

St John's
Anglican
Church

C A M D E N

Putting lives on the right track



2020 AGM REPORTS

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Putting lives on the right track

CAMDEN ANGLICAN PARISH

Incorporating: St John's – Camden

St Barnabas' – Werombi

St Paul's – Mt Hunter

Carrington Retirement Village

St John's Women's Church

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE

COVID19 DEFERRED

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2020

IN THE PARISH HALL COMMENCING AT 2.32PM

PRESENT: 70 Parishioners were present as per the attendance declarations (transcribed in the attached appendix 1 to these minutes).

Welcome and Opening

The Rector the Rev. Tony Galea took the Chair and welcomed those present at this COVID 19 Deferred meeting convened under the special *Parishes (COVID19 and General Meetings) Ordinance 2020* and called for apologies.

Apologies were recorded from: Clare McWilliam, Mark Inglis, Sandra Ellis, Jayne Christie, Steve Lardner and Deb Lardner.

Rev. Tony Galea read from scriptures and then opened in prayer.

Appointment of Minute Secretary

The Chair called for nominations for a minute secretary for the meeting – Mr Charles Noonan being the only nomination was declared appointed unopposed.

The Minute Secretary reported that under the special ordinance the declarations were set aside, and an attendance roll had been collected

indicating that 70 duly qualified persons were present and that as such the meeting was quorate.

NOTED

Appointment of Scrutineers

The Chair called for nomination of scrutineers to oversee any election to be held during the meeting.

The Scrutineers nominated were Rev Irfon Griffiths, Ms Dayl Mulford and Mrs Louise Mulford.

Confirmation of the minutes of the 2018-19 Annual General Meeting

The Secretary reported that the 2019 AGM minutes had been confirmed by the Parish Council elect following the AGM. The Chair commented that the confirmed minutes had been reproduced in the AGM booklet as circulated for adoption at this meeting.

Mr Noonan moved the procedural motion that the members present, endorse the Parish Council elect receiving the minutes of this deferred meeting to be confirmed as a true and correct record and that the confirmed minutes then be presented to the 2020/21 Annual General Meeting for adoption.

It was Resolved (CAP AGM 20/01):

That the minutes of the 2018/19 Annual General Meeting of the Camden Anglican Parish held on 24th March 2019, as confirmed by the Parish Council and circulated in the AGM booklet, be adopted.

It was Resolved (CAP AGM 20/02):

That the minutes of the COVID19 Deferred 2019/20 Annual General Meeting of the Camden Anglican Parish held on 20th September 2020, be confirmed for accuracy as soon as practicable by the Parish

Council elect and they then be laid before the 2021 annual meeting for adoption.

Rector's Report

Tony read his report, as contained in the booklet of reports that forms appendix 2 to these minutes, into the record and commended his report to the meeting.

Tony noted, as he and Debbie entered their 20th year at Camden how moved he was by the love and support shown to them. He observed how none of us could have anticipated the year that COVID19 turned it in to. He praised the staff for their collective commitment to rise to the occasion as we all learned new skills to present 'online' church whether presenters, singers, prayers, readers and preachers all recording in isolation and then skillfully married together to present a whole package online. Praise God for His mighty guiding hand to bring this to fruition and to our congregations for their loyalty in learning how to view church online.

Tony publicly acknowledged his partnership in ministry with Debbie and thanked her for her incredible contribution to our congregational life during their twenty-year journey here in Camden.

Tony observed how grateful he had been for the courage of the Wardens and Parish Council in following God's leading to come to this point in the land sale and worship centre planning.

The Rector then invited questions or comments in relation to his report. There being no questions or comments forthcoming:

It was Resolved (CAP AGM 20.03):

That the Rector's report, as printed, be received and adopted.

Carried by acclamation

Church Warden's report

- a) The Chair invited the Warden's representative Ross Newport to briefly speak on behalf of the printed report in the AGM papers. Ross noted that the printed report was self-explanatory and invited any questions. He then read from a prepared statement (reproduced below)

"The Parish Council wish to advise the following:

- 1. There has been correspondence received from CRAG that has been provided to the Sydney Diocesan Services (SDS) Legal, which is a legal practice that has been established to provide advice to parishes and other bodied of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney.*
- 2. SDS Legal has advised that the property (contained in the Camden Sale Ordinance) can be sold.*
- 3. SDS Legal has advised that there is no basis for the Parish Council or the Parish Councillors to be personally liable. Separate advice has also been obtained on this issue, which confirms this position.*
- 4. The present status of the matter is that the owner of the land, the Anglican Church Property Trust, Diocese of Sydney has signed an option agreement with Moran Australia for the sale of the land. The option period continues to run and the decision to purchase rests with Moran Group.*

The chair noted that this was a statement of the Parish Council and invited any other questions of the Warden's report as printed in the AGM booklet.

There being no other questions, Ross concluded by commending the report to the meeting.

It was Resolved (CAP AGM 20/04):

That the Warden's report for the 2019 calendar year be received; and the Parish Council statement read into the record be noted.

- b)** Mr Gary Christie was invited to deliver the summary of financial report for the 2019 calendar year on behalf of the Warden's, noting that the accounts had been published in accordance with the ordinance prior to the meeting, as contained in the attached Parish Financial Accounts. Gary introduced the written report, as printed, noting his special thanks for the level of behind the scenes effort undertaken by Sarah MacRaild and the office volunteers, who assisted him each week.

Likewise, he expressed his gratitude to the Branch church treasurers, the Wardens and staff as well Charles Noonan as Deputy Treasurer and the finance team who had drafted the 2020 budget, as well as Brian Peacock as the contractor processing the Parish Accounts into the accounting software weekly and providing the resulting reports for review by the Finance team, the Wardens and Parish Council on a regular basis.

Gary then offered to answer any questions from the floor.

Gary commended the written explanations accompanying the accounts and then formally moved, on behalf of the Warden's, that the Assurance Reviewed (formerly known as Audited) financial accounts for the year ended December 31, 2019 be adopted.

It was Resolved (CAP AGM 20/05):

That the Assurance Reviewed financial accounts for the 2019 calendar year be adopted

The meeting paused and gave thanks to our mighty God for His provision throughout the year.

Appointment of an Independent Assurance Practitioner (formerly known as the Auditor)

In the written report tabled, Treasurer Gary had noted that parishioner, Mr Brad Huckel, a local Chartered Accountant, had completed the 2019 review in accordance with the Parish Administration Ordinance 2008 and the relevant professional standards.

Mr Brad Huckel, being duly qualified and having offered his services was thanked, in his absence, and was declared appointed unopposed.

Election/Appointment of Church Wardens

The Chair declared all positions vacant in order to conduct the elections for Wardens and Parish Council.

He noted that there being three nominations for election as Warden he would appoint Ian Harley as his Rector's Warden for the foreshortened 2020/21 term.

Tony then formally thanked all the wardens Andrew Wheeler, Ian Harley and Ross Newport for their collective efforts in supporting him and showing true leadership in face of the many challenges that had beset the parish as COVID 19 had unfolded and terms of wardens and parish councillors had been extended by Diocesan Ordinance, for all their collective efforts in directing and supporting the Parish over the past year.

Therefore, with only two nominations remaining he declared Mr Andrew Wheeler and Mr Ross Newport elected as the two People's Wardens for 2020/21.

Their election, unopposed, was endorsed by acclamation.

Election of Parish Council

The Chair noted that under the Parish Administration Ordinance an Annual Parish meeting could elect 3, 6 or 9 councillors and based on the number elected, the Rector had a right to appoint 1 additional councillor(s), for each three elected, to address diversity and/or gender balance.

Tony noted in the past year the balance of members had seemed to work productively for the Parish and the kingdom.

It was moved and seconded, without the need for further discussion, that a Parish Council consisting of nine (9) councillors be elected by the AGM.

It was Resolved (*CAP AGM 20/06*):

That (i) the Annual General Meeting elect nine (9) councillors to serve; and

(ii) that the Parish Council be permitted to fill any casual vacancy that occurs during the term September 2020 to March 2021

The Secretary reported that with the appointment of Ian Harley as Rector's Warden and the election of Ross Newport and Andrew Wheeler as People's wardens this left sufficient nominations to require an election.

The full list of nominations was projected and included:

Daniel Aquilina	Marilyn Clarke	Simon Crawley
Richard Ellis	Max Jacobs	Ian Lane
Nick Lane	Steve Lardner	Andrew McWilliam
Charles Noonan	John Ryan	Alix Turner
Rob Vidler		

The Chair invited each of the nominees present to stand for the information of the meeting.

Members were then invited to tick, cross or number 1 – 9 – as long as they had no more than nine marks indicating who they wished to vote for, this would be admitted as a valid vote.

Whilst the votes were being counted the Chair invited staff representatives from a range of specific ministries to briefly outline those activities more fully disclosed in the AGM Booklet.

The returning officer presented the Chair with the final ballot results for the Parish Council.

The Chair declared the People’s Councillors as:

People’s Councillors	
Daniel Aquilina	Marilyn Clarke
Simon Crawley	Max Jacobs
Ian Lane	Nick Lane
Charles Noonan	John Ryan
Alix Turner	

Tony congratulated both those elected and those who were nominated and were prepared to serve the parish in this important role. This was endorsed by acclamation.

He noted that he reserved the right to appoint three (3) additional councillors, in accordance with the ordinance.

[Secretary’s Note:- the following appointments were contained within the ‘online’ newsletter on October announcing the full parish council membership]

Rector's Councillors		
Steve Lardner	Rob Vidler	Andrew McWilliam

It was noted that the Wardens had invited Mr Gary Christie to serve as Parish Treasurer in accordance with the Parish Administration Ordinance.

Election of Parish Nominators

The Chair noted that five (5) parish nominators were required in the event of a vacancy in the Rector's position occurring.

It was noted that, whilst it is not a condition of the Parish Administration Ordinance, in order for the Nominators to be effective, it was normal practice across the diocese to include a warden in the parish nominators elected.

Candidates for election as nominators were:

Matilda Aquilina	Paul Clarke
Max Jacobs	Steve Lardner
Ross Newport	Charles Noonan
John Ryan	

An election was then conducted.

The Chair then announced that

- Paul Clarke
- Steve Lardner
- Ross Newport
- Charles Noonan and
- John Ryan

were elected as nominators for this foreshortened PC term to March 2021.

The Chair noted, that in the interests of gender equity, in the event of vacancy in the role of rector the congregation should conduct a special general meeting and elect at least one woman to join the nominators in their quest for a replacement minister. Tony somewhat tongue in cheek noted that he was not planning on leaving any time soon (but the Lord may have other plans).

Synod Representative

As 2021 was the beginning of the next triennium of the Diocese of Sydney Synod two lay representatives were required.

There being only two nominations, Mr Charles Noonan and Mr Ross Newport were appointed unopposed.

The Secretary moved the procedural motion that the ballot papers be destroyed. Carried without discussion.

Parish Reports

As noted above, during the counting of the ballots, the twenty-seven (27) individual reports from the groups involved in the Parish, as printed in the AGM booklet, were duly noted.

It was Resolved (*CAP AGM 20/07*):

To receive the reports of other parish groups, as printed in the AGM booklet.

General Business/Questions

The general questions were discussed whilst the returning officer and scrutineers were counting the respective ballots and are recorded here for simplicity's sake.

- Marilyn Noonan offered her thanks to the congregations of St Johns for their prayerful and sacrificial giving that allowed the staff to be

retained, allowing the team to mitigate some of the impact of the coronavirus on our congregation.

There being no other formal business the Chair invited people to pray and then closed the meeting at 3.42pm

Rector's Report

Debbie and I have been at the Camden Parish for over 20 years now. We are still enthusiastic in "Putting lives on the right track".

I thank God we have many willing workers and helpers who have that same passion in seeing people come to Christ and Christians grow in Christ.

Firstly, let me thank my Staff. (Paid and Unpaid)

I am blessed that we have a fantastic, capable and united staff.

Karina Edgerton joined our team yet again as our Young Mums' Minister. She is working with Debbie Galea for Women's Church and runs the Kidstime playgroup which has been fantastically attended.

Hayley Morgan is growing in maturity and shows great skills as our Children's Worker. She has been invaluable in helping Jimmy streaming services during our Covid restrictions.

Haylee also co-ordinates GFS under Neidra Hill and her team, Meteors under Max and Betty Mackay and their team, as well as helping Jimmy out at Youth Group and Primary Scripture teaching.

Thank you to all those people involved.

Jimmy Lane, our Youth Worker and his team continue doing good work with our Youth, as well as being instrumental in getting our services out on the Web. This has been a new and added responsibility that Jimmy has taken on board, as well as occasionally to preach and do music for our services. Thanks mate. I thank Amy for her support and encouragement to James.

Sarah MacRaid, our administrator helps the team to run smoothly because of her efficiency, skills and joyful manner. She has organized a great team of volunteer workers. We are so fortunate that Sarah doesn't

see this work as a job but as a ministry. Thank you to all her volunteers – Jan, Louise, Marilyn, Christine, Bev and Glen. Please pray for Ross, Sarah’s husband, who is still not well, but ever so slowly improving.

We have been very blessed by our Pastoral care team, Debbie Banister, Pat Burnett, Trish Harley, Jan Neville, Tilda Aquilina and Marilyn Noonan who has recently joined the team. I am so pleased and proud of these women who show their love, care and dedication to our church family.

A special thank you to all the spouses of the staff and volunteers for their behind the scenes help and support.

Thank you Irfon and Barbara Griffiths who are invaluable and encouraging to me in their service for the Lord. Their example is exemplary for each and every one of us, who in their later years, are still so passionate for Jesus.

We welcome Tim and Naomi Ash back at St Johns. Like Karina they can’t keep away!!

Tim is doing his final year at Moore College and this year he is with us as our Student Minister.

He and Naomi are caring for our Young Adults as well as preaching and doing Music. Welcome back!

Secondly, let me thank all our Volunteers.

I cannot mention everyone because there are so many who give their time and energy to serve God and his Church family. However, it would be remiss of me not to mention a few.

The Carrington Volunteers - Unfortunately because of Covid, the Carrington services haven’t been able to run as much, but Paul and Marilyn Clarke, Philip and Jeanette Pilt and Ken and Robin Long with their teams, are itching to get back to love and serve these thankful residents

who are in the twilight of their lives. A big thank you to you and your team!

Our Branch Churches. Thank you to the Wardens at Mt Hunter, *Anne Angilley* and *Graham Nash* and our Wardens at Werombi, *Peter Angilley*, *Mark* and *Greg Hayter*. Times have been tough for all churches during Covid, but especially our smaller churches.

Please pray for these churches that they might still be an influence. A special thanks to *Stella Nash* from Mt Hunter who is leading "Mainly Music" and making an impact in our community.

Our Parish Wardens- Ian Harley, Ross Newport and Andrew Wheeler. It is an absolute pleasure to meet with these godly men weekly as we pray and make decisions for the church family.

These men are faithful and persevering in their difficult and sometimes thankless work. A big 'thank you' to *Gary Christie* our Treasurer, *Charles Noonan*, the Parish Council and our Auditor *Brad Huckel*.

There are also countless people who do Cleaning, Morning teas, Suppers, Prayers, Readers, Welcoming, along with Sides Persons, Maintenance Team, Livestreaming, Scripture and Children leaders, Service Leaders and Preachers, Musicians, Wedding and Funeral helpers, our Small Group Leaders, Men and Women's Ministries and our Women's Church team.

I must say, the Covid crisis has made more work for everyone. Cleaning after services, keeping people socially distant and recording details and information is laid upon our Staff and Volunteers.

They are all invaluable to the life of God's church – Thank you!

Lastly, I greatly thank my wife *Debbie* for her commitment to full time ministry. She faithfully coordinates and leads the music, Women's Ministry and Women's Church ministry, I've said it every year, Debbie is my best friend and partner in ministry. The difficulties, challenges and joys I face,

she faces. Without her, things wouldn't be the same. She is an enormous blessing to me and the family of St Johns.

Please be prayerful and thankful for all these people who serve the church family – You and me!

Happenings in the Last 12 months.

Moran re-negotiated the option to purchase the surrounding property in order to fund the building of a new Worship Centre. Their option is valid until June 2021. They are currently seeking another extension of time.

What we can Thankful about.

- * For all our Staff and Volunteers.
- * For our faithful giving, while most churches have had Government grants, we have managed by our church family's generosity. Pray that our generous spirits might continue in our finances and service.

What we can Pray about

- * Pray that those still staying away or who are not regular due to Covid, might return to the church of God in unity and commitment.
- * Pray for our Preachers who prepare and speak God's Word week by week.
- * Pray that we will be faithful in praying and inviting our Non-Christian friends and family to church.
- * Pray for me that I will exercise godly leadership.
- * Pray that we will all remember that life is not about us, but how we can honour and serve Jesus.
- * Pray that we will all grow in our passion for "Putting lives on the right track".

Every Blessing

Tony Galea

Wardens' Report to the AGM

Your Wardens Ian Harley, Andrew Wheeler and Ross Newport continue to meet with Tony each week to pray and discuss the many matters that arise.

The Diocese and Government Departments regularly request reports and information related to the church and its activities.

The proposed New Worship Centre project remains with an option taken by the Moran Australia (Camden Pty Ltd) and to extending to the 1st July 2021. Moran Australia (Camden Pty Ltd) has requested a further extension of time that is presently being considered.

We hold a non-refundable deposit held for the option given.

Revised plans have been prepared should the Worship Centre project proceed.

Please continue to pray for God's direction and His will to be revealed.

Our church has three (3) rental properties that require building maintenance and repairs. We pay Council rates on each property not including the church site. With the inclusion of the St. John's precinct onto the State Heritage Register we have increased requirements where approval to do any works requires approval from Camden Council and NSW Heritage. Recent example is the lopping of branches from a tree that took three (3) months to obtain approval.

We are blessed with staff and have Sarah our Office Manager leading the way.

The Wardens work closely with Parish Council who meet monthly and together with a number of working groups to consider the many issues

and sharing the workload. Thank you, Parish Councillors, for your time, experience and dedication serving our congregation.

The church has been blessed with finances that are managed professionally. We have a finance team lead by Treasurer Gary Christie. Thank God for their wisdom and we pray to use his resources wisely.

Our volunteers again have enabled many tasks to be undertaken with a loving heart. Thank you again.

In all things we pray for God's continued blessing and leadership.

Wardens

St Paul's, Mt Hunter

Despite many changes and Covid 19 we have remained a close-knit congregation relying on God, prayer and each other.

February saw our return to monthly services supported by visiting preachers, for whom we are extremely grateful. We thank Tony for providing us with this opportunity.

Our support of the local community began by our annual pancake night where we raised \$370 for Mount Hunter Rural Fire Service and a small Covid safe Carols service was held early December.

Stella with her volunteers began Mainly Music in March. This church-based program is for preschoolers, mums and or grandparents and includes age specific songs with actions and musical instruments. Refreshments are served for both children and carers followed by play time. During this time mums can socialise with each other as well as the leaders. 12 and 16 children plus mums attended the first 2 weeks. Prayer and discussion time amongst the leaders occurs once the families have left.

Covid 19 struck in March with complete lock down and all activities were suspended.

During Covid we formed a Facebook group with messages of support and encouragement exchanged. Colleen downloaded a saying and hymn daily to keep our spirits up. Phone contact was maintained with the two couples who did not have Facebook. Prayer points were shared through all contact. Online services became a blessing as some worshipped with St John's whilst others were able to worship with family member's churches. This allowed a connection with loved ones they were unable to visit.

July saw the return to our monthly service as being a small congregation we could remain socially distanced and all attend. On the other Sundays we began a DVD series by Louie Giglio and a series on Peter's life.

We were fortunate to receive a grant for the construction of an accessibility ramp. This was ably constructed by Simon Crawley.

A ladies Bible study group met on Tuesdays, under the guidance of Jan Waterhouse, observing social distancing. Tables were arranged in the hall to allow 1.5metres between seats.

The congregation have continued to support the mission groups of St John's and have separately supported Imli and Heather as we have seen Imli grow from his first sermon at Mount Hunter to moving onto the mission field in the Northern Territory.

Despite the unusual year the congregation have remained faithful to learning about and serving the Lord. We thank God for each other, the leadership from the main church and the support of Parish Council.

Graham Nash and Anne Angilley

Wardens

Carrington Congregations:

Grasmere Terrace

The Carrington services were placed into recess due to the COVID restrictions as at 15th March 2020.

This was a disappointment as we have been unable to enter the facilities that were placed under strict lock down. The good news though as this has been a major factor in keeping the virus out of the Carrington village, harsh though it has been.

We have not been able to visit anyone but have seen one or two as they moved outside their facility from time to time or talking to others within the wider Carrington community.

To assist with keeping in contact, each week the Grasmere team wrote a devotional that sought to encourage the residents. These were accompanied by DVD recordings of the services, kindly arranged by Alan Curgenvin and Philip Pilt. These were addressed specifically to those who regularly attended our services. Some have received letters from our team members, but responses were difficult to assess.

Personal visitation has also been restricted and we have not made pastoral visits as family members were given priority under the limited restriction guidelines.

We would wish to thank those who have decided to retire from this ministry – David and Beverly Henderson, Dawn Stolzenhein, and Philip Hannaford. We also welcome Judith Taylor who has come on board with Max and Betty MacKay.

At the time of writing, plans are underway to recommence this vital ministry and we would welcome additional assistance – especially on the music side. (We use recorded music to accompany us but there is no substitute for the presence of a musical instrument!) Please speak to Tony, if you wish to enjoy sharing your faith, getting to know those who have faithfully served their Lord in the past, and who have some great testimonies to share. They are a great encouragement for us to continue where these faithful servants have left off.

Ken Long

Women's Church

020 saw us enter our 16th year of **Women's Church**. It was an extremely unusual year for Women's Church as we had to navigate many changes due to Covid 19.

Term 1 began with an exciting series called "Refresh." It was really popular especially with the young women and we saw our numbers start to really grow. However 6 weeks in, we went into lockdown.

On Wednesday Mar 18, The Bishop rang to say to cancel all our services. With only 1 day's notice we had to close the doors for Women's Church.

Thanks to an amazing team of courageous and creative people, armed with only an iPhone, we were able to get our service online the following day.

We remained as an online service only till fourth term where we were able to both live stream and have women in the building and the hall.

Many thanks to James Lane, Haylee Morgan and Taylor Youl. They were amazing and so committed to turning up early each week to film.

We learnt so much this year:

How to communicate through electronic media.

How to be more creative with our setting and interest spots and

How to talk to a camera and imagine someone's on the other side!

Above all this year taught us that nothing gets in the way of God and His Gospel message, not even a pandemic!

Women's Church continues to bless women in our community and even far across the ocean on the other side of the world.

Our numbers are slowly creeping back to pre-Covid times.

My biggest thanks goes to the **Women's Church Team** who stayed faithful and patient through the many changes.

Debbie Galea

Women's Ministry

We had planned four events for the year.

However, due to Covid the only event we were able to run was the Come Café With Me.

This event is a wonderful opportunity for women to get to know other women in their service in a small group at one of our local cafes.

Unfortunately it was not as well attended as other years due to concern over contact regarding Covid 19.

There are new plans being made for 2021 to enable women to meet again and be encouraged in their Christian walk.

Debbie Galea

Children's Ministry:

Teaching children is one of the most important activities in our church, as it sets the foundation for faith at a young age. I know all our leaders of the different children's groups look forward to teaching the children in a fun and caring environment. Our vision is to lead children into a personal relationship with Jesus, equipping them to grow in their relationship through discipleship. Our children's ministry teaches biblical truths through games, drama, puppets, video, singing and craft. Our entire Children's groups within St John's affirm faith in Jesus Christ, are devoted to discipleship, and value children and families. We encourage children to learn and grow in their personal relationships with Jesus Christ, showing kids that God is relevant today and equipping children to serve others and share their faith.

Kind Regards,

Haylee Morgan

Children's Minister

GFS

Our G.F.S Branch meets each Wednesday of the school term in the church hall from 6.30pm to 8pm. We welcome girls from 5 years to 16 years.

Three groups are organized to cater for age differences.

TEDDIES: Infants with Leader Megan Crocker and Leader-In-Training Jody Stevenson.

JUNIORS: Years 3-5 – Leader Kay Hudson and Sharon Crocker and Leader-In-Training Mia Hotson.

SENIORS: Year 6 with Leaders Lauren Giles and Neidra Hill.

The year 2020 was very uncertain and interrupted due to Covid-19 restrictions. No G.F.S was held in Term 2 and a big fall off in numbers in our Senior Group dropping from 11 girls to 6. This was partly due to losing Leader Colleen Jeffcott for terms 3 and 4 and Neidra Hill moving up to assist Lauren Giles.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES: These were restricted with no singing, no cooking, no outings but included Bible talks, Prayer, Craft and Games.

EXTRA ACTIVITIES: No Caving camp or Sydney Girls Camp this year and no extra activities, except for selling candles and glow sticks at Carols in the Park.

Registered Numbers:	Teddies - 14	
	Juniors - 13	Total = 39
	Seniors - 12	

GENERAL COMMENTS: Despite covid restrictions and temporary loss of a Leader, our G.F.S. girls, parents and leaders were blessed in our ministry of serving girls and nurturing them.

We do praise and give thanks to our heavenly Father for His faithfulness to our Branch over so many years. Thank you St. Johns for your Prayer Support and the support of the Office Team.

Neidra Hill (Leader-in-Charge)

Kids Church

Kids' Church is our Sunday morning program for children in Pre-school to Year 6. This is a program specifically designed around meeting the spiritual needs of the different school age groups. Learning about Jesus happens in a fun way through interactive games, stories, craft, memory

verses and singing. 2020 was an interesting year as we took on the challenge of doing Kids Church online. This involved a weekly video, alongside some craft ideas and questions.

Once going back to face-to-face church, we averaged around 30-35 Kids. We had 3 different groups running during our KidsChurch program. Our leaders included Amy Burge, Jenny, Emily, Ruby and Will Giles, Caleb Clarke, Lachlan Albury, Rachael Ferdinands, Betty McKay, Cassie Youl, Liam and Emma Cole.

Also, Barbara Griffiths led our crèche, and a number of the mothers from the 10am service helped with crèche. Our Crèche Program is for Children aged 1-3 years. Our focus is relationships, as we demonstrate God's love through the way we care, guide and relate to the children, laying a foundation for each child at some point in their life, to come into a lasting relationship with Jesus.

The topics we looked at last year were:

Term 1 - Psalm 23

Term 2 - Unexplored stories in the Bible

Term 3 - James

Term 4 - The miracle of Christmas

We were unable to hold our annual Kids Holiday Club (KHC) in 2020 due to covid restrictions, however we are very much looking forward to having it once again this year in the September school holidays.

Thank you to all the volunteers from the Children's group; G.F.S, Meteors, KidsChurch, and KidsTime, as the children's programs at St John's cannot run without the blessing and service of these people.

Kind Regards,

Haylee Morgan

Children's Minister

KidsTime

KidsTime is a place for children aged 0-5 years and their caregivers. This is a chance for parents to meet other parents in the community and to join in activities with their children, all in a fun and Christian environment.

This is such an important ministry as we not only reach the children in the community but we build relationships with parents. We see a lot of mothers that move to the area looking for a place to connect and have support. This is what KidsTime offers, a place where new parents and new families can find support and connection to the community.

2020 brought a lot of change with Covid, during lockdown we kept in contact with families via facebook with different craft and story ideas. Then in term 3 we started meeting in local parks to catch up. And then we started back to normal playgroup in term 4.

We had a great team of Christian mums from St John's helping run and program KidsTime - Lauren Trotter, Jenna Costello, Anwen Angilley, Karen Horne and Lillian Shephard.

We also had, until Covid hit, a group of women that take turns to come to serve morning tea, chat with mums, and help pack up. Thank you to Nikki Hayward, Jane McIntosh, Linda Wheeler and Janet Broome.

It is so exciting to see the children and carers listen to the bible stories and praying at the end of group time. There is a great sense of community that has formed amongst the mums/carers. We have seen some women go to church events; this has been very encouraging to see.

Thank you for all the support of KidsTime.

Karina Edgerton

Men in the Shed @10

Men in the shed was compelled to enter into recess indefinitely due to the virus requirements of social distancing. Throughout the year we continued to share a devotional series via email.

Thanks goes to Rod Stanley and Paul Clarke for facilitating our group during the first couple of months of 2020. Sadly, we have not been able to recommence at this time.

Ken Long

Mission Group

The Missions working group is a Committee of the Parish Council and is responsible for implementing the Camden Anglican Mission Policy. The group is also responsible for maintaining contact with each mission partner through a member of congregation designated as the Ambassador.

The weekly church Bulletin gives the name of the missionary persons or family, their email contact and the responsible sending missionary organisation. It is important to note the financial support from the parish was given through the Mission half of the offertory envelope or designated Direct Deposit.

The Group makes recommendations to Parish Council on the allocation of these mission funds as set in policy. The detailed amounts are shown on the Parish Treasurer's AGM Report under the heading Specific Missions – Envelopes and Direct Debit. The giving has remained steady however the exchange rate changes affect the overseas missionaries.

During the year the Galea family commenced serving in Malta with CMS.

The Policy requires the working group to be elected at the Vestry AGM meeting and consists of between 4 and 7 persons, including a chairperson to be elected by the group members. The current 2020 members are P.

Hayward (chair), M. Brookes, M. McKay, R. Newport, and C. Noonan. Peter Hayward is not re-standing on the committee for 2021 and we thank Peter for his service and leadership.

Ross Newport

Music Ministry

I continue to enjoy leading a very gifted, supportive and dedicated group of singers and musicians.

God has really blessed our church services through them.

It was a steep learning curve as our services went online only.

We decided to film the music a Sunday ahead so it could be edited and inserted into the Wednesday's service filming.

Unfortunately it wasn't suitable for all musos to be filmed due to various circumstances, so I was very appreciative of those who stepped up.

It was an unusual time for us all as we tried to encourage the congregation to join in with singing in their own homes, via a camera.

Singing and praising God is integral to being a Christian. It has always been a mark of God's people to be a people of praise.

The song leaders and musos worked extremely hard to be professional and engaging. I think they did a tremendous job.

We had a great film crew who tirelessly turned up each Sunday to film and help us with sound.

Many thanks to James Lane, Nick Lane, Haylee Morgan and Taylor Youl.

We couldn't have done it without them.

Regards

Debbie

Office

2020 has been a very different year – changing to online services and having to adapt quickly to keep everyone in touch by email or post has been a challenge. Restrictions changed with no warning and a lot of cleaning was added to a normal week. The reception area became a community pantry, and it was heartwarming to see the generous gifts of food able to go to people in need. God has helped us through this and enabled us to step up in many new roles.

Our parish office is always busy providing information, CDs, flyers and newsletters, managing rosters, accounts, communicating with suppliers, fulfilling diocese requirements, updating the website, providing references, staff meetings, filing, arranging interments in the Columbarium, organizing behind the scenes for services, funerals, weddings, baptisms and hall use etc.

Thank you to our gracious God for providing the many people who have supported the parish office in 2020. Thank you to Jan, Prue, Bev and many others who have been so helpful. Thank you to Marilyn who takes care of the accounts, the Wardens who are always available for wise advice, and to Christine for managing wedding bookings with grace and diligence. Thank you to Glen who has taken on updating the website. Thank you to Tony for godly leading and all the staff who are a blessing to work with. I would value your prayer for good communication and the efficient operation of the office so that all who come here are appropriately assisted in God's love,

Sarah MacRaild, Office Manager

Open Church

The church has been open on most Friday mornings (and other days) for visitors interested in learning more about the church and its history. This has happened for many many years. Thank you to Barbara, Betty, Carol,

Deb, Dianne, Dorothy, Neryl, Sylvia and others who have given up their time to look after these visitors and help prepare the church ready for Sunday. They have all been so welcoming and have shared God's love with those who visit. Now as many are retiring and with the difficulties with covid distancing and cleaning, this ministry has been closed. Thank God for the wonderful volunteers who have generously made a place for people seeking time in church during the week.

Sarah MacRaid

Open Door Friendship Group

Our last meeting for 2020 was 17th or 24th March before Covid struck. We hope to start this year, continuing as we were, if that is possible. We would meet in the Church Hall on Tuesday at 10am.

Nikki Hayward

Pastoral Care

Last year was a very different year, with covid 19, but we always Praised and thanked God for all he did with the Team and are thankful for his Faithfulness.

Also thankful for Tony's support and encouragement throughout 2020 which was a year of doing life and ministry different.

Even though we weren't able to visit a lot of the year because of covid 19, Tony, Pat, Trish, Jan, Tilda, and myself made many phone calls, texts, e-

mails and sent cards. Also we were able to do some zooming, praise God for techno we have today.

Sadly Irfon, Barbara and myself missed our Monthly Tuesday Services at the Retirement Villages and Nursing Homes. Praise God we started them again last week, they were so excited to be meeting together again to be worshiping God and praising him.

Baptisms were also not happening, thankfully we started them back up in August again, different with our covid 19 rules. Last week was our first Sunday back to be fairly normal.

We will continue always to be trusting this year and all the plans God has for the pastoral team.

Thank you for your prayers throughout the year they were appreciated by us all.

Yours in Christ

Debbie Banister.

Safe Ministry

Safe Ministry is all about ensuring that we have safe leaders, with safe practices and ensuring safe environments, as we meet in various settings at St. Johns. Linda Wheeler and I are the Safe Ministry Representatives for St. John's. Our roles involve:

- a) Assist the Minister: to comply with the child protection screening requirements.

- b) Keep Records: of Working with Children checks, Safe Ministry training and Safe Ministry checks.
- c) Monitor and Report: on safe ministry systems and practice in the parish, and
- d) Report any abuse.

(Excerpt taken from <https://safeministry.org.au/blueprint-smr/>).

Safe Ministry Administration

This role entails a significant workload of administration. The 3 main areas to manage are the following:

1. Working with Children Checks.
2. Safe Ministry Training.
3. Safe Ministry Checks.

These three components have been enforced by the government and the Anglican diocese to ensure we have the right person for the jobs involved with young and vulnerable people in ministry.

Praise God that Bev Pappas has come on board to help Linda and I manage the workload of this. We also welcome more people to be involved to help us and if interested chat with Jimmy Lane.

Safe Ministry Culture

This year, Linda and I have adopted a perspective of encouraging everyone at St. John's to be safe ministry aware. It is not just the job of those serving in ministry to young people. But the church family.

Your brother in Christ,
James Lane. Youth Minister

Strategic Planning and Heritage Committee

Through the year the committee have met and considered projects that include:-

- New roof to 1906 Hall.
- Review implications of Listing St. John's Precinct on the State Register.
- Review proposed Worship Centre plans and make recommendation to Parish Council.
- Consider concept plans for additional toilets attached to the southern end of the office building with proposed access off the car parking area.
- Tree management for the whole church Precinct.

Thank God for the finances provided and the conscientious team members.

Ross Newport
Chairman

Work Health and Safety Committee

In June 2020 Parish Council meeting the new Risk Management Manual was presented to Tony and the Parish Council. A copy is kept in the Office.

The full Risk Management Manual has three sections:

1. Risk Management Manual – (completed)
2. Emergency Management Manual – (completed)
3. Disaster Management Manual – (not started)

1. Risk Management

The Risk Management Manual follows the original framework set out by the Diocese.

1. Risk Management Framework – outlines risk management practices
2. Child Protection – covers Safe Ministry headed up by James Lane
3. Building Environment – includes all WHS items outside the office
4. Working Environment – includes WHS items involving ‘workers’
5. Bullying and Violence
6. Food Safety
7. COVID Risk Management (added as a new section in 2020)

Your Safety Committee under the direction of the Parish Council assists in the implementation of WHS practices at St Johns:

- Sarah MacRaid
- Charles Noonan
- Glen Jensen
- Andrew McWilliam

We are delighted to report in 2020 we had ZERO WHS incidents or near misses reported.

With COVID 24 WHS documents were prepared and 9 COVID Safety Plans were submitted to Service NSW.

Your safety has been our primary concern and we are happy to report ZERO COVID related incidents at St John’s.

2. Emergency Management Manual

The Emergency Management Manual outlines responses to:

- Fire and smoke
- Phone/ Bomb threats

- Medical emergencies
- Intrusion with malice etc.

We aimed to implement Fire Drills for all in 2020, but COVID has delayed plans until 2021. If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to ask Tony or one of the Safety Committee representatives.

Andrew McWilliam.

Parish WHS Representative to the Diocese.

Youth Ministry

St. John's Youth Group is all about putting young lives on the right track. We believe the best way to do that is by helping our young ones to know and walk in Christ.

2020 was a year that Youth Ministry underwent significant changes due to the pandemic and had to adapt. We started 2020 as normal, however March 2020 we had to stop the physical meetings of Youth group. When this occurred, we took Youth Group online. Each week I would do a podcast, which is a recording of my voice and I would give a short devotion and interview a Youth Group member at the end of each episode. This podcast was easily accessible to youth, as they could listen to it anywhere on a smartphone. We also started our Youth Group small groups on Zoom. This was a great way to remain connected to our Youth and help them during the Pandemic.

Restrictions eased by June for Youth Group to resume face to face meetings. However, we had to split the Youth Group night into two

segments to cater for the numbers. Though this was not the ideal method of running Youth Group, the kids responded positively to this.

By term 3, we were able to resume Youth Group to its normal setting.

Sadly, due to the circumstances of last year Winter Beach Camp 2020 was shut down. However, it's back on for 2021!

We cover a range of topics and teachings, here is a summary of our content from last year.

Youth Program from 2020

- Term 1: Christianity Explored-We taught from the book of Mark about what Christianity is all about. It's about Jesus, and what it means to believe and have a relationship with Him.
- Term 2: The Promise-We explored the life of Abraham in Genesis and looked at his example. The aim of the program was to encourage kids to understand God's promises and how he remains faithful. Abraham's life provided a great example of someone that wasn't perfect, and yet God helped him.
- Term 3: Influencers-This was a topical program to talk on the latest trends and activities that Youth are involved with. Such as: Family, friendships, Gaming, Music, Tik Tok, and Binge watching. The idea was to get kids to consider everyday activities and how they can influence us negatively or positively in Christ.
- Term 4: Living in Freedom-This term welcomed Yr. 6 students to Galatians, it was a great book to introduce the Gospel to the new and old members of Youth Group.

Your brother in Christ,
James Lane. Youth Minister