

Anglican Church of Australia
Parish of Christ Church Hawker
Annual Report – February 2006 to January 2007

1 OVERVIEW

The past year was in some ways a year of consolidation after the excitement of paying off our debts and the consecration of the church building in 2005. It was rather surprising to find that attendance figures actually dropped in the first few months of the year but from about mid-year on attendances gradually climbed and in the latter half of the year were actually the highest for three years.

From a financial point of view, having no debt the parish was made a small surplus for the year.

A successful planning day was held in March and a Parish Plan was published that set the direction for the year. This plan included a number of actions including the introduction of parish breakfasts between the two services at 9am. The suggestion made at the planning day is to ultimately develop a “rolling worship” concept for Sunday morning with people able to come when they want to and leave when they must. The breakfasts proved to be very popular with people staying on after the 8am service and some people coming early for 10am. By the end of the year breakfasts were being held twice a month and some tentative steps towards using the 9am slot for a range of activities had been taken.

Our Rector, Colin Dundon, announced his intention to retire at the end of the year and the process of selecting a new Rector began. The first step in the process of selecting a new Rector was a parish consultation, facilitated by Bishop Allan Ewing in September. Based on this consultation the Parish Profile was completed and the clergy appointments board was established by the Bishop.

The clergy appointments board has not been able to identify a single person with all of the qualities the parish was seeking in a Rector. Consequently, following extensive consideration by parish council and detailed discussion with the Bishop, it is proposed to adopt a “ministering community” style approach with the appointment of three part time clergy in 2007. The ministering community approach will also draw on greater involvement of a number of lay people in the parish and is hoped to provide an environment that will allow and encourage a wider range of gifts to be used to benefit the parish.

While we look to the future with anticipation and some trepidation we are sad to say good-bye to Colin and Joy Dundon who have served us faithfully and well for the past four years. We wish them well as they enter a new phase in their lives.

Our pastoral care work continued at Ginninderra Gardens and was an important element in helping the residents and staff through some particularly difficult times.

The parish has shared a number of joys and sorrows during the year. There have been several baptisms giving a hope for generational change in the future but we have also seen the passing of John Paice and Lloyd Wrigley, they will be sorely missed.

As in previous years this Annual Report has been structured to reflect the major programme areas of the parish. Each of the programme areas has an introduction with the thoughts from our Rector Colin, followed by some additional comments from the Wardens and Council and then the specific reports from the various groups active in this area. The programme areas are:

- Worship - praising God together
- Outreach - sharing with others
- Education - caring for each other
- Pastoral Care - learning from each other
- Material Resources - caring for God’s gifts

2 WORSHIP PROGRAMMES - PRAISING GOD TOGETHER

2.1 Rector and Wardens' comments

With the exception of January, Palm Sunday, Easter and Christ the King the 8am service has continued as the principal service. With the introduction of the parish breakfasts, now twice a month, the 10am service is expected to be developed more to appeal to families with children.

Several baptisms have been held as part of the 10am service during the year. The use of the projector has both brightened these occasions and made it easier for people who are not familiar with the prayer book. With more children regularly attending services a children's table with toys and books has been introduced at the rear of the nave to try to make services more children friendly.

The South Transept has been set up as an area for prayer and contemplation. It was used on several occasions for prayer vigils, especially when John Paice and Lloyd Wrigley were ill. This area is now also used on a regular weekly basis by the Men's Prayer Group which was formed during the year.

Non Sunday worship continues in the parish with the Wednesday 10am service and the Friday evening Café Church. Both services provide a sought after time of fellowship and worship for their regular members. Each of these groups is developing its own form of worship with lay leaders taking an increasing role in the development of the groups.

The Thursday worship at Ginninderra Gardens continues to meet the needs of residents and has also offered significant opportunities for lay members of the parish to contribute.

Music plays an important role in our worship. The formation of a choir which is able to perform on special occasions has added significantly to these events.

Our regular group of Lay Readers has continued to assist Colin in leading services. Beth Dimmick and Cath Tregua have both joined us during the year and have contributed to our worship as they have developed their own vocation. We thank them both for sharing in our worship.

Ultimately our worship is a corporate activity which have benefited from the contributions by many people in preparing the services setting up the sanctuary, arranging the flowers, cleaning the church, welcoming people and participating in the services through music, intercession reading etc. Our thanks go to everyone who has contributed.

3 OUTREACH PROGRAMMES - SHARING WITH OTHERS

3.1 Rector and Wardens' Comments

Baptism services have been an opportunity for outreach this year. Almost all of these have been held as part of the 10am Sunday service and the opportunity has been taken to make the families feel at home in our parish community.

All of the families who have had baptisms in recent years were individually invited to attend the patronal festival of Christ the King in November and at least one family did attend.

At Christmas there was a letter-box drop to most of the homes in the parish to invite people to the Christmas Services. These services were well attended, particularly the 6pm Children's service. This service in particular was a great success.

Café church continued in 2006 with the young people taking a greater in organising the programme.

The College chaplaincy developments are still going very slowly. The Hawker College board has not yet agreed to having a chaplain but Scripture Union continues to press this issue.

It has become clear that the suburbs in our parish are undergoing a significant generational change. About 30% of the homes in the parish have sold in the last five years and many young families are moving into the area. Hawker and Weetangera primary schools in particular have high enrolments and both Hawker College and Belconnen High have near record levels of enrolment. There is a strong desire to try to reach out to these younger families and the appointment of a part-time Deacon in 2007

with particular responsibility for ministry to Families and Young people is aimed at strengthening our ability to contact and relate to these groups in our community.

3.2 Craft Group

This group continues to meet each Friday morning during term time. Our main aim being to stock the craft stall at the Fete each year.

During the year a member of Canberra Quilters demonstrated/helped us to try our hand at some miniature patchwork- very painstaking!

We were again able to contribute some items for "Operation Christmas Child 2006".

Our main project this year has been making and donating baby and toddler items for the "Karinya Mother and Baby House". This house is a safe haven of understanding and compassion for young women who need support in their lives and we were made aware of this need through a member of the group. Altogether 33 items were made. Thank you to members of our church who provided materials for some of these items.

We finished the year with an "in-house" Christmas morning tea to which former members and those who have helped during the year came along.

This year the craft group will have been meeting since 1986.

Sheila Brimmer (January 2007)
Coordinator

4 EDUCATION PROGRAMMES – LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

4.1 Rector and Wardens' Comments

Education for Ministry is an adult learning program to equip the people of God for ministry. Holy Covenant and Christ Church continued to co-operate in the venture.

This year the group met at Christ Church and was led by our Rector Colin Dundon. Several new members joined the group and we had at least two people in each "year" of the course.

The parish does not have a strong tradition of home based study/fellowship groups. This is something that could be developed further. In 2006, a Know Your Bible (KYB) group met regularly at Jenny Gilchrist's home, and, during Lent Nich and Helena Hills opened their home for a small fellowship/study group.

5 PASTORAL CARE PROGRAMMES - CARING FOR EACH OTHER

5.1 Rector' and Wardens' Comments

The pastoral visiting continued at Ginninderra Gardens, with several people from Christ Church involved on a regular basis each week. This year the pastoral work done by the volunteers, the two lay chaplains Hazel Oliver and Glenda Carbury and led by our Rector Colin has been particularly important to the staff and residents as Ginninderra Gardens went through a number of difficulties.

The model of care at Ginninderra Gardens with its lay chaplains and parish based team is one that can be further developed.

For some time Christ Church has discussed the possibility of additional staff. This year a proposal was developed to appoint a part-time minister to act as a focal point for pastoral care work in the parish. A number of parishioners have made specific pledges towards funding this position and the decision has been made to appoint Beth Dimmick, a recently ordained deacon to this role in 2007. Our thanks go to all those who have pledged money to support this work.

The prayer chain has continued to be an important way of communicating pastoral needs, but a couple of specific events during the year highlighted the need for system to quickly disseminate information

to a wide range of people. In 2007 it is planned to develop a more structured way to improve communication within the parish.

5.2 Okays

Although several of our members were away travelling during the year, we did manage to meet regularly, mostly on the evening of the second Wednesday in the month.

This year we tried a couple of daytime meetings during the winter months. Once we spent a Saturday afternoon at a member's house and enjoyed a pleasant stroll around her garden. Our July luncheon at the Yacht Club and our March picnic at Lotus Bay seem to have become regular parts of our programme.

Speakers during 2006 were Lyn Leyton who spoke about refugees, Beverley von Stein speaking about dyslexia and some possible solutions, and Noelle Packnall relating some of her own experiences as an ex-pat. living in the USA. Each speaker provided us with a lot to think about and there were lighter moments too.

On other evenings we had quizzes, sing-songs, drinks and nibbles, a shared dinner and even one evening we had a "Grumpy Old Women" session, which gave us a chance to laugh at ourselves!

We concluded our year with a Christmas dinner at "Lassiters", Gold Creek.

Any woman who would like to join us is welcome to attend a meeting on the second Wednesday of the month. The venue changes each month so you will need to ring Ros 6241 1948

Barbara Carver

5.3 Birthday Card Ministry

For those of you who have a birthday in April please accept my apology as last year I forgot to send you a card. I did write them, even put stamps on the envelopes but then they managed to disappear under some files.

I have been sending birthday cards on behalf of the parish for the last six years which has been a joy to me. However, God seems to be pointing me in another direction but not giving me any extra hours in my day and so I am handing the birthday list on to Jenny Nairn. I am sure she will enjoy this ministry as much as I have and I wish her well.

Hazel Oliver

5.4 TELECARE Ministry

I hope you have enjoyed the calls made by our team over the last year. We have talked our way through approximately 300 calls during the year to inform and to listen, and everyone has been most kind to us in return. There have often been conversations we would never have had face to face due in part to time and location and these have been a great blessing. There are some parishioners who do not attend church regularly but by wearing our name tags when they do see us are happy to come up to us and introduce themselves. This is the pastoral care we provide with very happy and loving hearts.

I would like to thank each person on the team, Betty Barker, Joyce Crane, Merle Fitzpatrick, Patricia Hooper, Margaret McArthur, Sylvia Sutherland and Norma Wrigley for the ministry they have provided for the parish. I will still be part of the team for the coming year but the co-ordinator will be Graeme Mayo. He will remind us all when to make our calls and provide us with times for the special services. I wish God's blessing on the team and thank you all for the support you have given me.

Hazel Oliver

5.5 Transport Report

A mixed year – we had three regulars from Villagio SanD'Antonio and Ridgecrest Villiage. Another person asked to be "put on hold"

Sadly we miss Lloyd Wrigley shoes passing left a vacancy in our driver roster. Thank you Lloyd and Norma for many years of service.

John Scarano has filled the need, thank you John and also to the other drivers on the roster.

Tony Patrech
Co-ordinator

5.6 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 Rector and Wardens' Comments

The gardeners deserve our special thanks for their care of our property. It is an oasis in our shopping precinct.

The fete was a success and thanks to everyone who worked so hard. We now have to look to the future and ask what our needs are.

The major maintenance item in 2006 was intended to be the replacement of the Rectory fence. Unfortunately we are caught in a bureaucratic tangle with the ACT government seeking approval for the fence replacement. However, it will be replaced as soon as we can get the approval.

There are a number of other maintenance items needed around the Rectory. These are being listed and will be attended to as soon as practical. In the meantime a parishioner has donated a new phone system for use in the Rectory and we will be getting this installed in the near future.

As indicated in the annual report last year during 2006 we set aside a regular amount into a maintenance account. The aim is to try to smooth out large maintenance costs by providing a regular amount each month. In 2007 we will look to begin the same approach for the parish car. The car is now four years old and we will need to commence planning to replace it, probably in the next year or so.

During the year Richard Blacksell has done work on the PA system. Among other improvements it is now possible to put speakers outside the front of the church so that people standing outside can hear more easily when we have large events.

6.2 Trailer Report

The trailer has had plenty of use during the year. Apart from registration and third party insurance there were no expenses.

Tony Patrech
Co-ordinator

7 THE FUTURE

7.1 Rector and Wardens' Comments

We started 2006 with a "Dreaming Book" during the year a number of ideas emerged but it was the Planning Day and later the parish Consultation which began to form up our dreams to see Christ Church become a strong vital parish with a wide cross section of people actively involved in pastoral care, worship, education and outreach.

In the end we have been led to the idea of forming a “ministering community” involving ordained and lay people in a partnership mutual ministry and support. We have many very capable people in the parish and together with the team of part-time clergy who will bring particular gifts and skills to the parish we are about to embark on a new era in the life of Christ Church.

We will be seeking to strengthen and support all of the existing members of the parish building on the things that we all cherish about Christ Church. At the same time we will be seeking to reach out to the many people both young and old in our community who do not currently attend church.

Our hope is that we will develop a real sense of community and that new people will feel that they can “belong” and know that they are cared for. Then as people get to know us and as we begin to share our individual stories with them we hope that they will come to “believe” the gospel message.