quality of online product than would otherwise have been possible, until we more recently purchased the necessary equipment to live-stream.

A second pillar of parish life at Christ Church has long been the ministry of hospitality. This has been severely cut back with the restrictions, however a large group have gathered faithfully every week on Zoom for “Morning Tea” after the service on Sunday. Breakout rooms, or “Christ Church Speed-Dating” as we have sometimes called it, has enabled people to have good conversations with others that might never otherwise have talked to. This has been a boon in many ways.

Similarly, a highlight of 2020 for me has been the establishment of a considerable group of parishioners attending Morning Prayer via Zoom on weekdays. The attendance record is 16, and it is rare not to be in double figures. Previously, Morning Prayer was almost exclusively attended by members of the ministry team. This growth in discipleship and the ministry of prayer has been sustaining for me personally, and bodes well for the spiritual depth and future of the parish.

On a sadder note, we have said farewell to several much-loved parishioners this year in funeral services sometimes held in greatly restricted circumstances. Fr Ken Brierty, Barbara Hamer, Selveraj John, Alan Jones, Greg Scott, and Gordon Crowe have all departed this mortal life to enter God’s nearer presence. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

In all of these acts of worship and ministry we have seen the Spirit continuing to work with and through this parish community. There have been blessings as well as challenges, and the opportunities to grow in discipleship have been considerable for many people.

Looking ahead

The single most difficult challenge in the COVID period has been the challenge of evangelism, mission, and growth. How does God call new people to his Church at such a time? And how do we welcome those who come seeking after truth and comfort?

Prior to the churchwardens’ meeting in October 2020, reflecting on the church year just ended, Stephen Hehir asked me “If a COVID world becomes long term, what are our risks?”

My single word reply, especially in terms of mission, was - Huge.

We may have lost as much as 20% of the regular worshipping congregation from the pews of CCSY during the period of closure for public worship. There have been several deaths, several have moved or are about to move into full-time residential aged care, several are moving from Melbourne to the regions, interstate or overseas, and several more have indicated that they will in all likelihood be spending more time at their

country or beach properties going forward, rather than in the city. These final two categories include some very active members of the congregation. People in every walk of life are reconsidering their priorities in the wake of COVID, and it is noticeable in conversations both within the parish and beyond that many people are making life-changing decisions.

As, God willing, we return to worship in greater numbers over coming months, one of the challenges we will face is encouraging people back into active involvement in parish life, when much of what we have hitherto seen as key activities remains restricted. We will need to seek God's guidance to discern the ministry of each and every member of the CCSY community, so that we do not fall into the trap of becoming a group of people who "watch a service" rather than participate actively in a life of worship and Christian discipleship.

One of the first things that we need to admit and come to terms with is that older people are represented out of proportion to the general population amongst the existing congregation at CCSY. This is not a criticism, it is just a statement of fact. It is sad but reasonable to assume that there will be more deaths and more nursing home entries in the next year or two, and some will not be able to engage in the same level of activity as in earlier years. In order for Christ Church to have a solid future, especially in a world where some older people now feel vulnerable and less willing to venture out to attend church, we will need to grow, and especially to grow at the younger end of the demographic scale.

But, in the COVID-normal world the challenges to growth of any kind are considerable. For example:

- The regular "tried and tested" models for evangelism and outreach are almost impossible to mobilise in an environment where face-to-face meeting requires careful planning.
- It will probably take a year or more of the "new normal" for people to consider "just turning up" to try us out. Apart from anything else, the requirement to register to attend church is likely to be a long-term one, and will be very off-putting for new people and enquirers. It may encourage a "club mentality," and make that club even harder to join.
- For the next year or more, music may well need to look and sound quite different from what has been built up over the past twenty years. This may also discourage some people from returning. There are financial implications in this as well as "people" ones.
- The challenge of offering hospitality in a COVID-safe way is one we are yet to understand. We will certainly need to find new ways to ensure that our welcome includes the opportunity to gather for fellowship as well as worship.
- The renewal of the Ministry Team is a vital early step, and is under way. The next vital step is empowering lay leadership for mission and evangelism. The parish will only renew and grow if a wide range of lay people are actively engaged in all aspects of parish life – liturgical and otherwise.

In recent months, Parish Council has begun a major new strategic planning exercise that will culminate in a new mission and vision. Strategic and operational plans will be prepared to assist the parish's leadership not just to be reactive to unwelcome change,

but to take best advantage of the opportunities provided by the new environment in which we find ourselves. Broadly shared lay leadership will be key to the success of any such new strategy. The church is the whole people of God, not just the clergy. If Christ Church is to grow and to thrive, we will need to rediscover and probably to redefine what it means to be a “member” of this community of faith.

Planning is going to be crucial. We will need to develop strategies to restore and renew all aspects of Parish life, but in the current environment we will also need to be flexible and agile in our decision making. Identifying the long-term strategic goals will need to sit alongside a preparedness sometimes to make short-term decisions to ensure that “the wheels don’t fall off.” And the responsibility for driving this renewal will need to be shared.

When thinking about these questions, and about the way the parish has responded to change and challenges over the decades, it was instructive to review the statistical appendix of David Cuthbert’s history of CCSY. The last global pandemic was a century ago in 1919 – and that was the year that attendances and parish income at CCSY went into free-fall. It took the parish two decades to recover from the ‘flu. We must work collectively to discern how God might assist us not suffer the same fate as we recover from COVID a century later. I am confident that, with God’s help, we can indeed restore, renew and grow Christ Church into a parish community that will enrich all those who call it home. I am equally confident that a healthy, open, and hospitable community of faith will soon call many more people to respond to the call of Jesus Christ, and come to this place to join us in our work of worship, ministry and mission.

- Fr Craig

REPORT ON PAROCHIAL STATISTICS

This year's Statistic report is, at one level, a set of "nonsense numbers". The interruption to in-person worship has led to a significant scaling back of our services, and a corresponding decline in reportable statistics. We have therefore included notes of online views of services, however these also need to be "taken with a grain of salt" as they indicate the number of viewers, but not whether they viewed the whole service! In truth, it is impossible to provide accurate statistics for this year which truly indicate the level of engagement with worship at Christ Church.

Annual Statistics:	2019/20	
Total attendance	8,184	Plus online 8,979
Total acts of communion	3,919	
Total Sunday attendance	3,920	Plus online 3,009
Total Sunday acts of communion	2,812	
Other acts of communion	227	
Christmas attendance	534	
Christmas Communicants	403	
Easter Attendance	7	Plus online 378
Easter Communicants	7	
Baptisms	11	
Admissions to Communion	8	
Receptions	0	
Confirmations	1	
Weddings	3	
Funerals	17	

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL AND WARDENS

PROCEEDINGS OF PARISH COUNCIL

A year like no other is drawing to a close!

This was the second year of the Revd Dr Craig D'Alton's tenure at CCSY and the COVID-19 pandemic prevented worship in the church building, a cessation of the rights of passage eg weddings/funerals etc & the inability to physically meet with one another. All of this could have resulted in a moribund year, not so, with outstanding leadership from the vicar, the wardens & the parish council we have pleasure in recording a busy active report and strong forward plan for the future.

Covid-19 and its impact

Some early interruption from March saw our services move to a well-managed online offering with considerable work from Michael Fulcher, our Director of Music, to incorporate some singing within the legal requirements from the DHHS. The declaration of a "state of disaster" by the Premier in July saw a severe 15 week lockdown that significantly impacted on our parish community life. With "Zoom" morning teas and communication online between parish members we have been sustained.

Parish numbers may be a casualty of prolonged impacts prohibiting attendance, but we hope to build the parish back-up starting with 20 attending services from 9 November. It has been great to see so many finding our digital way of still being involved. The parish is very fortunate to have had minimal parishioner health impacts due to the virus itself, but the mental health impacts have not been insignificant. We have been fortunate to live in an era having access to broadband based videoconferencing and the use of Zoom for services and meetings.

Staffing changes

In November 2019, the Parish farewelled Fr Paul Bower, our long serving assistant priest as he moved to St James' East St.Kilda.

Mtr Linda Fiske concluded as chaplain of Christ Church Grammar School in July 2020. Mtr Roxanne became acting chaplain, as we await our new associate priest/ school chaplain Mtr Emily Fraser in January 2021.

Mtr Jill Renison made the move from CCSY to St John's Camberwell in March.

Parish Council

Parish Council members at the start of 2020 were Fr Craig, the 3 churchwardens (Christine French, Sarah Benfield, Stephen Hehir) and 6 members of the Parish (Judith Armstrong, Mandy Burritt, Brian Hauser, Sandra Ivory, Garry McCarthy, and our parish treasurer Patrick Power).

Parish Council meetings were held monthly from November to October. An agenda was circulated prior to each meeting and included standing items and general business. All meetings were chaired by Fr Craig and began and ended with a prayer.

Minutes were taken and circulated to members and, subject to any agreed changes, approved at the following meeting. Meetings received reports from Fr Craig, the churchwardens and the treasurer. The Warden's report included Parish maintenance works including major projects. These reports provide Parish Council with the opportunity to assist and support Fr Craig, the churchwardens and the treasurer in discharging their duties.

Over the past 12 months, significant issues for the church wardens and Parish Council were:

- Finalisation of the Christ Church Grammar School Lease from the Parish.
- A review and revision of the Parish's Strategic Plan for an interim period of 2020 and 2021.

Christ Church Grammar School Lease

After almost 28 months of negotiation, we finally have a quality comprehensive commercial lease signed with the Parish School (CCGS). The new lease provides good protections to both parties and enables appropriate security to the parish and the school for the next 35 years. Importantly, the school will hand back the old parish office/Sunday school rooms, on the east side of the OVPC courtyard, on 30 December 2024.

The churchwardens note with thanks the significant efforts and perseverance over the past 12 months of Fr Craig and Christine French working with a specialist external lawyer. Those who worked tirelessly on the matter prior to 2019 will be very pleased with the outcome. We also acknowledge the attention to this matter by members of the school Board.

Strategic Plan

The Parish Council continued to work to a two year interim strategic plan that Fr Craig developed.

Other matters that occupied the churchwardens and Parish Council were:

- The replacement sanctuary altar platform - a significant project of almost \$100,000, to replace the old platform that was no longer able to support the altar rails, was small in area and had a negative impact on acoustics due to the carpet covering. The result is stunning and the Parish should be delighted with the finished result enhancing a focal point of our services and providing a practical solution for liturgy with improved safety for lectern access.

Note that such work in the church required protection of the organ and lighting alterations that necessitated the use of expensive elevated work platforms. We are

fortunate to have been able to take advantage of the lockdown to complete this project.

- The refresh of the Chancel area floor with new Marmolium and removing the old red carpet (acoustics and a better aesthetic fit with the new platform). A heritage carpet runner will be installed in December.
- The installation of residual current devices (safety switches) in the OVPC to provide electrocution protection and reduce the risk of fire.
- The replacement of the carpet in the OVPC – again taking advantage of the lockdown.
- Inspection and architect report on the water ingress and structural damage to the Curate's residence porch area over the OVPC.
- Rejoicing that the new smoke detector service provider (for the Church) confirmed the proper function of all smoke detectors (that had not been properly tested by the previous agent).
- Seeking donations to replace the main aisle Carpet in the Church with a replica of the original.
- Overseeing the day to day Parish operations, activities and maintenance requirements, as issues arose.
- Overseeing the Parish finances including receipt of an advisory committee report and recommendation on the Parish's investments (many thanks to Michael Kirwan, Al Baker and Brian Hauser).
- Other projects:
 - A project initiated last year to renovate external restrooms (on the south side of the Church) to align with contemporary building standards has not progressed at this time due to COVID and more pressing issues. This project will be progressed with the school in the coming months.
 - An ongoing matter concerning the revaluation of Parish property by the diocese led to a substantial increase in the Parish's insurance levy in 2019 and remains a significant concern for the Parish Council and Wardens in 2020. The annual premium is ~\$59,000, based on full replacement value; much of which could be better spent on missional work. The Wardens hope that future discussion will address this matter. The incoming churchwardens are encouraged to escalate the matter to the Diocesan Finance Committee.

Buildings, Maintenance and Administration Report

The maintenance of the Church Building

In general, the parish buildings are in good condition, especially the heritage listed church circa 1855.

There were some significant maintenance activities and improvements to the Church this year, as noted earlier in this report. The major projects delivered this year are in line with those advised to the Annual Meeting last year. Key amongst these activities was the altar platform project to improve acoustics and enable the secure replacement of easily removable altar rails for events as well and provide better visibility of the liturgical actions through an increase in height. The larger area provides a staging area

for other events such as school and music. Before and after photographs are included at the back of this report.

There is currently work underway to address a water leak from the glass lantern above the Sanctuary in the church. Initially thought to be a glass seal issue, it now appears to be a plumbing issue. All work at height on the roof will be expensive and a need for good safety risk management.

The old vicarage Parish Centre (OVPC)

New carpet was laid throughout the OVPC providing a much needed lift in aesthetics and safety.

Further fire risk mitigation measures in the OVPC were provided through the installation of residual current devices (safety switches).

Mtr Emily will be moving into the Curate's apartment above the OVPC which, except for the porch water ingress and structural concerns, is in good condition. The porch will be cordoned-off except for emergency egress until it is repaired.

The new vicarage

The external timberwork of the new vicarage has been painted and a new oven installed. The new vicarage is in excellent condition.

The grounds

During the lockdown, no gardening work could be undertaken. Roy Hardcastle has been managing the garden for many many years with a small diminishing group of helpers. The garden brings great joy to many and a green setting for the church. The incoming wardens & parish council must urgently address the present situation.

OHS/Risk management

OHS risks identified have been managed through our WHS Management arrangements including a contractor permit to work system, ensuring the major contractors have a certified WHS Management System, monitoring the behaviour of workers on site and attending to any hazards identified.

- Hazards identified have included the electrical and fire safety work previously mentioned.
- Projects for the 2020/2021 year include the installation of external security measures.

There are many parishioners who have assisted the churchwardens in discharging their duties, and giving generously of their time, for which we have been most grateful and thankful. In particular:

- ❖ Fr Craig, Stephen Hehir, one of the churchwardens, with Garry McCarthy from Parish Council, have dealt with many maintenance issues in the Parish prior to COVID lockdown, and have been overseeing the bigger projects.
- ❖ Roy Hardcastle, with Chris Hartley and others, have continued their wonderful care and mission with the Parish gardens.

- ❖ Garry McCarthy has ensured that the Parish achieved compliance with the diocesan child safe requirements.
- ❖ Patrick Power, who has occupied the role of treasurer of the Parish who was also instrumental in enabling the review of Parish investments and provided good records and advice about the financial workings of the parish. Unfortunately we are losing Patrick, as he and Isabella move back to Queensland.
- ❖ Lance Coughlin, in the Parish Office, has handled all administrative arrangements and is the friendly voice on our phone and the friendly and helpful contact in our office. The work hours of the parish administrator role have been reduced in line with the requirement of the role so of there will be some changes to Lances contact hours.

Other

The financial wellbeing of the Parish, despite the pandemic, is due to both good financial management and the financial support from the government. The church wardens wish to acknowledge the Rev Dr Craig D'Alton for his amazing leadership, knowledge, and ability to rise above many challenges. Many normal services were unable to happen, but we were spiritually nourished and supported through his use of technology.

Craig we are indeed blessed by your ministry and trust that 2021 will allow you take a break whilst we travel together through COVID normal.

On behalf of the PC and Church Wardens
Christine French, Sarah Benfield, Stephen Hehir

Altar project – before and after photos



Photo 1 - Sanctuary altar platform before



Photo 2 - New sanctuary altar platform after construction (note extra height and removeable handrails)



Photo 3 - View from South Transept (note new position of the eagle lectern and safety handrails)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Budgets are estimates of income and expenditure, usually re-evaluated on a periodic basis, no more so than during crises such as pandemics.

The outcome for the 2019/2020 financial year reflects very much the impact of Covid-19 on our parish community, and the responses of parishioners, the Diocese, as well as both state and federal governments.

The budget anticipated a deficit of \$44,176; the actual result was a deficit of \$35,655. Given that the budget was a cash (recurrent) budget, once the finance component of the altar platform capital works is taken into account, the cash result was a surplus of \$14,345.

Significant variations to budget were:

Income

- a 47% decline in Open Plate collections because of the closure of the church;
- a 54% increase (\$54,239) in investment income;
- \$194,223 income from the Christ Church Grammar School lease - a 5% increase on anticipated income;
- \$70,458 income from the federal government's Jobkeeper programme; and
- \$10,000 income from the state government's Business Support Fund programme.

Total income for the year was 29% above budget

Expenditure

- A 55% increase in expenditure on Maintenance works, associated with painting, electrical and electronic upgrade works, undertaken to take advantage of the closure of the church and parish centre.
- An extraordinary Diocesan reduction in Assessment of \$10,000, and a final assessment \$19,000 below the budgeted amount, resulting in a total saving to budget of \$29,000.
- Parish Council's decision to increase Mission Giving by \$15,000.

Total expenditure was 25% above budget.

Capital Expenditure & Liability

The accounts show Capital Expenditure of \$108,685.70 for the 2019/2020 financial year. This has been funded by a \$50,000 loan from the Anglican Development Fund, and the remainder from parish funds.

The Parish negotiated a loan of \$80,000 over 10 years to pay for the new altar platform and associated renovations, rather than drawing on investment reserves. \$50,000 of the loan was drawn down in September, with monthly repayments of \$496.00.

The Capex of \$108,685.70 is the full amount paid for labour and materials for the altar platform works to date, and is the full amount of both Capex and associated liability.

2020/2021 Budget

The 2020/2021 budget, endorsed by Wardens and Parish Council, envisages income of \$512,130, and expenditure of \$521,300, and thus a modest deficit of \$9,170.

Investment income has been conservatively estimated, and income from the Jobkeeper programme, at the current reduced rate, has been included until the programme's expiration on 28 March 2021.

The Office Administrator, currently employed for four days per week, will be employed for two and a half days per week from 1 January.

A separate Capital Expenditure budget will detail plans for major work, and their funding.

Investment Advisory Group

An Investment Advisory Group comprising Alistair Barker, Brian Hauser and Michael Kirwan, has been convened to monitor and manage the parish investment portfolio. The advisory group will adopt a 'smoothing' Endowment Fund strategy to manage the investment portfolio, provide advice on the diversification of the portfolio to manage risk, and ensure sufficient cash reserves are maintained in case of financial market volatility.

Christ Church is fortunate to be able to call upon parishioners with such expertise.

Incoming Treasurer

I welcome my successor, Simon Barrie, a man eminently qualified for the role of Treasurer.

Patrick Power
Treasurer
29 November 2020

2019/20 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement

The attached Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet (Budget Analysis), for the financial year ending 30 September 2020, are provided as interim statements, pending receipt of the signed Auditor's Report, which has been received noting no amendments, but awaits signature. The signed report will be available on Sunday 29 November.

<p>Christ Church South Yarra 667 Punt Road South Yarra VIC 3141 www.ccsy.org.au</p> <p>Profit & Loss Statement October 2019 To September 2020</p>			
<u>Income</u>			
Open Plate	\$21,145.15		
Planned Giving	\$134,222.29		
Donations - specific	\$15,300		
Total Giving		\$170,667.44	
Investments			
CF7510 Maintenance Income	\$1.66		
Cash Plus TF 8434 Vestry	\$1,191.51		
Endowment Fund TF8434 Vestry	\$12,120.27		
Dividend income - All Inv. Acc	\$53,835.70		
Franking Credits	\$85,783.56		
Interest	\$1,306.45		
Total Investments		\$154,239.15	
Services			
CCGS Chaplain Fee	\$3,000		
Weddings	\$6,550		
Staff Services Provided	\$		
Funerals	\$16,070		
Donations from Services	\$930.00		
DMAO reimbursements	\$2500		
Total Services		\$29,050.00	
CCGS Lease	\$194,223.00	\$194,223.00	
Jobkeeper	70,457.68		
Business Support Fund	10,000		
Other Income	2,134.76		
Miscellaneous		\$82,592.44	
Total Income	-	-	<u>\$630,772.03</u>
<u>Expenses</u>			
Ministry			
Vicar	\$97,550.84		
Assistant Clergy and ASLM	\$107,092.97		

Ministry Expenses	\$4,495.73		
Discretionary Expenses	\$127.23		
Hospitality	\$1,747.23		
Total Ministry		\$211,014.00	
Liturgy, Music			
Music	\$600		
Liturgical Expenses	\$2,669.43		
Music staff	\$68,907.16		
Reimb. of Salaries by Music foundation	(\$10,250)		
Sundry	\$1566.50		
Books	\$148.25		
Flowers	\$2,046.28		
Total Liturgy, Music		\$67,315.54	
Maintenance			
Total Maintenance		\$47,391.99	
Utilities			
Total Utilities		\$14,014.92	
Capital Works			
New Equipment and Sundries		108,685.70	
Administration			
Total Administration		\$87,684.46	
Workcover		\$1,661.00	
Long Service Leave		\$390	
Insurance		\$65,650.00	
Diocesan Assessment		\$25,870.00.	
Consulting & Professional Serv		\$11,025.00	
Mission Giving		\$25,724.00	
Total Expenses	-	-	<u>\$666,427.47</u>
Operating Profit	-	-	<u>(\$35,655.44)</u>
Other Income			
Bequest / Donations / Grants			
Bequests	\$0		
Donations - General	\$294.00		
Donations- Specific	(\$1,930.00)		
Total Bequest / Donations / Grants		(\$1636.60)	
Total Other Income			(\$1636.60)
Net Profit/(Loss)	-	-	<u>(\$37,292.04)</u>

Christ Church South Yarra

Balance Sheet

As of 30 September 2020

Assets				
Cash at Bank				
ADF - PC Work Cap Acc 05009321		\$3,310.47		
ADF - PC Current Acc 05009322		\$84,006.36		
Petty Cash		\$249.30		
Parish Giving Account 05004644		\$2,854.00		
CCSY Trust Fund 05009323		\$45,579.10		
Rusden Gift 05004475		\$264.63		
Ministry Fund		\$4,076.39		
Prepayments		891.17		
ADOM overcharge		7,217.31		
Total Cash at Bank			\$148,448.73	
Investments				
CF7510 Maintenance		\$105.83		
Endowm Fund CF7511 Bulding Fnd		\$301,996.29		
Cash Plus TF8434 Vestry		\$93,814.32		
Endowment Fund TF8434 Vestry		\$528,734.81		
CCSY Vestry Equities		\$788,656.67		
Total Investments			\$1,713,307.92	
Total Assets				\$1,861,756.65
Liabilities				
GST Paid		(\$1,134.74)		
Total GST Liabilities			(\$1,134.74)	
Missions & Donations				
Missions & Donations		\$7,212.57		
Benefit Accounts	\$2,188.79			
Provision Annual Leave		\$36,527.62		
Other Liabilities				
Wedding Deposits		\$500.00		
Current Bequests				
Barbara Shearer Bequest		\$53,411.22		
Mary Catherine Becke Bequest		\$4,000.00		
ADF loan			\$49,539.60	
Total Liabilities				\$152,245.07
Net Assets				\$1,709,511.58
Equity				
CCSY Vestry Equities		\$788,656.67		
Retained Earnings		(\$24,113.40)		
Current Earnings		(\$22,707.10)		
Endowment Fund		\$967,675.50		
Total CCSY Equity			\$1,709,511.58	
Total Equity				\$1,709,511.58

Christ Church South Yarra
2020/21 Operational Budget (excluding CapEx)
Agreed 12/9/20

	2020	2020	2021
A Income	Budget	Projected	Budget
Open Plate	40,000	21,000	10,000
Planned Giving	135,000	135,000	135,000 ¹
Investments	100,000	161,000	70,000 ²
Services - Weddings	15,000	6,000	5,000 ³
Services – Funerals	15,000	15,000	15,000
Services - Reimbursements			25,830 (CCGS and CCMF) ⁴
Job Keeper		97,000	66,300 ⁵
Grants		20,000	
CCGS Lease	185,000	185,000	185,000 ⁶
Total Income	490,000	635,000	512,130
B Expenses			
B1 Ministry			
Vicar	84,093	100,000	100,000
Assistant Clergy	92,566	98,000	40,000
ASLM	21,917	22,000	43,000 ⁷
Locum Clergy	5,000.	0,300	5,000
Ministry Expenses	2,000.	5,000	2,000
Salary On Costs – LSL/Super.			
Salary Reimbursement by CCGS	(12,000)	(3000)	0 ⁸
Theological Student	0		
Hospitality	5,000.	1,700	1,000
Total Ministry	198,576	224,000	191,000
B2 Liturgy, Music			
Liturgical Expenses	3,000	5,000	3,000
Director of Music	49,000	49000	50,000
Organist	28,000	28000	28,000
Salary Reimbursement by MF	(16,000)	(10,000)	0 ⁹
Staff Training	1,000	0	
Flowers	5,000	2000	2,000

¹ It would be preferable for this figure to rise to something closer to \$160,000 to cover at least some of the loss from open plate.

² This is a very rough “guestimate” based on slightly less than a 4% return across our portfolio, as per advice from Anglican Funds. It does not assume any franking credit income. The result could be as much as \$30K either side of this, depending on economic conditions.

³ So far there is only one wedding booked for next year.

⁴ This includes CCGS compensation for Roxanne’s time, plus \$10,000 from the Music Foundation

⁵ Jobkeeper will not apply to Jack Lindsay or to Roxanne’s replacement, as they are new appointments. The rates for Jobkeeper 2 are also lower, especially for part-time employees.

⁶ There could be a slight increase in this, but it will depend on how CPI tracks.

⁷ Representing Kim (full year) and Jack (until end June 2021)

⁸ This has been added into “Income”

⁹ This has been added into “Income”

Total Liturgy, Music	70,000	74,000	83,000
B3 Maintenance			
Gardening	2,500	2,000	2,000
Fire Alarm Monitoring	3,000	2,000	2,000
Cleaning	10,000	10,000	10,000
Utilities	13,000	13000	13,000
Internet and Telephone	2,000	2000	2,000
General Maintenance Works	15,000	17,000+	20,000
Building projects/Capex	0	??	0 ¹⁰
Rates	1,000	1500	1,500
Total Maintenance	46,500	47,500+ + +.	50,500¹¹
B4 Administration			
Print/Cons/Lease/Meter	8,000	6000	6,000
Stationery	2,000	2000	2000
Kitchen Amenities	1,000	300	300
Subscriptions	1,000	1000	1000
Advertising	1,000	0	0
Postage	500	300	300
Auditor Fees	3,500	3100	3200
Bookkeeping Services	8,000	8000	8000
AF Administration fees	5,600	5600	5600
Internet/Email	1,500	1000	1500
Software	1,500	1000	1000
Acc Dep – Office Equipment	1,000	10,000	0
Misc. Admin. Expenses	500	5,000	500
Office Administrator Salary	54,000	54000	30,000
Verger/Sacristan	0	300	
Misc. Reimbursements			
Total Administration	89,100	97,000.	59,400
B5 Other Expenses			
Workcover	5,000	5000	5000
Insurance	60,000	63000	63000
Diocesan Assessment	55,000	30000	40000
Mission Giving	10,000	10000	20000
Legal fees	0	15000	
Loan repayments			9,400 ¹²
Total Other Expenses	130,000	123,000	137,400
Total Expenses	534,176	565,500+ + +	521,300
Operating Profit/(Loss)	(44,176)	69,500—	(9,170)

¹⁰ There are no major capital expenditure items listed in this budget. A separate Capital Expenditure budget will detail plans for major work, and their funding.

¹¹ The 2021 figure assumes “business as usual”, notwithstanding that a substantial project is likely regarding the Old Vicarage balcony. This will need to be classified as a capital work.

¹² This is for the altar platform. The number will be less if we decide not to fully utilize the loan.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC REPORT

Looking at last year's report to you all, I was able to report on a newly configured music library, significant organ maintenance, a swathe of new music performed by the choir, the very lively combined services with the CCGS Chapel Choir, our May Showcase concert, our work with professional brass quartets, and what had become our annual visit to sing evensong at the cathedral. How this year has been different! None of the previously mentioned activities has been possible. Since March 23, the choir has been in recess, relegated to a weekly Thursday night Sing Session. This activity has kept some level of vocal fitness for our singers and served to keep the group bonded together socially and spiritually. However, the Thursday night event is not a rehearsal as the singers are not able to hear themselves. Moreover, I have not been able to hear the singers either, due to latency issues with the Zoom videoconferencing platform. Had Job himself been a singer, he would have found this a monumental challenge.

In response to the situation before Easter, we hastily convened a recording session engineered by Rod Reynolds, in which we recorded around 20 hymns, with four singers and me at the organ. At that time, we were only allowed five people in the building at once, so Rod had to engineer the recording and sing bass. Shortly after that, Jordie and I recorded seven arias which we featured in later pre-recorded services on YouTube after Easter. Around July there were two or three Sundays when we had a quartet singing in the south transept, but the stage four lockdown put paid to that.

Through all of this, we are very grateful for the continued support the Christ Church Music Foundation (CCMF) has received, and equally grateful that the foundation has agreed to continue funding the choral scholars this year during the pandemic. The current state of restrictions from the government and diocese precludes congregational singing of any kind, and limits the number of singers to five, who are required to be masked. Whilst we are glad to be welcoming congregations of increasing size back into the church, we are not yet able to enliven our worship with the kind of singing we have been used to.

On behalf of the choir, I would like to offer my personal thanks to the **Trustees of the Music Foundation** continued support of the music personnel of CCSY during this difficult time of the pandemic. We are all looking forward to the time when we can sing again inside the building with no health risk, especially since the new altar platform and reinstated linoleum chancel flooring have improved the acoustic for music so much.

Finally, I would like to thank our Vicar, Fr Craig, for his unwavering desire for Christ Church to be a centre of inspiring liturgical music-making. Craig and the whole ministry team have done a terrific job in keeping the CCSY community of faith alive and together. Laus Deo!!

Michael Fulcher
Director of Music

CHRIST CHURCH MUSIC FOUNDATION REPORT

In spite of this year's challenges to music performance in the parish, supporters of the music programme at CCSY donated generously to the Music Foundation, for which many thanks indeed. Two new Trustees were appointed, Ms Helen Moylan and Dr Philip Williams AM, boosting our number to eight. Particular thanks are extended to our Treasurer and Secretary, Brian Hauser.

Trustees continued to provide 7 choral scholarships and one conducting scholarship until the end of this year, based on the need to support young musicians at this difficult time. Flexibility and new strategies may be required in future, to maintain our musical excellence in a responsible way.

While many of our annual activities have had to be cancelled, a very enjoyable cocktail party was held in late February at the home of Jenny Proimos, with delightful musical entertainment from Michael Fulcher and the choir.

Some services, whether streamed or with a small live congregation, had input from a cantor or a choir of up to four, depending on the restrictions in place at the time.

Organ and piano maintenance continued as required. Our Director of Music, Michael Fulcher, kept up the choir's vocal excellence and morale with the usual weekly practice held via Zoom. He also provided organ music for services conducted in the empty church.

Caroline Travers OAM

Chair, Christ Church Music Foundation

CHRIST CHURCH GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I write for the Christ Church South Yarra Parish Annual Report. 2020 began in somewhat traumatic fashion and before children had arrived for the start of the school year, we were gripped with the Coronavirus pandemic, firstly from overseas and subsequently within our own borders. As such with services cancelled, states of emergency and disaster the opportunity for me to meet with members of the CCSY in person never eventuated. In my first year at Christ Church Grammar School, I had hoped for a somewhat smoother transition.

But much has transpired through the year despite the challenges. I am very pleased to report that the Fr Craig and I have met regularly throughout the year and are committed to growing the relationship between the Church and School. For over 100 years the two have been inseparable and as 2021 approaches we are confident we can strengthen the relationship even further.

Despite COVID 19 restrictions and having to deliver our educational program to our community remotely for nearly two terms, the School has continued to provide regular Chapel services. Our long serving Chaplain, Mother Linda Fisk, left us at the end of Term 2 and with the support of Father Craig we were blessed to welcomed Mother Roxanne, who quickly found her feet working with members of the school and parish to develop and deliver wonderful weekly online chapel services. With the support of Choral Director, Michael Fulcher and some very clever technical people the staff and children also enjoyed listening to our Chapel choir as part of these services.

In recent news, I am excited to have worked with Fr Craig to secure the services of Revd. Emily Fraser who takes on the role of School Chaplain and CCSY Associate Priest. Equally we are confident Emily will support us in forging a strong and mutually beneficial relationship that brings faith and service to our children through our enduring link to Christ Church.

Finally, whilst the year, 2020, has brought us many challenges, they are none so great that we will not endure. There are many lessons to learn and opportunities for us a community to reflect and grow from. We look forward to next year with hope and renewed confidence that our community will once again come together regularly in our beautiful Church to worship and celebrate God's will.

Neil Andary
CCGS Principal