

St Paul's

2015

AGM

- ☐ Who and what are we as the church of St Paul's today?
- ☐ What will we look like, and be, in 1 year, 5 years and beyond?
- ☐ What do we give to the greater good and the becoming of all?
- ☐ Are we growing – are we becoming the "Body of Christ"?

Contents

1. Reflection on our ministry
2. AGM Reports
   - *Warden*
   - *Finance*
   - *Groups*
   - *Deacon & Rector*
3. Issues for our future
4. Questions for our future
   - *Small group discussion*
5. References & Reading

Agenda

Introduction & formalities
Warden's report
Financial report
Deacon's report
Rector's report
Small group discussions
Designing our future
Any other business
Record of outcomes

Where talents and the needs of the world cross,
therein lies your vocation.
Aristotle

Our Ministry

In the Church

- ☐ Eucharist
- ☐ Services for reflection & celebration
- ☐ Morning & Evening prayer
- ☐ Community development
- ☐Spiritual growth
- ☐ Church council
- ☐ Deacon
- ☐ Wardens
- ☐ LA + LPM ministry
- ☐ Choir & Musicians
- ☐ Sparkle ministry
- ☐ Pastoral Support
- ☐ Elders Morning Teas
- ☐ First Tuesday Club
- ☐ Community 'on-the-block'
- ☐ Support; Office, Accounts, service sheets, postings, web-site, archives…
- ☐ Volunteers & Rosters: sacristans, flowers, morning tea, sides-people, counters, cleaners, readers, laundry, graffiti wall, Elm dance
- ☐ Study, Prayer & Reflection groups
- ☐ Fundraising & Events
- ☐ Gardening & maintenance groups/volunteers
- ☐ Saturday breakfasts

and more…

Of the Church

- ☐ Baptisms
- ☐ Weddings/receptions
- ☐ Funerals
- ☐ Just Manna
- ☐ IGWR
- ☐ Reach for Life
- ☐ Pastoral care
- ☐ Regular hall users
- ☐ One off 'events'

Beyond the Church

- ☐ Burundi church
- ☐ Muslim community
- ☐ Zen community
- ☐ AA community
- ☐ IGWR children
- ☐ Sponsors
- ☐ Volunteers to Nepal
- ☐ Ministry in Nepal
- ☐ Just Manna
- ☐ Local 'welfare' support
- ☐ Street Doctor
- ☐ Sudanese community
- ☐ Other aid agencies
- ☐ Reach for Life
- ☐ Volunteers
- ☐ Prisoners

Although just a drop in the ocean, Our ministry has a ripple effect



Being part of a church community is no longer a priority for most in our society..
And we as "the Church" can readily appreciate that 'things aren't what they used to be'.
As a minority group with a wonderful insight we now have an opportunity to 'know again' the journey of the early disciples…….



Our Ministry

As we look to the future there are realities in the present that need to be considered and that might help us in determining the future; likewise there are also opportunities that open a way forward.

❍ We 'know' that 'The Church' experiences change and yet we are often lulled into thinking(wishing) that nothing has changed; these two 'TRENDS' from the National Church Life Survey illuminate some changes:

☐ (NCLS) data shows that over the last four decades the proportion of Australians attending church at least once per month has more than halved from 36% (1972) to 13% currently. However this is still a significant proportion of the Australian population and indeed twice as many Australians attend church at least once per month (3.495m) as attend all AFL, NRL, A League and Super Rugby games combined per month (1.684m) during the football season

☐ The other trend in attendances is that regular attenders are coming less regularly. For example the percentage who attend weekly is dropping and the percentage who attend fortnightly or once every three or four weeks is rising. This trend has shown up continuously over the last 15 years. No doubt the busyness of people's lifestyles and activity has led to "committed Christians" being part of a church but only coming once, twice or three times a month instead of weekly or even twice a week which might have been the norm in the 70's and 80's.

❍ We also (hopefully) all experience changes in our St Paul's community and in the various communities in whose lives we share.

☐ As the NCLS surveys illustrate, we can benefit from seeing changing 'trends' for they can illuminate actual change, and also give us some sense of where our current 'life' is moving toward.
The changing make-up of the St Paul's community, the differences we experience Sunday by Sunday and the different groups that we interact with all will give us something to reflect upon.

❍ It has been a 'different' year, and that has also raised issues and opportunities.

- ☐ We experienced a different start to Advent and some shared ministry with John Shepherd.
- ☐ With Peter 'on leave' we experienced John's ministry through to Easter.
- ☐ Some changes have been introduced to our regular liturgy
- ☐ Both the Choir and the Sparkles group have lost some of their previous energy
- ☐ Saturday Breakfasts and Friday Fire-pit gatherings have both enhanced the community 'feel'.
- ☐ Much of our "giving' is now engaging and assisting the wider communities
- ☐ We have enjoyed and shared with hall users and many 'other' groups in various ways
- ☐ And each of us has another year of life experience that we didn't have before…..

continued……..



Opportunities & Issues

Our Ministry

❍ What do we read from the changes in numbers attending church?

There are some signs of regeneration that are often overlooked when we only consider the numbers attending on Sunday and these might be indicative of our movement into the future…..

- ❍ We have grown in our 'giving', and in our ministry beyond the parish.
- ❍ Our work through IGWR, Just Manna and Reach for Life has grown
- ❍ Our involvement and interaction with wider 'communities' has broadened:

  Muslim Community, Hall groups, AA meetings etc.

❍ Children's Ministry

The presence of children in church is a delight and a very real sign of new life; however changing priorities and pressures have significantly affected the 'faith development' of children in the home, school and so too the church. We continue to review and revise our Sparkles offerings and should also remember that we have 74 children supported in Nepal, and they are very much 'looked after' by our ministry here.

❍ A broader understanding of 'being' the church (in the world)

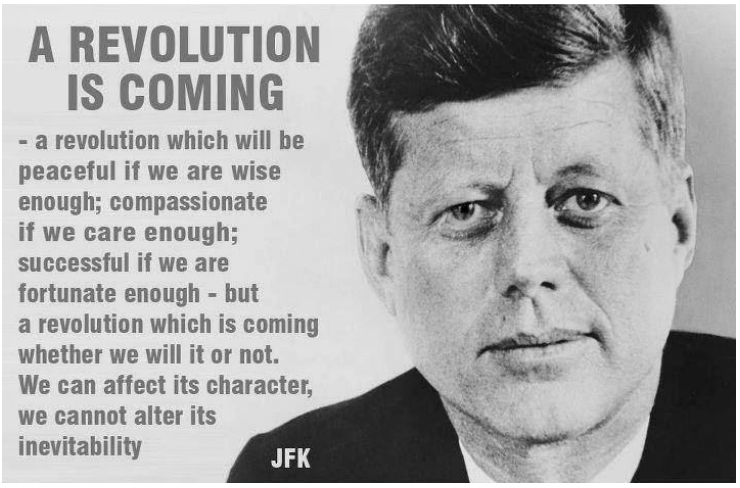
Our ministry is no longer contained in parish boundaries, nor restricted to those who attend church; we no longer 'fear' people of other faiths, or those from different faiths and cultures; and perhaps the most profound change is that we are a minority (like the early church).

No longer relying on the weight of Christendom, we are now creative of a new movement; how we reach out and embrace the world will therefore be a creative endeavor, and one that can engage and encounter in new and adventurous ways.

❍ What is our calling and has it also changed from what is was before?

As a minority movement with a counter-cultural gospel and therefore in contradiction with many current trends; we can again explore the essence of all that Christ reveals.

As we consider the future of this 'community' we might be mindful of what we can give to bring Christ's enlightenment alive for others.



To the extent that your work takes into account the needs of the world, it will be meaningful; to the extent that through it you will express your own unique talents, it will be joyful.

Laurence G. Boldt

Warden's Report

AGM Reports



It is timely to look back over the past year but also to look to the year ahead. As I do this I am influenced by recent sermons & the post Easter reflections on looking at *resurrection & life beyond the tomb*.
One simple reflective practice for me in considering *resurrection* is to ask the question, "What gives me life?" It is also interesting to ask the question, "What drained me of life" or "What keeps me in the tomb?"
As a Warden at St Paul's & a church member living on the "block" my personal life & that of the life of St Paul's is inseparable.

What gave me Life?

Wedding
In July 2014 we celebrated the marriage of our son, Timothy to his partner, Kate. The service & reception held at St Paul's was a wonderful occasion for us. This was clearly an event that "gave me life" & further linked my personal life to the life of St Paul's. Unfortunately the ensuing complaint from one neighbour in regards to the noise from the reception was a clear example of "*what drains me of life*" and a reminder that living in community is not without its difficulties.

Funerals
In January 2015 we had another family celebration at St Paul's; on this occasion it was the funeral service for my Mother. As St Paul's had been the last place my Mother had worshipped before she slipped further into dementia, it was a very beautiful & meaningful place for her farewell. The support I received from the St Paul's community made it a wonderful occasion.
Celebrating the life of my Mother connected me to others as they too celebrated the life & grieved the passing of their loved ones. I think of Ruth in the loss of Dee, Thea in the passing of Ron, Peter Smith with his mum and the passing of Noel Coward and Beth, as well as others. Whilst saddened by these deaths, their presence has & continues to enrich our lives.

Ordination
Another wonderful life giving moment for me and for that of St Paul's this year has been Michael's ordination. Whilst this event was the culmination of all that had gone before, it was our moving to St Paul's that brought his vocation clearly into focus.



What other events gave me Life?

Sabbatical:
This year saw Peter take a 3 month sabbatical, and to find a suitable replacement became a major focus for Church Council; it was therefore a delight that we welcomed the Rev. John Shephard to St Paul's. The Advent & Lenten programmes as well as the "Heretic's Anonymous" evenings were well attended from both inside & outside the parish.
The Sunday evening services with the inclusion of the sung motets & poetry readings & discussions lead by Professor Chris Wortham further added to the life of St Paul's.
It is also life giving to see the energy with which Peter has returned following his sabbatical

Restoration of the Hall:
The Hall restoration work being funded by Lotterywest will bring new life to our hall. Work is due to commence in the last week of June 2015.
The various groups who use the hall & other precinct facilities further add to the life of the community.

Continued…..

Warden's Report continued

AGM Reports

Visit to Nepal:
In October I took the opportunity to visit Nepal to witness first-hand the work of IGWR. I can relate to "Thomas the doubter" in that I needed to see, feel & experience the wounds of Christ before I really understood the significance of what was enfolding with the work of IGWR in Nepal.

Ministry:
In a recent sermon, Peter quoted, the following:

"Whether or not God Exists is entirely up to us.
For God comes into being by what we do and do not do.
Neither you nor I are God but what we're doing may be."
From "God is the Good We Do" by Michael Benedikt.

When I think of ministry, I am reminder of the ministry of hospitality I experienced & observed demonstrated by Joan Matthews. In her senior years Joan continued to host a luncheon to which she always invited Peter Humphris as well as a different couple each month with whom she either wanted to welcome to St Paul's or get to know better.
I am also reminder of another senior member of St Paul's who attends the Saturday morning breakfasts each week. This person works quietly in the background, waits on table, serves others & later clears away & does all the dishes. What a wonderful gift to us all.
It is my hope that every person at St Paul's will be able to identify their own unique form of ministry or to quote Peter from his sermon last Sunday, "We each and all have a part to play in tomorrow's unfolding": an unfolding for our common future.

Summary:

In response to last Sunday's sermon, it is both my '*desire*' and '*purpose*' to continue to offer all that I am to and for the church. Whilst much of my work has involved routine maintenance & management issues, it is my hope that 2015/2016 will see a greater focus on the unfolding of community & the expanding & strengthening of personal ministries.
Michael & I will be taking extended leave from St Paul's from July 2015. Our time away will include a road trip to Cape York as well as a visit to the IGWR project in Nepal.
"So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please Him." 2 Corinthians 5: 9

Joan Jessup
Peoples Warden
June 2015






Financial Report

$$$

AGM Reports

Financial Report to the Parish of Beaconsfield for the year ending 30/04/2015

This has been a successful year for the Parish. We spent $11,000 more than we received, but this included paying $46,000 off our loan. We finished the year with an account balance of 6,433.94. Of this amount $ 1150.00 for loan contributions during April still has to be transferred to the loan, together with accounts outstanding totalling $3596.87, reducing the balance to $1687.07. (We owe $10,500 assessment)

Income: We showed increases in Offerings; significant increase in Services (Weddings/Funerals/Baptisms); increase in hire of property; and a decrease in fundraising income to that budgeted for.

Expenditure: Stipends and associated costs were lowered, due to John Dunnill's appointment to Nedlands Parish; Worship and Services expenses were marginally lower; costs for fellowship activities/ seniors morning tea were very largely reduced; and sundry expenses were lower. Church/Rectory/Hall maintenance and running costs were significantly increased over budget. It is important to realise that regular reviews of stipend/ travelling costs invariably increase these payments, along with increases to rates, and costs associated with the kitchen of which we were not aware in the planning stages.

We continue to be blessed by Eddie Vagg's bequest providing solar panels on the Rectory roof, which covers a large part of electricity costs. Our Synergy account is currently in credit balance as at 30th April.

$$$

Loan Account.

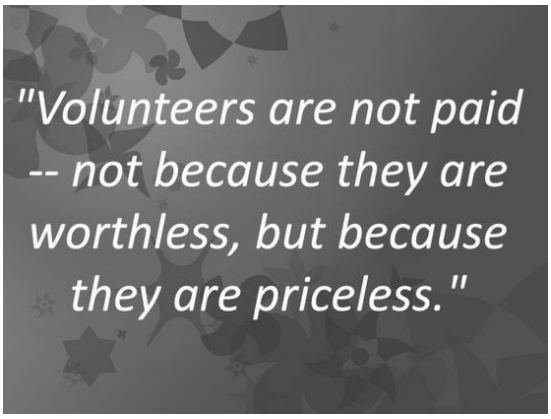
The loan balance stands at $44716.26. Interest on the loan for the 2014/5 year was $3819.83, but we benefitted from a reduction in interest rate earlier in the year to 5.95% and again in mid-April to 5.74%. I estimate that the balance by April 30th next year will be about $ 8000.00 and will be fully repaid in July 2016.

$$$

National Trust.

We have re-opened this account for contributions for restoration purposes where parishioners would like a tax deductible receipt. The balance is currently $13,173.88

Thank you Bob Matthews (treasurer) and Maureen for all your work in keeping our books balanced…
Thank You Michael Ellis for auditing our accounts.
And thanks to all who count the collection each week



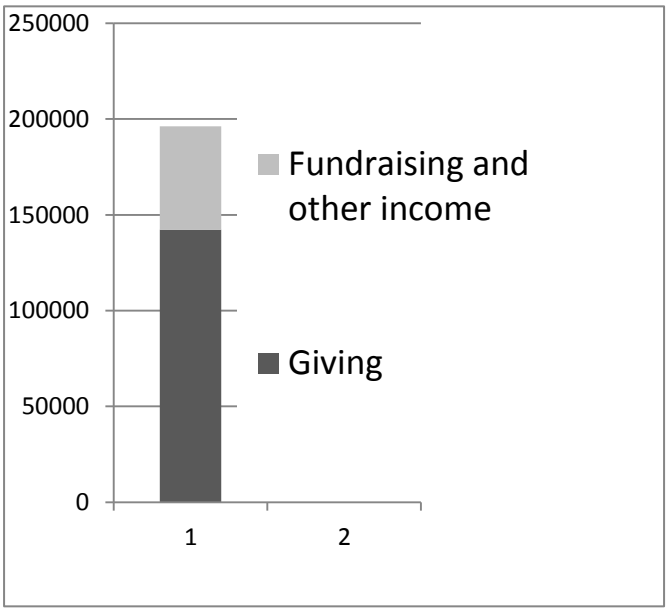
Financial Report 2

AGM Reports

A look at the numbers……..



Income	
Total Offerings	**132,515**
Total Income from Services	16,015
Total Hire of Church Property	20,054
Total Fundraising and Appeals	15,378
Total Other Income	2,508
Giving for capital (restoration fund and sound sys)	9,784
Total Income	**196,254**



Expenses	
Total Diocesan payments	**89,976**
Total Worship and Services Expense	**7,600**
Total Activities Expenses	**1,606**
Total Church Expenses	**7,701**
Total Rectory/Office Expenses	**40,303**
Total Hall Expenses	**1,221**
Total Other Expenses	**2,431**
Interest on loan	**3,819**
Loan repayments	**45,860**
Capital Expenditure (see note above)	**6,603**
Total	**207,120**

Loan opening balance	**88,756**
Interest on loan	3,820
Loan repayments	-45,860
Loan closing balance	**46,716**

Did You Know?

We pay for the priests stipends (wages)
We pay all the regular bills – rates, insurance, gas, electricity
We pay for every maintenance job completed on our buildings
And we pay for every ministry activity that reaches beyond our community a**nd then… we also pay** a % to 'Church Office' for the ministry of the wider Communion in the Diocese of Perth….

EVERYTHING WE DO is dependent on OUR GIVING

In addition to our "parish" giving, we also ***give*** to our ministries through:

JUST MANNA **$14,896**
IGWR **$90,424**

These ministries very much illustrate that we are Making a difference

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

AGM Reports

JUST MANNA INCORPORATED

BACKGROUND:
Just Manna Inc is a charitable organisation associated with St Paul's Anglican Church, Beaconsfield.
The Committee made up of representatives from the St Paul's Church, meets monthly.

AIM:
To provide direct relief of poverty, sickness, suffering, distress, disability or helplessness including financial & non-financial assistance to people in Australia. A particular focus is on assisting former refugees in the Australian community & others seeking residence in Australia.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014/2015:

AFRICAN COMMUNITIES:
Just Manna has continued to support members of various Africa communities in Western Australia.
This support has included:

- provision of both financial advice & support
- support with housing & household expenses
- provision of house hold goods, clothes, and computers
- emotional support
- assistance with visa application
- job seeking, CV writing, job interview training
- vehicle assistance
- driving lessons



CHRISTMAS RELIEF:
Just Manna provided over 60 food hampers, gifts and gift vouchers to families and individuals.

MEALS:
Just Manna has continued to distribute 100's of pre-packed frozen meals to those in need.
This service is a generous gift from Amy Jessup…… Thank you Amy.

COMPUTERS:
Just Manna has provided 13 refurbished computers to students. Thank you, David Gibson for your on-going assistance in refurbishing these computers.

STREET DOCTOR:
Just Manna has continued to develop their relationship with the "Street Doctor" & have been able to respond to requests for meals, bedding, furniture, washing machines & fridges.
This is an on-going need & donations of household goods, especially white goods are greatly appreciated.

PASTORAL CARE/ EMOTIONAL SUPPORT:
Members of the St Paul's Pastoral Care team as well as Just Manna Committee members provide valuable emotional support as required…… Thank you Claire Barendrecht & Michael Jessup.

Continued……

AGM Reports

JUST MANNA INCORPORATED continued



FUNDING/ DONATIONS:
Just Manna relies entirely on donations of money & goods. All donations over $2 are tax deductable.

QUEST ACCOMMODATION: Just Manna was delighted to receive 30 Fridges, 30 microwaves & 6 dishwashers for distribution as a result of an upgrade to their Fremantle facility. Not only did these items help those in need it also reduced unnecessary landfill….. Thank you Quest Accommodation.

VICTORIA'S GIFT: Recently, Victoria Mercer relocated to a residential care facility. Whilst she was sad to leave her unit at St Paul's, her generous donation of household goods were gratefully received by 3 families in need….. Thank you Victoria.

LINE DANCING: Each week a group of ladies use the St Paul's hall for Line Dancing. 100% of the money charged for the sessions is donated to Just Manna….. Thank you Gillian Loffell & the Line Dancers'.

We thank all those who have given so generously to Just Manna; your support enables us to help others.

Joan Jessup
Chairperson 2015

Committee Members:
Lyn Sherwood, Di Robinson, Laurel Ellis (Treasurer), Angela Wilson, Claire Barendrecht, Jenny Warren, Kim Kemp, Robin Coopes-Williams, Michael Jessup (Secretary).

The Archive Group



The archive Group has been busy this year with enquiries about forbears who were ANZACS & were aware that St Paul's church has an Honour Board with 89 names on it, also a "Roll of Honour Board" with 300 names on it.
Much interest was shown by relatives of the HALE family, about the chair that is still in use by the Minister to sit on during services. It was presented to St Paul's Church in loving memory of 1501 gunner Vernon Hale late of the 29th Battery, 8th Field Artillery, who died as a result of War Injuries on January 24th, 1925, aged 32 years, this gave his family much pleasure to learn about the chair in his memory.
We continue to receive archival material from time to time, from members of the parish & outer community.

George & Margaret Paynter & Val Pearson

We are the holders of a wonderful story, beyond the chapters of the past we pen the chapters of tomorrow; we give thanks to those who faithfully keep the records of the story.

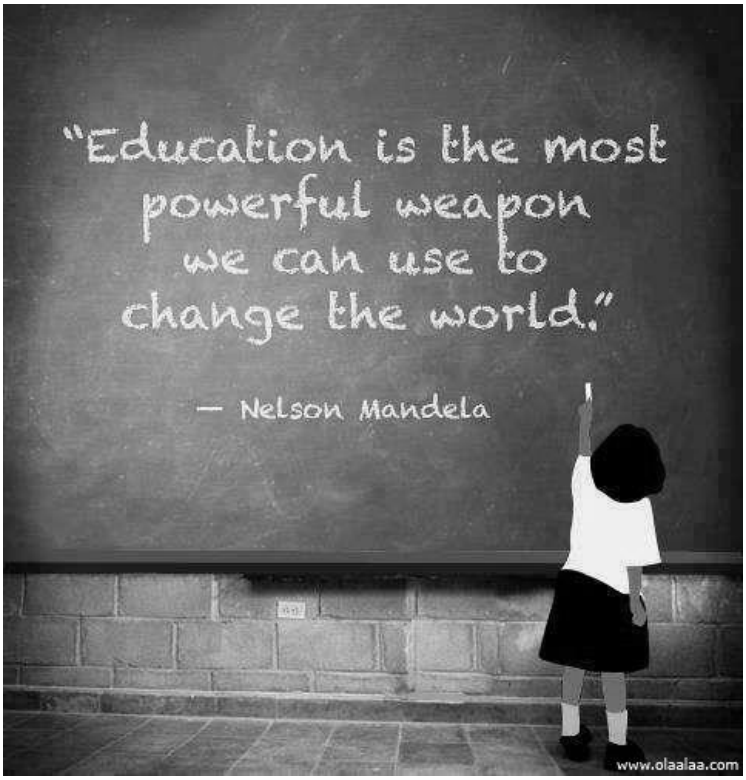
IGWR
In Giving We Receive

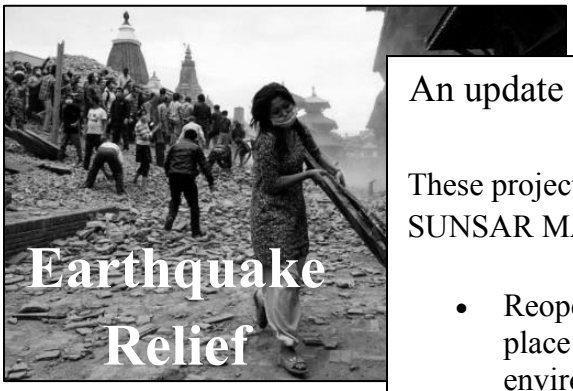
AGM Reports

Making a Difference

We are currently supporting the following initiatives through the generosity of IGWR sponsors

- 74 students in full-time education
- 1 House that is home for 15 Children
- 1 House for 'special needs' children
- 2 house-mothers for IGWR 'homes'
- 1 severely burnt boy – medical care and accommodation in hostel for disabled children
- Weekly food supply for EDU nepal
- Construction of toilet block and running water for Kancha Panya School
- House rent for mother and 4 children
- Full-time project director in Nepal
- Salary support for 4 teachers in rural school





An update of the emergency relief work following the earthquake in Nepal.

These projects, over the last month, are a joint effort between IGWR and SUNSAR MAYA as working together we can achieve even more:

- Reopened the **after-school program** to provide our kids with a safe place to be while schools were closed, and the comfort of a caring environment to help process the disaster
- Provided almost 2000 families with **emergency food packages** in the immediate days after the earthquake
- Provided **tin roof kits and soft flooring** to 250 homeless families for temporary structures and protection from the hard, wet ground during monsoon season
- Operated two **free medical clinics** (with more planned) where hundreds of people received free services and prescription medicine
- Building **temporary housing** in the villages of Banepa and Nuwakot for families that have lost their homes
- Building **new classrooms and toilets** at village schools that were destroyed in the earthquakes

"*He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.*"

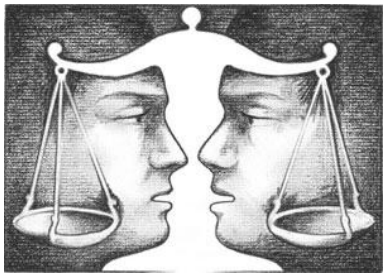
REACH for LIFE

AGM Reports

Reach For Life programme

Since the 2014 AGM 3 courses have been conducted, involving 37 prisoners and 12 victims of crime. **Results have been uniformly excellent for all participants**. David Hawks and I have facilitated each programme with the assistance of Susette Monk the supporting prison chaplain.

One session on the second course was attended by a member of the Prisoners Review Board (the body which deals with parole) in her official capacity and she announced herself extremely impressed with the programme. One session on the third course was attended by a lady from Community Corrections who was likewise impressed.
The effectiveness of the programme is best summarised by the following response provided recently following the third course by a woman (the victim of very serious crime) for whom this was her first experience of the course.



"29th May 2015"
It has now been two weeks since Reach For Life graduation. I know I am not the same person but if someone were to ask me how I have changed I would not have the words to provide a sufficient answer. How can I explain that for a few days after each session I could think of little else other than the course and who was involved, yet most of the time I was not thinking of anything in particular. I was stirred in my spirit, encouraged, inspired, and felt the love of Christ tangibly as I was confronted with the best and worst in humanity.

I commenced the course wanting to be challenged in my thinking and I certainly got my wish. What I did not expect was to find healing and peace for myself. I had grown so used to sharing my story within the context of a Christian community who appears to want to hear my past being presented in a nice, neat package since believing in Jesus. I am now at peace with my own humanity and have found the freedom to express my story in a manner which indicates that I am in fact human, my life is not a nice and neat package, nor does it have to be. It took my attendance at a men's prison to recognise that I myself was captive to my own expectations placed upon myself and that "Z" has the right to live and not just survive life.

A lot of people may be concerned with safety or being exposed to individuals who have done terrible things, however these were not concerns of mine on my first day at Karnet. Rather, my concern was that the men would sense that I had been "victimised", or I was "weak" and would feel awkward around me. I have learnt a lot about myself and have been encouraged as I have discovered that my self-concept about myself personally and my abilities has been very limited. I am a capable person who is worthy of living my life, enjoying who I am before God, and hopefully be a life-giving presence in the lives of others."



I can think of no better way to introduce this course to my fellow parishioners. Our next course commences in August.
On July 8th 2015 I have been invited to present a paper dealing with this course to the 15th International Symposium of the World Society of Victimology in the Convention Centre. I will do this on behalf of St Paul's.

Michael Cockram

AGM Reports

SPARKLE

"Sparkles" has continued to support children who enter St Paul's. New children welcomed in our midst include Joshua and Amelia.Solomon is an old hand by now, recently seen planting a new olive grove! We give thanks for the "choir kids" especially those forever coming along to support their choir parents! And we are always welcoming newbies.

We have just begun a brand nue Only At St P's Children's Programme for the year 1C.E. (Contemporary Era). We hope to bring the "Christianity unpacked" liturgy of our church into a Sparkles Prog covering every Biblical topic from Creation to Revolution!



Peter has devised an overall plan, to be padded out and developed by our adult participants over the coming year: Rhonda [and sometimes Bethan], NK, Jo and Kristin.

A CHILD ASKED....
"What sort of shoes does God wear?"
If you want to find out then send some kids along to "Sparkles" so they can let you know! *RHONDA*

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." Franklin D. Roosevelt

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St Paul's Beyond Inc.

*"Celebrating the **Divine** within"*

After a long period of discussion and consideration *St Paul's Beyond Inc.*, a not for profit charitable foundation was established by six individuals (parishioners of St Paul's) for the purposes of providing long term funds to support and encourage outreach by the St. Paul's community and the development of the St. Paul's Precinct. The 'foundation' was supported by the then Parish Councillors in January of 2011. The foundation's intended avenues for fund raising are through bequests and the prudent management of resources donated to it. In the current year of reporting 2015-15 there has been no financial activity undertaken by the foundation, it does however continue to 'be' as a purposeful part of our future organisation.





AGM Reports

Report of St Paul's Website

The St Paul's website **http://www.stpaulsbeaconsfield.org.au/** is a comprehensive one, including a reflection of many of our interests and concerns. It has had many visitors over the past year.
Analysis of statistics shows that there have been thousands of visits to our site.
Three quarters are from Australia, but the website has visitors from all over the world.

And while just over half the visitors come from Perth, visitors come other cities in Australia and from other cities of the world.

	Country	Sessions	% Sessions
1.	Australia	3,459	75.89%
2.	United Kingdom	337	7.39%
3.	United States	313	6.87%
4.	Canada	61	1.34%
5.	India	48	1.05%
6.	South Africa	30	0.66%
7.	Philippines	27	0.59%
8.	New Zealand	25	0.55%
9.	Jordan	21	0.46%
10.	Germany	20	0.44%



	City	Sessions	% Sessions
1.	Perth	2,639	57.90%
2.	Melbourne	304	6.67%
3.	Sydney	222	4.87%
4.	Brisbane	101	2.22%
5.	London	58	1.27%
6.	Adelaide	56	1.23%
7.	(not set)	34	0.75%
8.	Canberra	33	0.72%
9.	(not set)	25	0.55%
10.	Ebensburg	23	0.50%

view full

The website continues to provide information and edification both for own church members and for general community members. Members check on up- coming events and rosters; re-read the sermons; and view our gallery of photos. Community members come to the site to find out about services like weddings or funerals; about service times and other events; about the kind of Christians we are by examining what we say; and about what our minister says (in the sermons).
Most people first come to the site at the home page. But many arrive by viewing the Gallery, or by checking out the sermon archive, or by seeking to find out what's happening or to explore services.
Whatever visitors to our website are searching for there is probably something to answer that need whether it's for information or prayers, services or sermons or exploration of ideas about Christianity.

	Page Title	Pageviews	% Pageviews
1.	St Paul's Anglican Church Beaconsfield, near Fremantle, Western Australia: St Pauls Beaconsfield	4,031	33.19%
2.	Gallery 2013 St Paul's Anglican Church Beaconsfield, near Fremantle, Western Australia: St Pauls Beaconsfield	659	5.43%
3.	Archive of Sermons St Paul's Beaconsfield	495	4.08%
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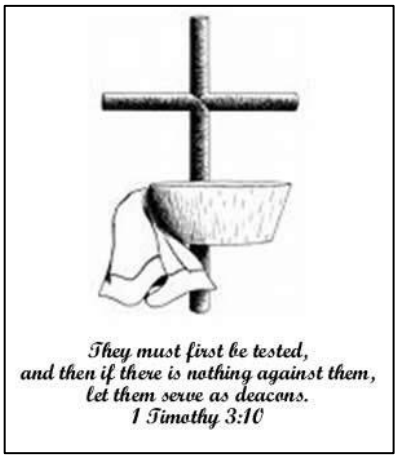
6.	Prayers for Pilgrims	386	3.18%
7.	Contact Us at St Pauls	378	3.11%
8.	About Us at St Pauls	247	2.03%
9.	Australian Indigenous Spirituality, Dreaming and Dreamtime	217	1.79%
10.	Regular Services	212	1.75%

The maintenance of this website has been my pleasure (though it sometimes has been overwhelming) for over eight years, but that term is coming to an end. Ruari Jack and I intend leaving here to go overseas in the near future for an extended time and so now seems a good time to offer my resignation from what has been a delightful task. Over the years I have asked for volunteers to learn how to run the website but that has never eventuated.
Now there is planning taking place to create a new website which is an exciting prospect. It's time for a new person or group to take over this undertaking and create a new solution. I wish them well and hope they have as much joy in their endeavours as I have had in mine.

Rosemary Spark



Deacon's report

After a 3 year program of study, formational training at Wollaston and placements in other parishes I was ordained Deacon on 2 May 2015 with my placement at St Paul's under Rev. Peter Humphris. This was a very significant day for me in many ways because it was the day I was accepted into Holy Orders and it was the day I formally returned to being a full time member of the St Paul's community.

I am encouraged by conversation with Peter in which we have started to explore questions and possibilities round a shared team style ministry here at St Paul's. The opportunities for ministry at St Paul's seems boundless, with Peter having identified more than 30 activities as appropriate for a Deacon (or others) which would enhance the work we as a community are doing in Beaconsfield. Peter and I are due to meet with our Archbishop Roger in a couple of weeks and I expect we will have an opportunity to explore possibilities for the evolving non stipendiary diaconal role for me here in the parish and perhaps the wider community.

At the moment I am doing some deacon/parish related work most days of the week and weekends. My plan is to review with Peter the practical experience of the 2 months between my ordination and extended travel plans that start in July. The intention would be to define a more structured plan clarifying how, where and why my diaconal ministry might be applied in this place. This is an open evolving reflective consultative process of me being available for ministry within the parish and possibly the wider community.

Michael Jessup
Deacon

"The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others."
Albert Schweitzer

May each of us be so fortunate as to be

overtaken by God in the midst of little things. May we each be so blessed as to be finished off by God, swooping down from above or welling up from beneath, to extinguish the illusion of separateness that perpetuates our fears. May we, in having our illusory, separate self slain by God, be born into a new and true awareness of who we really are: one with God forever. May we continue on in this true awareness, seeing in each and every little thing we see the fullness of God's presence in our lives. May we also be someone in whose presence others are better able to recognize God's presence in their lives, so that they, too, might know the freedom of the children of God.

Adapted from *Oneing, "The Perennial Tradition,"*



Rector's report

~~Sabbatical~~

Being 'away' from St Paul's for the first three months of the year was a challenging experience; as a 'displaced person' the journey through Lent took me into a new wilderness. It was however an opportunity to catch up with some of the many tasks that ordinarily there is little time for. I compiled a 'book' of collects which gave me an opportunity to go back through three years of our service sheets and having reached 45,000 words, I now have an introduction/explanation to complete to answer my own question; why? Much of my time was spent 'auditing' our work in Nepal and establishing new budgets and plans for the year ahead. It was also good to have some time to prepare a series of post-Easter reflections. My thanks to all who maintained 'life' at St Paul's and for all they brought to life in that time.

Visiting other churches

It was sobering to worship in other places; and to wonder about the place of '*The Church*' in the world. Much of what is repeated in parishes each Sunday is very much maintenance of a tradition, rather than exploring the "Glory of God'. With an orientation to the past, we are constantly looking away from the very promise of the creator. On the plus side I'm glad that I worship here, and share in the life of this community.

Theological Reflections

The '*reality of resurrection',* as an experiential worldview, deserves further exploration; although a significant revelation through the life and teaching of Christ, it seems to be absent from much of our Church tradition…
Easter always brings our focus to the very *essence* of our faith; and the 'self-giving' of the passion narratives, which parallels the divine 'self-giving' of the nativity suggests that a philanthropic outlook is very much an outworking of our faith; is this an opportunity for us to 'network' with other philanthropic organisations to both share and more fully understand the gospel?

Making All Things New

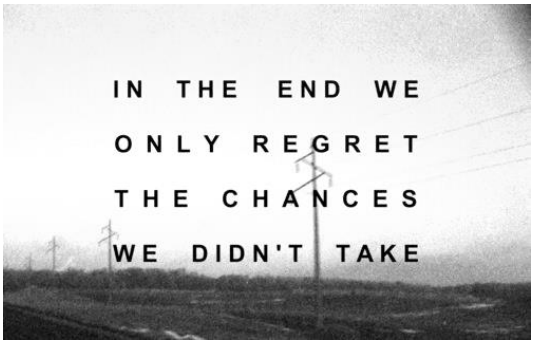
Three homes in the Church precinct provide for 'emergency' or supportive accommodation to others. We have a growing ministry 'beyond' the parish boundaries. We have an active dialog with the local Muslim community. Some living on the block share together in morning and evening prayer. And so there are signs that we are becoming (or growing) into a new model of being church; and in the year ahead I look forward to exploring our evolving 'newness'?

Thanksgiving…

I would like to acknowledge the ministry of John Shepherd, the 'partnership' in management that Joan has given, the commitment in vocation that Michael has had 'ordained' and I want to thank the community of St Paul's…
for somehow, and it is a mystery, there is an ongoing sense of journey, purpose and making real the gift of resurrection that I find enabling. Frustrating, annoying, difficult, doubting, and at times draining, BUT at the end of each day; I give thanks for that which is enabling of a movement into Christ.



So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!



Issues for our future

☐ Growing into a deeper awareness of 'our ministry'.

❍ Do we have a ministry 'of the community' that reflects a desire for Christ-likeness; a taking us beyond the ordinariness of the day-to-day into the potential revealed in and through Christ?

❍ The 'desire' for full congregations is an understandable 'looking back' to a past era; the reality of today is very different. This new reality does however invite us to look ahead and become more fully who we are.

❍ If we can overcome the cultural baggage that devalues the older generations, we might appreciate that it is those in the later stages of life that have the experience and resources to illuminate a gospel message that is not just more of the same.

☐ Recognising that change can complement and build on the status quo.

❍ The Church precinct offers an icon for our future ministry, the traditional 'heritage' buildings have been expanded and added to in new and innovative ways; can we now do the same with our own faith journey, our theology, our liturgy and the outworking of our ministry.

☐ Exploring the application of 'committed communities' and emerging models of "*new monasticism*", or "*intentional communities*"to our St Paul's community.

❍ The "Parish Church" model has already changed, but have we embraced the change? Perhaps we need to revise our identity and see ourselves as a heart, a sanctuary, a wellspring, and/or many other different models so that we can more truly and more effectively give voice to the gospel we proclaim.

☐ Reclaiming the very essence of the Gospel.

❍ This is no longer clear in a post-Christendom church; and yet it is clear in our reading of the scriptures and in our praxis as Christians; the act of giving in both the Nativity and the Passion illuminate the ministry of 'giving of ourselves' and that very act is what constitutes the Church. However the dominant culture reverses this dynamic into a culture of taking; this is a challenge, and also identifies us as in a niche market!

☐ Being disturbed by change?

❍ To bring about change, we have to change ourselves, are we ready for change, or do we really just want more of the same?

☐ Becoming new expressions, new stories – where will it all end?

❍ "Do not be afraid", we have already experienced, and been creative of changes and that is the surest sign that we are going somewhere.

"It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."

Charles Darwin

Questions for our future

❍ **Liturgical changes** take us out of our 'comfort zone' and ask of us new expressions in or worship; are we open and supportive of such changes?

- ☐ Replacing the 'Gradual Hymn' with a gospel acclamation. And further exploration of our church music which often reflects an outdated theology.
- ☐ Introduction of a Sunday evening service,
- ☐ Use of variations in great thanksgiving prayer
- ☐ Different styles of Service for each of the Sundays in a month

❍ What will we achieve from a **clergy team ministry** (Priest & Deacon)?

- ☐ Initially it might look like another volunteering role, however the Deacon is in 'holy orders' and can contribute to the life of our community in a unique way by extending the priestly ministry. Can we determine a new and exciting approach that will make our community ministry more visible?

❍ Can we create a **new model** of 'being' Church?

- ☐ What is the church demographic of tomorrow and what are the emerging entry points that will attract people into a new expression of the Church?
- ☐ Can we, by our interaction with others, and the wider community make manifest the enlightenment of Christ?

❍ Is **our ministry in Nepal** (IGWR) one of 'our' primary realisations of ministry beyond the parish?

- ☐ In planning our future resourcing of the parish, should we consider Peter being away from the parish (in Nepal) for six-eight weeks each year recognising that around 20% of his time is involved in that ministry.
- ☐ Can we also attract 'sponsors' from outside the parish to develop other areas of ministry?
- ☐ **Just manna** and **Reach for Life** also reach 'beyond' St Paul's, do we all share and appreciate that 'we' are making a real difference in the world?

❍ Should we seek to more broadly influence the wider church and the wider world?

- ☐ Expanding our "discussion group" and Gabby's daily reflections through use of social media.
- ☐ A new web-site presence with facilities to 'stream' services and offer podcasts.
- ☐ Greater interaction with the wider church and other communities of influence

❍ Where are our expectations NOT being met, and where do we fall short of our calling?

- ☐ Identify our failings and suggest how they might be overcome
- ☐ Where necessary change the expectations we have so that we are more fully understood

❍ Can we embrace a more 'committed' (and organised) participation in our community life?

- ☐ What if we P**lan in advance** – create a year ahead calendar of events.
- ☐ What if every roster was filled and diarised at the start of the year
- ☐ What if regular & one-off events were 'claimed' by individuals or groups as an annual commitment?

❍ Can we provide more low-cost/emergency accommodation in the precinct?

- ☐ Three homes at St Paul's already help with sharing accommodation, can we do more?



"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them." Albert Einstein



The ministry of DEACON at St Paul's

As we look to the future; we are also looking at a ministry supported by a Deacon at St Paul's and to give an appreciation of how that role is being shaped we have included the *Activities & schedule of responsibilities* associated with this ministry. This is still very much a 'work-progress' and so subject to change.

- ☐ Pastoral ministry "to' the church
  - ☐ Prepare and follow a visiting schedule to meet with every active member of the church at their home.
  - ☐ Identify members of the parish in need of support and initiate any support we can give.
  - ☐ Hold a "Shared lunch' once a month (meeting room) with given topic for sharing
    Maybe a series of six
  - ☐ Hold a "Shared evening meal' once a month (meeting room) with given topic for sharing.
    Maybe a series of six
  - ☐ Prepare and organise (not facilitate)
    - ☐ Annual retreat for the "on-the-block' community
    - ☐ Annual 'invitational' (church council+) retreat
    - ☐ Establish feasibility & research replacement for 'Nanga weekend'

- ☐ Administration and support
  - ☐ Be available in the parish office at negotiated times (minimum two sessions per week)
  - ☐ Check message bank on days the office is not attended by Ronny
  - ☐ Hold the "Parish Mobile" on negotiated days (2 days per week)
  - ☐ Check/make ready the church for all liturgical services
  - ☐ Provide a weekly email confirming all Church functions
  - ☐ Contact/introduce yourself & parish connectivity to funeral directors and other agencies
  - ☐ Attend 'ministry' meetings: church council, Warden's, Just Manna, IGWR & St Paul's Beyond.
  - ☐ Provide a monthly summary of activity to church council (max one page)

- ☐ Liturgical pastoral ministry
  - ☐ Weddings
    - ☐ Pursue registration as celebrant – *subject to approval from Archbishop*
    - ☐ Familiarity & Assistance with marriage preparation
    - ☐ Send out email to all involved in wedding one week before as a double check
    - ☐ Send follow-up letter to all couples married at St Paul's.
  - ☐ Baptisms
    - ☐ Meet with all families seeking baptism for a preparation session
    - ☐ Send follow-up letter to all families who have a baptism at St Paul's.
  - ☐ Funerals
    - ☐ Renew familiarity with funeral service – (*follow up after discussion with archbishop*)
  - ☐ Sunday evening services
    - ☐ Prepare/promote/arrange a suitable Sunday evening service (including reflection)
      this should be viewed as a weekly/bi weekly/monthly commitment
  - ☐ Major liturgical Arrangement
    - ☐ Prepare/promote/arrange one of our regular services for major festival
      this could be "Start of Advent", service, Carols, 9 Lessons & Carols

The ministry of DEACON at St Paul's

Activities & schedule of responsibilities *continued*

☐ Connection with wider church
- ☐ Connect & attend Deanery meetings
- ☐ Attend clergy school
- ☐ Attend synod
- ☐ Meet with clergy from surrounding parishes

☐ Personal growth & development
- ☐ Identify need for "Ministry in training" program for recently ordained and lay-ministry
  - ☐ Prepare suggested format/content
- ☐ Maintain Spiritual direction
- ☐ Monthly supervisory session with Peter H (format to be prepared/documented)
- ☐ Attend six(or more) church services outside of St Paul's each year
- ☐ Set aside time for "improving reading" and provide a written reflection for sharing
- ☐ Attend one annual clergy retreat or a retreat of your own.

☐ Other Activities
- ☐ Create networks that will assist you and the parish
- ☐ Identify areas of teaching that you can offer within (and beyond) the parish



The YEAR Ahead

- ❍ Restoration of the Hall
- ❍ New sound System in church
- ❍ Improved lighting of the grounds
- ❍ Exploring Prayer
- ❍ IGWR Visiting Nepal (October)
- ❍ Parish Fair (November)
- ❍ Sparkles NEW program
- ❍ Vegetable gardens?

WINTER SOUP

Invite a couple of people from church for a soup & bread lunch & discuss the sermon

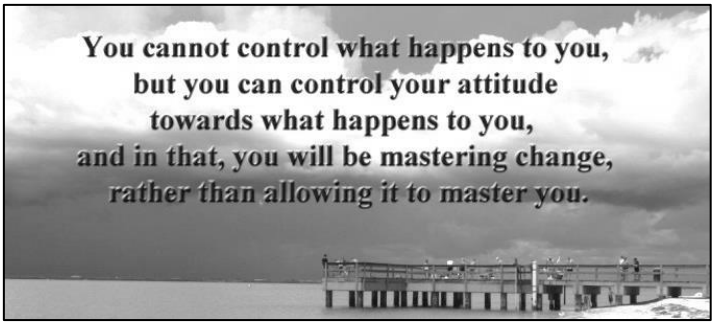
QUIET TIME

Plan to spend one-two hours each week at the church, do a couple of odd jobs or sit quietly and delight in being here.



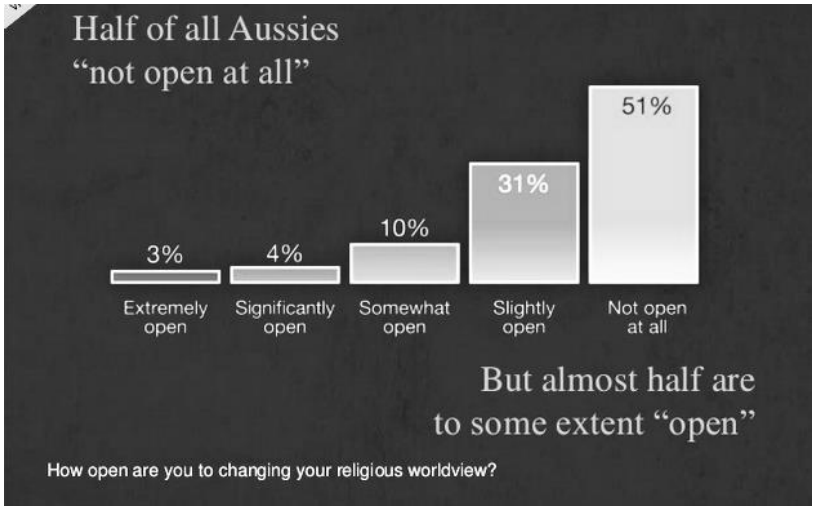
The LOAN Repaid

We are on track to pay off the loan within 18 months… AND we're planning a GOLD COIN tin for the church to see if we can actually pay off the loan within one year.





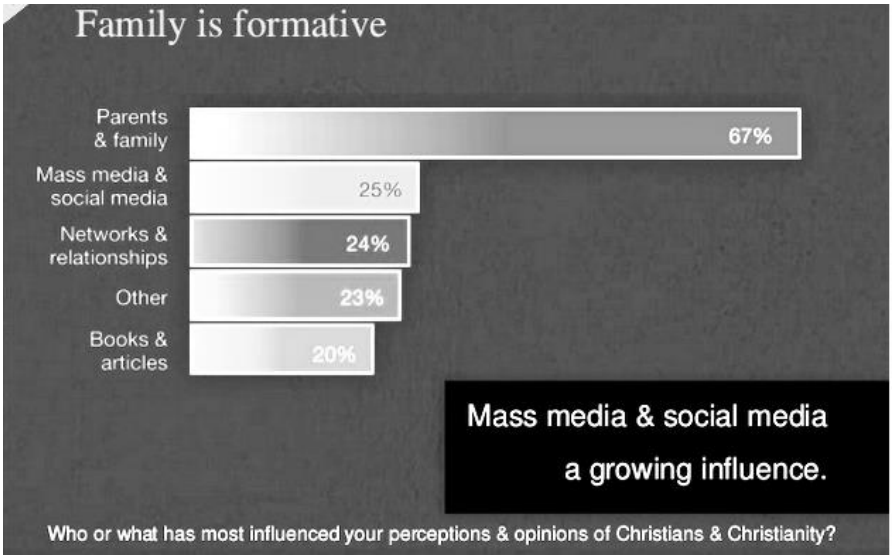
Statistics & Quotes



The world hit a new benchmark of 7 billion people just recently, and Australia is predicted to reach 23 million in the middle of the year.
Our population has actually doubled since 1966 (11.5 million), and at that time 1 in 4 Aussies attended church (2.6 million). These days, with double the population, our church attendance has actually dwindled to less than 1 in 14 (1.6 million).



"Maybe this year, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives not looking for flaws, but *looking for potential.*"
-Ellen Goodman



Today, the richest 85 people on earth own more wealth than the bottom half of humanity, some 3.5 billion people.

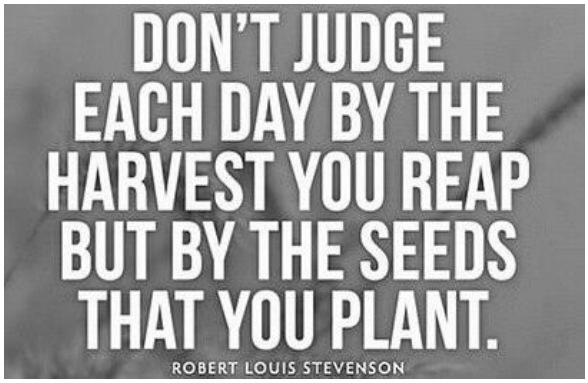
Cheney's Halliburton Made $39.5 Billion on Iraq War

The company was given $39.5 billion in Iraq-related contracts over the past decade, with many of the deals given without any bidding from competing firms…



For it is in giving that we receive.

Francis of Assisi

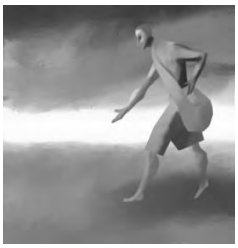


Readings

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

6 The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will
also reap bountifully. 7 Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under
compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance,
so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 9 As it is written,
"*He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;*
his righteousness endures forever."
10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and
increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be enriched in every way for your
great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; 12 for the rendering of
this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many
thanksgivings to God. 13 Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your
obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing
with them and with all others, 14 while they long for you and pray for you because of the
surpassing grace of God that he has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable
gift!



The Cracked Pot



An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole that she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do. After 2 years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The old woman smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table."

"Let go"

There is a story that is told of a man who was walking through a graveyard late one night and fell into a hole. Before reaching the bottom of the hole, he grabbed a tree limb and began crying for his dear life. Little did he know that his feet were just several inches from the bottom of the hole? "Is anybody there?" he cried over and over again. Finally, he called out, "Oh God, please help me!"

A voice from the top of the hole responded, "Yes, do you need help?" "Oh yes, please help me!" he replied. Then this voice with great authority, said, "Okay my son. Let go of the tree limb." After a few minutes of silence, the man raised his voice and said, "Is there anybody else up there?"

Like the man in the hole, our world suffers from a crisis of faith.

Readings 2

Polls, surveys and statistics

People who are affiliated with no religion as a percentage of the total population in Australia at the 2011 census, divided geographically by statistical local area

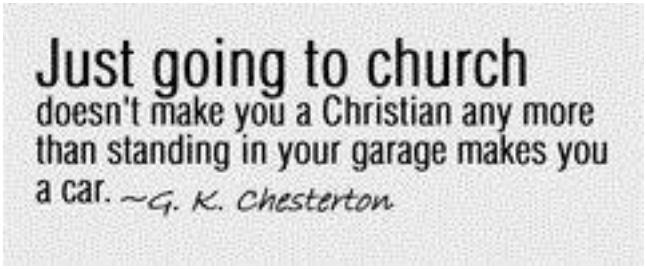
Although many Australians identify themselves as religious, the majority consider religion the least important aspect of their lives when compared with family, partners, work and career, leisure time and politics. This is reflected in Australia's church attendance rates, which are among the lowest in the world and in continuing decline.

In explaining this phenomenon, writer and broadcaster Paul Collins said "Australians are quietly spiritual rather than explicitly religious" and the prominent historian Manning Clark defined Australian spirituality as "a shy hope in the heart .... understated, wary of enthusiasm, anti-authoritarian, optimistic, open to others, self-deprecating and ultimately characterized by a serious quiet reverence, a deliberate silence, an inarticulate awe and a serious distaste for glib wordiness."

Donald Horne, one of Australia's well-known public intellectuals, believed rising prosperity in post-war Australia influenced the decline in church-going and general lack of interest in religion. "Churches no longer matter very much to most Australians. If there is a happy eternal life it's for everyone ... For many Australians the pleasures of this life are sufficiently satisfying that religion offers nothing of great appeal", said Horne in his landmark work *The Lucky Country*.

The Australian Census in 2011 found that 24.5% of Australian-born Australians claim no religion. In 2011 adults aged 18–34 were more than twice as likely as those in 1976 to have no religion (29% compared with 12%). The highest proportion of people who had no religion were young adults. The ABS has revealed that in 2011, the number of males claiming no religion was higher than females, that women claiming no religion were more likely to have no children, and that marriages were mostly performed by civil celebrants. Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory had the highest rates of citizens reporting no religion, at 29% while the rate was lowest in New South Wales (18%).

Secular marriages in Australia accounted for 72.5 per cent of marriages in 2013, slightly more than in England and Wales. This is up from 41.3% of marriages in 1988 and just over 50% in 1999. Secular Funerals have also risen in popularity. In 2014 the *Sydney Morning Herald* surveyed 104 funeral directors and 514 people over 50, finding that 6 in 10 funerals were conducted by civil celebrants.



St Paul's

2015

AGM

Thank you to our 2014-15 church council

Sally Van Pelt – Don Barendrecht – Susan Grace – Christabel Chamarette - Chris Jamieson (Warden) Joan Jessup (Warden) – David Hawks - Bob Matthews (Treasurer) - Debbie Gwynne - Lia Johnson - Kim Kemp – Laurel Ellis

Synod Reps: Chris Jamieson and Michael Jessup

And alternates: Debbie Gwynne and Michael Ellis



And thank you to our 2015-16 church council

Joan Jessup (Warden) – David Hawks - Bob Matthews (Treasurer) Kim Kemp – Laurel Ellis

And



For being here,
and for being part of all that we are becoming.