

Anglican Church of Australia
Parish of Christ Church Hawker
Annual Report – February 2008 to January 2009
Presented to the AGM Tuesday 10 February at 7pm

1 OVERVIEW

Rev. Guerin Tuono joined the parish as a part-time deacon with responsibility for Family and Youth Ministry in early March 2007 and was appointed Rector in December 2007 after his ordination as priest.

The steady decline in attendance that has been evident over the past few years continued in 2008. However, in the last couple of months of 2008 an increase in average weekly attendance has been noticed.

A significant development in 2008 was the commencement of the Coffee Op Shop one Saturday each month. This has been an attempt to open the church on a regular basis to engage with the local community. Over the time that the Coffee Op Shop has been operating a number of people have become regular visitors. It is hoped to build on this work in 2009 by commencing a regular monthly activity in the main Hawker Shopping Centre.

Although a number of faithful, older members of the parish have moved away during the year we have gained several new committed members. The children's area has been used on a regular basis and parents have commented on how this makes bringing children to services easier than it was previously.

The parish continued to provide a wide range of ministries throughout the year. These are reported under the five headings; Worship, Outreach, Education, Pastoral Care and Material Resources.

Despite an increase in offertory giving and prudent control of expenses the parish experienced a deficit in its normal operating account in 2008. Generous financial support was received from parishioners throughout the year and especially when the existing electronic piano failed unexpectedly and when it was discovered that the leadlight window above the sanctuary needed maintenance. Full detail of the parish financial position is provided later in this report.

2 WORSHIP PROGRAMMES - PRAISING GOD TOGETHER

2.1 Rector and Warden's comments

Sunday Worship

The principal service on Sunday morning continued to be the standard APBA based Second Order Holy Communion at 8am. Once a month the 8am service used the APBA First Order Holy Communion service.

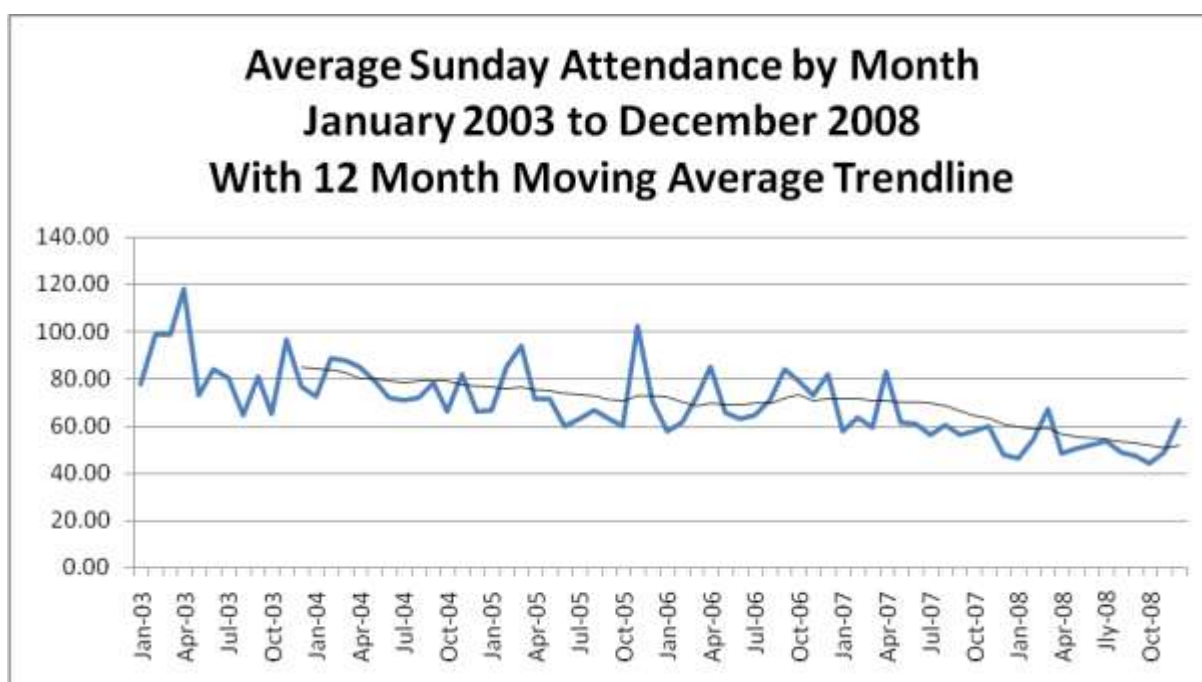
For several years the parish has discussed ways to make the 10am service more accessible to people who do not have a strong church background. In 2008 the 10am service was moved in a significant way to offer a genuine alternative service format based on the more contemporary APBA service of Third Order Holy Communion alternating with the APBA Prayer Praise and Proclamation service week about.

The Rector has sought to give shape to the teaching program with 2008 having the theme of "The People of God". In 2009 Guerin has built the preaching around "Being Right with God"

Attendance at all services has continued the downward trend evident in previous years although there was a noticeable turn in this trend in November and December 2008. The graph below shows the average total Sunday attendance over the past few years with a rolling trend line.

Year	Sunday Total	8am	10am	Wednesday
2003	86.4	37.7	48.6	
2004	76.6	32.2	43.8	16.7
2005	72.1	28.8	39.5	13.9
2006	73.5	30.5	42.5	13.3
2007	60.6	28.6	31.4	11.2
2008	52.2	25.6	26.6	11.5

Table 1 – Parish worship services average attendance based on the full year records.



Music is an important aspect of our worship and it was necessary to purchase a new electronic piano during the year when our old instrument (purchased in 1992) unexpectedly failed.

We continue to be grateful to our dedicated group of musicians who play for services. Finding new musicians has proved to be a very difficult task and many of our services rely on the use of the pre-recorded computerised method of playing the instrument. Again we are grateful for all the work that has gone into recording tunes for this purpose, our collection now runs to some 300 tunes.

A group of singers have formed a choir on significant occasions during the year to participate in worship. This has enhanced the worship and built strong fellowship links between those who have participated in the choir. Our thanks go to this group and those who have led and supported them.

The parish Fellowship Breakfast at 9am has been a great success with most people staying after the 8am service for coffee and toast and a chat. Unfortunately the hope that people attending the 10am service would come early and join in has not been realised. However, the morning tea after 10am is well attended.

Mid-week Worship

Several mid-week worship services are held.

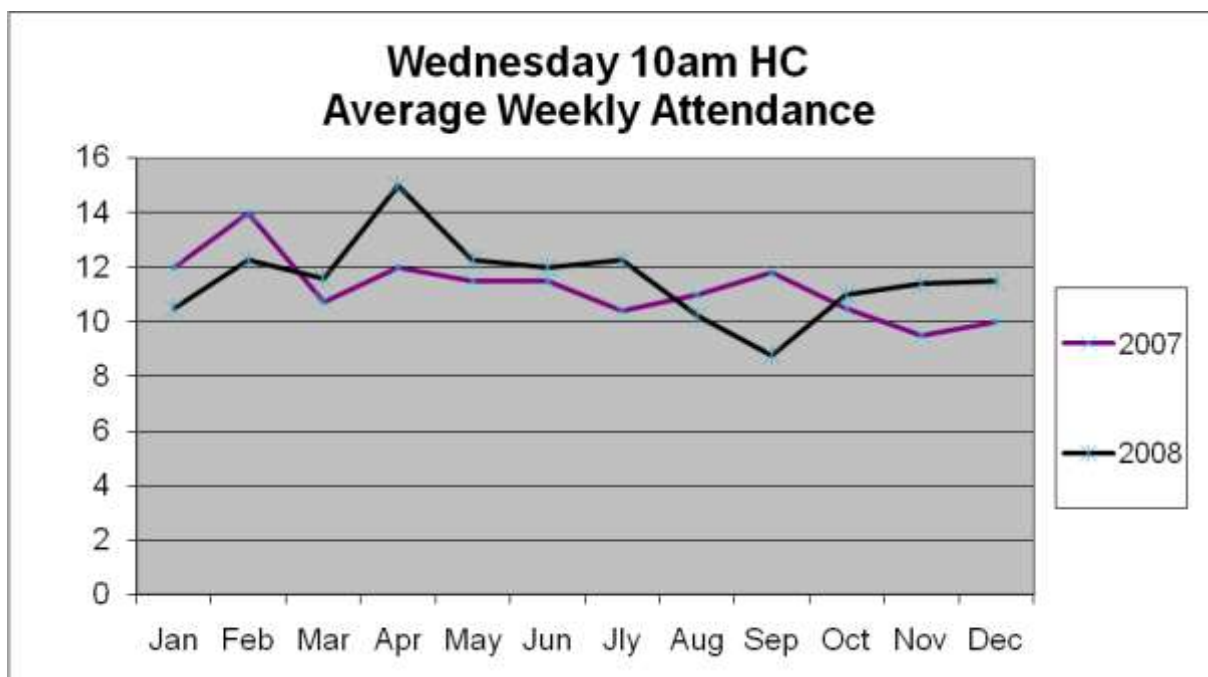
The Monday prayer group meets faithfully but is not well attended.

Monday evening Cafe Church is tailored to attract “Generation X and Y”. The group has grown during the year and now consistently attracts around 12 people each week who share a meal and participate in Bible based discussion and prayer. Guerin has asked Cafe Church to consider future ideas and formats if the group continues to grow.

The Wednesday morning 10am Holy Communion has dwindled in number over the years but has grown slightly in the latter months of 2008.

Two Holy Communion services are held each Thursday for the residents in the hostel and nursing home at Ginninderra Gardens. The parish is supported in this work by a grant from Anglicare. Due to some management changes at Ginninderra Gardens the hostel service was moved to the nursing home chapel mid-way through the year. The parish employs a part-time chaplain to assist the Rector with the work at Ginninderra Gardens.

Home communions continue to be a significant part of the Rectors work with regular home visits to many parishioners who are ill or unable to come to church.



Christmas and Easter

Both of these occasions saw an increase in attendance over 2007. Total attendance at Easter services was up 5% and total attendance at Christmas services was up 10%. The biggest single increase at Christmas was in the children’s service at 6pm on Christmas Eve which saw an increase of 11. The service at 11pm on Christmas Eve was up by one and Christmas Day was up by 9.

2.2 Monday Morning Prayer Group

A small group of parishioners meets every Monday morning at 10am (except on Public Holidays) for about an hour of devotions involving readings, a morning psalm, some brief liturgy and most importantly prayers. We conclude with a chat over a cuppa.

The group began three years ago, mainly for men, but over time, the numbers have ranged from 3 to 6 or 7, and any member of the congregation is invited and would be made very welcome.

Prayers are offered encompassing parish, local community, and wider world issues, but our main focus is on thanking God for all His blessings to us and seeking His guidance on parish policies, parish planning, parish activities and particularly praying for members of the parish who are in need of

prayer. No group member is required to pray openly, and usually one or more members take a lead in praying, to which all can respond.

Our prayers are a combination of praise for what we have received, prayers for parish programmes and activities, and a deliberate seeking of God's will in how we fulfill our parish mission of knowing God individually and collectively, and how we make His name known in our community through loving care and service to others.

We strongly believe in the power of prayer and we encourage all members of our parish to pray daily, and be encouraged in our journey of faith together in building our personal and community relationship with God each day and for always.

Group members have been reviewing what we have been doing each week, and we are questioning our meeting time, how to encourage more participants, perhaps extending to other mornings or late afternoons, and other ways where our congregational members may be involved in group prayer. Your comments and suggestions are welcomed.

May God in His wisdom bless us all in the year ahead.

Peter Croker, David Dillon, Wayne Harris

3 OUTREACH PROGRAMMES - SHARING CHRIST WITH OTHERS

3.1 Rector and Wardens' Comments

In 2008 the parish commenced a Coffee Op Shop on the first Saturday of the month. This drew a number of people and made the church more visible to the local community through signs and banners. To build on the success of this it is intended to run another regular activity this time in the shopping centre precinct once a month.

The parish also supported the combined churches outreach BBQ at the Belconnen Town Centre.

Two outreach events at the church were the Community Hymn Fest and the Christ Files DVD series of discussions. Letter-box drops were done in Hawker and Weetangera to advertise both of these events.

Letter-box leaflet drops were also done to promote the Easter Services, the Parish Fete and the Christmas Services. For the Christmas services all five suburbs were covered and special signs displayed on Belconnen Way. The main church sign was moved to a more prominent position on the corner of Beetaloo St and Belconnen Way and is now well positioned for the display of temporary banner signs for special events. It is planned to use this feature more often in 2009.

For the first time a group of students from Wollongong University Christian Union visited the parish to conduct a "Mission". Several activities were organised including a children's party and carol event, door knocking, collecting for Anglicare, participating in the Coffee Op Shop and visiting residents at Ginninderra Gardens. It is intended to develop this relationship with Wollongong University students and to hold another "Mission" in 2009.

The Rector's observation to Council during the year was that evangelism all too easily drops off the agenda until we find our number's declining. Mission is part of our life-blood and identity. It is the church's core business (Matthew 28 16-20), We have been good at publicity, but need to learn afresh how to talk to people about Jesus. The input and enthusiasm of friends from Wollongong in this area was particularly encouraging and challenging.

3.2 Craft Group

We meet each Friday during term time at 9.30am until 11.30am and enjoy our time together. A few of the group occasionally attend a craft workshop or two during the year and are happy to share/show different items of craft they may have learnt.

We again contributed items to the Operation Christmas Child and from our "tea" money were able to provide money for the postage of four boxes.

The craft stall did well at the fete and my thanks to all the members who worked hard to put on a good show of craft in May.

Sadly, Edeth Boshier, one of our members for the last six years, died and we shall miss her company very much. Even when on some Fridays she would be quite unwell she would still come because she liked the company! I was asked by the family to help with sorting Edeth's craft room. The likes of our own craft group, the "Quilts for Others" sewing group (Canberra Quilters), the coordinator for the Christmas boxes (materials and lace etc.) Page Baptist Church and the knitters in our congregation all benefited from her "stash" of craft. We thank the family.

In December I caught up with Norma Wrigley and she wished to be remembered to all our members. She said she misses us all!

We had one new lady join this year but would welcome more and, even if it's not for any ladies in our congregation, maybe you know of someone who would like to join us.

Sheila Brimmer (Coordinator)

3.3 Link Missionaries

Our CMS "link missionaries" are Peter and Lynne and their daughter Abby. They were commissioned in February and are now serving in south-east Asia.

During the year we maintained our connection with Peter, Lynne and Abby through their prayer letters and some personal communications. As well we maintained our connection with CMS by hosting the "Canberra Mission Encounter" in September.

3.4 Operation Christmas Child

This year the parish was able to send 80 "shoe boxes" to Operation Christmas Child. Various groups and individuals contributed boxes and postage. In addition others provided specific materials to go into boxes and there was a Saturday morning working bee to make up a number of boxes. Many thanks to all those who contributed to this unusual outreach programme.

4 EDUCATION PROGRAMMES – LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

4.1 Rector and Wardens' Comments

Our education programmes continue on a very limited scale. EfM and KYB continued as the main ongoing education programmes together with some one off events such as the Christ Files DVD and discussion.

The parish does not have a strong tradition of home based study/fellowship groups. This is something that could be developed further.

4.2 Education for Ministry (EfM)

EfM is a four year course of theological education that is run as a joint activity between Christ Church Hawker and Holy Covenant Jamison. In 2008 we had nine members, four from Christ Church, five from Holy Covenant and one from St Barnabas Charnwood.

5 PASTORAL CARE PROGRAMMES - CARING FOR EACH OTHER

5.1 Rector and Wardens' Comments

This year the "Care Group" continued to work hard to ensure that pastoral care activities were maintained. The parish owes much to the dedicated work of the core members Jean Dillon, Jenny Nairn Sylvia Sutherland and Graeme Mayo. Without the dedicated work of this group and the many volunteers that they mobilise the work would not be possible.

The pastoral care work also continued at Ginninderra Gardens with a small group of dedicated volunteers who assist with services and visiting the residents. Pastoral visits are made to each resident

by carers and note taken of any worries they may have. Relationships are made and residents and carers benefit from these.

Discussions have commenced with Anglicare regarding a formal Anglicare- Christ Church partnership agreement that would formalise the work we do at Ginninderra Gardens as well as the Coffee Op Shop and future possibilities in wider community engagement. One of the aims of this would be to develop a recruitment and training programme for volunteer pastoral visitors at Ginninderra Gardens.

5.2 Pastoral Care Team

During 2008 the Care Team held monthly meetings from February through to November. Meetings were held in the homes of committee members and commenced with a time of devotion and prayer led by one of the Care Team.

General business included monthly progress reports from the coordinators of the Op Shop, Telecare, Bolognaise Bank, Prayer Chain and Pastoral Visitation and the planning and organizing of a variety of parish outreach social events for the year. The calendar of outreach social events included Sunday Club luncheons, an Asian Dine Out evening, a Comedy Film evening, a Soup, Toast and Trivia Night, a Wine and Cheese Evening and the 1st Saturday of the month Coffee/Op Shop all of which received strong support from parishioners and their friends. The Care Team acknowledges the interest, support and cooperation from members of the parish. Thank you and we look forward to increasing support and outreach throughout 2009.

Jean Dillon

5.3 Coffee Op. Shop

The Care team began a new venture this past year - the 'Coffee/Op Shop' - which started the beginning of March and was held the first Saturday of the month through to December. This was meant to be a form of outreach as well as a fund-raiser for the church and possibly a fund-raiser towards our building project and so far we have averaged \$200 per month in sales and donations throughout the year.

We have appreciated the volunteers who have been rostered on each month and have helped set up on the Friday afternoon prior to the Saturday morning, as well as serve morning teas and help with the sale of goods.

The 'Coffee/Op Shop' has been held mainly in the narthex and in the entrance area of the church and because of this, we need to set up by bringing all items out from behind the screens in the church and then pack everything away again afterwards.

We are now under the Anglicare umbrella for this venture. which means that we are covered with insurance, etc. during the running of the shop. Our aim has been to offer clean and well presented items for sale and we move 'things' on after 3 months of not selling, into an Anglicare bin for further sorting. People are coming back to buy, as they see the quality of our goods and that becomes known!

We have also made a few contacts during our morning tea sessions and it has also proved to be a good social gathering for our own members. We plan to continue throughout this year in much the same way!

Jenny Nairn

5.4 Telecare

The Telecare group continues to play an important role in the life of our church. It provides an effective means of letting people know what is happening at different times during the year. Equally as important is the channel it provides for people in the congregation to pass on information about their needs or situations to the Telecarers.

In 2008 we modified our approach to Telecare. In particular, by focusing on people who for a variety of reasons, do not regularly attend church, we were able to make more efficient use of our resources.

Many thanks to the loyal and dedicated group of Telecarers.

Graeme Mayo Convenor

5.5 OKAY's

In 2008, our numbers were reduced but the remaining members met on the second Wednesday of each month and enjoyed each other's company and the activities arranged by the coordinating group. We meet at members' homes.

Speakers this year included a podiatrist, an Olympic swimmer, a speaker on food standards, and speakers who had visited Vietnam and China. Members arranged a quiz, gave book reviews and knitted squares for two rugs which were donated to Anglicare.

Donations this year were made to the church for pottery flower containers (to replace the old brass ones) and to Anglicare for the Christmas Child project.

In the winter months we enjoyed our usual lunch at the Yacht Club and afternoon meetings with a traditional afternoon tea in a member's garden.

We concluded the year with Christmas Dinner. Unfortunately Father Christmas was sick and unable to attend this year.

A happy and productive year!

If you require any further information on this report please contact Barbara Carver on 6278 6535.

Wendy Boxall

5.6 Transport Report

Our volunteer team has done a sterling job throughout the year and we extend a hearty vote of thanks to those who are on the team.

At the moment there are only two parishioners who avail themselves of this service. Please feel free to discuss any requirement with me.

Tony Patrech Co-ordinator

5.7 Prayer Chain

The prayer chain has been activated a fair number of times this year and all those in the chain have benefited from being a part of it. However there is always a need for more people to join this ministry. If you would like to be a part of this vital ministry please contact me on Phone 6254 6720.
Sylvia Sutherland - Co-ordinator

6 MATERIAL RESOURCES - CARING FOR GOD'S GIFTS

6.1 Wardens' Comments

In general our physical resources are in good condition and suitable for the basic work of the parish. However the age of the facilities means that there are and will be a growing need for maintenance or replacement of specific items.

In 2008 the parish set a number of priorities for capital development. Of these the signage on Belconnen Way was the only one achieved in 2008.

Significant maintenance undertaken in 2008 included retiling of the bathroom in the Rectory, repairs to the rear deck at the Rectory (further work on the deck is required). Due to some unexpected complications the planned work to stabilise and protect the lead light window over the sanctuary was not done in 2008, but it is intended to have this work done as early as possible in 2009.

Our thanks go to Richard Blacksell, Lindsay and Jenny Gilchrist for their continued work in attending to maintenance issues.

In 2008 a car replacement reserve was commenced and \$3,000 was provided for this purpose.

The unexpected failure of the musical instrument in August highlighted the fact that the parish does not have a general equipment replacement reserve. Generous special donations were received that enabled a new “top of the range” musical instrument to be purchased and we are very grateful to all those who contributed to this.

Following the experience with the musical instrument the parish council undertook a review of parish equipment and has intends commencing an equipment replacement reserve in 2009 to ensure that we are providing properly for the ongoing operation of the parish.

An important part of our parish infrastructure is the regular Sunday Pew Sheet. This is the main form of communication within the parish and is an important first point of contact with visitors. We are greatly indebted to Mandy Proctor and Bryce and Anna Davy for their dedication in composing the Pew Sheet each week and to John Scarano for printing and folding it in time for the 8am service each Sunday. These are jobs which are not often noticed but without which the parish would not function.

Thank you also to Ros Goodwin for her wonderful work in designing and maintaining the parish web site. For those with access to the internet the address is: www.christchurchhawker.com.au

Finally we would also like to thank Jane Harris, Don Sutherland, Irene Thomas and all those who assist with the finances, collecting counting and banking the money and keeping the records.

6.2 Gardening

2008 was another challenging year for the church gardens; lack of good rain for many months was an ongoing issue. Our devoted band of gardeners, however, did their best to make the gardens neat tidy and colourful.

The “Gardening Gurus” also very much appreciated the morning tea which the Coffee Op-shop provided. Fellowship over a cup of tea/coffee and some cake or slice is a valuable part of the gardening activities.

Thanks to everyone who helped during the year.

Graeme Mayo Convenor

6.3 Fete

Our annual fete held on the second Saturday in May last year was very successful with proceeds amounting to around \$6,000. The success of our fete is largely dependent on everybody working together and the many hands willing to participate! Apart from the work involved, the annual fete provides a wonderful opportunity to socialise with others from our church. I know it is a lot of hard work but the ‘once a year’ effort is very well worthwhile and I do appreciate the dedication of all those involved! Once again, many thanks to you all (the fete can’t run without your help!)

Jenny Nairn - Fete Convenor

6.4 Trailer Report

There has not been much call for use of the trailer during the year. However, when it is needed the borrowers have been very grateful.

The trailer is in good condition. However, the holder for the registration label came adrift and will need to be replaced.

Tony Patrech Caretaker

7 FINANCIAL REPORT

7.1 Overview

The budget for 2008 indicated that there would be an operating “loss” of \$3,000 in the year. The actual result was an operating “loss” of -\$4,687.29.

The operating “loss” was funded by a reduction in retained (operating) earnings. The parish started the year with retained (operating) earnings of \$7,859.63 (accumulated operating surpluses from previous years) and ended the year with retained (operating) earnings of \$3,172.34.

In the course of the year the total parish reserve funds increased by an amount of \$7,909.06 . This was achieved through special donations, fund raising and regular transfers from the operating account.

Finally while it is not particularly useful to the day to day operation of the parish it is significant from an accounting sense to realise that after allowing for the acquisition of the new musical instrument, some depreciation and a significant revaluation of the church and rectory the parish had a net profit for 2008 of \$155,676.00. Overall the accounts show a net profit of \$155,676.99. This net profit increased the total equity of the parish to \$1,226,042.14 at the close of the year.

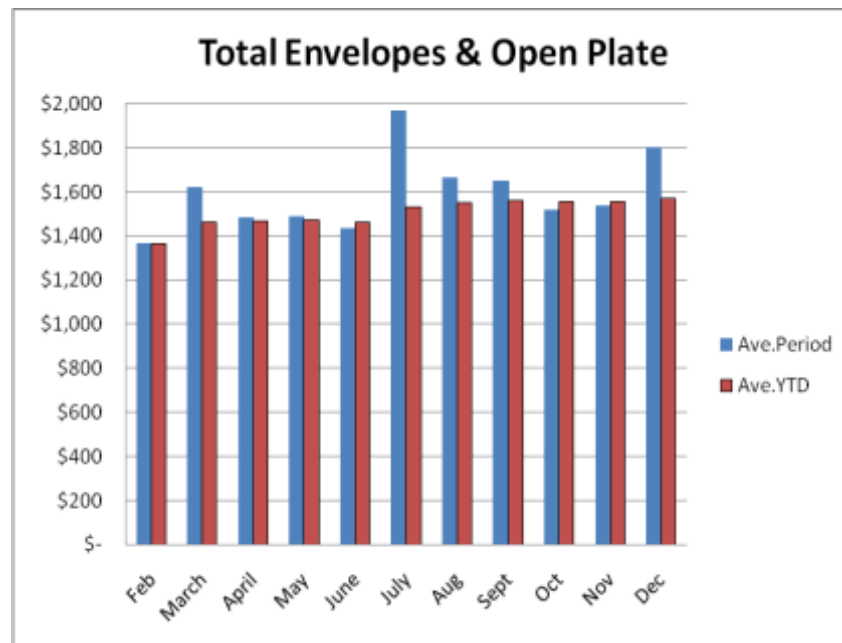
The audited financial accounts are attached.

7.2 Operating Income and Expenditure

The budgeted income from envelopes and open plate for the year was \$87,500 i.e. an average weekly amount of \$1,682.70. The income fell short by an amount of \$5,760 or approximately \$110 per week.

During the year a number of parishioners commenced regular direct debit payments to the parish as part of their regular committed giving. There was also an increase in the level of giving through weekly envelopes while there was a decrease in the open plate as a proportion of all giving.

The graph below shows how the level of weekly giving increased over the year.



Total operating expenses totalled \$100,191.47 for the year which was \$3,462.53 below budget.

For the first time the parish commenced making provision for the replacement of the parish car. An amount of \$3,000 was transferred to the dedicated reserves from the operating account in the course of the year.

7.3 Special Purpose Funds

Special purpose funds are an important part of the parish accounts. Two types of funds are maintained; dedicated special reserves which are identified for specific purposes, and undedicated general reserves. During the year significant maintenance was carried out on the Rectory which was paid for out of the accumulated maintenance reserve (a dedicated special purpose reserve). Money from the dedicated outreach reserve was also used during the year to pay for our contribution to the Belconnen Churches Outreach BBQ at Belconnen Mall, new signs to advertise Christmas services at Christ Church and leaflets for the Christmas letter-box drop.

Full details of the current amounts in the special reserves and the movement of money in and out of these reserves during the year is provided in the financial accounts.

7.4 Missions

The parish disbursed all of the Mission money to the identified mission organisations during the year. Details of these funds are also contained in the financial accounts.

7.5 Proposed 2008 Budget

Details of the proposed budget are attached. In order to “break-even” the budget requires an increase of 15% in weekly envelope and open plate giving. The target weekly average income is \$1,802. This compares with an actual average weekly income of \$1,572 in 2008.

The most significant increase in parish cost is the introduction of an equipment replacement reserve which is aimed to enable the parish to replace major items of equipment when they fail. It is hoped that this item will be partly offset by special “one off” additional donations from people who see this as an important provision for the continued operation of the parish.

This budget also introduces specific line items for Education, Pastoral Care and Outreach. While the amounts are not large it is important to make specific budget provision for these items. It is also hoped that some people may be moved to make specific “one off” additional donations towards this work. The budget assumes a total of \$1,500 is received in this way.

2009 Budget Summary

Total Income	\$110,675.00
Total Expenses	\$110,560.45
Operating Surplus	\$114.55

Required Weekly Envelopes and Open Plate \$1,802.00
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15% Increase above 2008

Christ Church Hawker - 2009 Draft Budget

	Budget 2009	Actual 2008	Variation to Actual 2008	% Change
Income				
Envelopes	81,705.00	72,544.45	9,160.55	13%
Open Plate	12,000.00	9,195.55	2,804.45	30%
Total Envelopes/Open Plate	93,705.00	81,740.00	11,965.00	15%
Fete - Transfer	3,000.00	3,000.00	-	0%
Transfer - Ginninderra Gardens	9,600.00	9,600.00	-	0%
Transfer - SP Outreach	1,500.00	695.00	805.00	116%
Sundry Income	450.00	450.00	-	0%
Bank Interest Received	20.00	19.18	0.82	4%
Value of Direct Donations	400.00	-	400.00	New
Special Appeal Equip. Replace.	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	New
Total Other Income	16,970.00	13,764.18	3,205.82	23%
TOTAL INCOME	110,675.00	95,504.18	15,170.82	16%
Staff Expense				
Stipend plus Assoc Pay. Costs	61,758.16	59,164.83	2,593.33	4%
Insurance Workers Comp	1,284.79	1,230.84	53.95	4%
Relief Clergy	772.50	370.00	402.50	109%
Motor Vehicle Exp	3,600.00	3,087.90	512.10	17%
Motor Vehicle Replace. Reserve	3,000.00	3,000.00	-	0%
Business Expense				
Audit Fee	500.00	2,000.00	- 1,500.00	-75%
Bank Charges	5.00	5.00	-	0%
Children's ministry and RE	300.00	220.35	79.65	36%
Conferences and Courses	1,100.00	1,085.12	14.88	1%
Insurance incl Public Liability	3,400.00	3,309.50	90.50	3%
Postage & PO Box	140.00	133.42	6.58	5%
Stationery & Printing	700.00	1,390.86	- 690.86	-50%
Subscriptions/Licences	485.00	469.55	15.45	3%
Telephone	1,500.00	1,495.48	4.52	0%
Trailer	50.00	50.09	- 0.09	0%
Synod Expenses	500.00	267.27	232.73	87%
Worship Expenses	500.00	711.38	- 211.38	-30%
Pastoral Care Expenses	100.00	-	100.00	New
Education Expenses	50.00	-	50.00	New
Outreach Expenses	2,380.00	-	2,380.00	New
Site Expenses				
Diocesan Contribution	12,000.00	12,000.00	-	0%
Utilities - Church	2,510.00	2,439.92	70.08	3%
Utilities - Rectory	3,500.00	3,398.47	101.53	3%
Rates - Rectory	820.00	796.32	23.68	3%
Consumables and Minor Maint.	200.00	12.50	187.50	1500%
Maintenance Reserve Transfer	2,640.00	2,400.00	240.00	10%
Security	525.00	509.00	16.00	3%
Equip. Replac. Reserve Transfer	5,400.00	-	5,400.00	New
Missions				
7% of Open Plate	840.00	643.69	196.31	30%
TOTAL EXPENSES	110,560.45	100,191.49	10,368.97	10%
Operating Surplus/Deficit	114.55	- 4,687.31	4,801.85	-102%