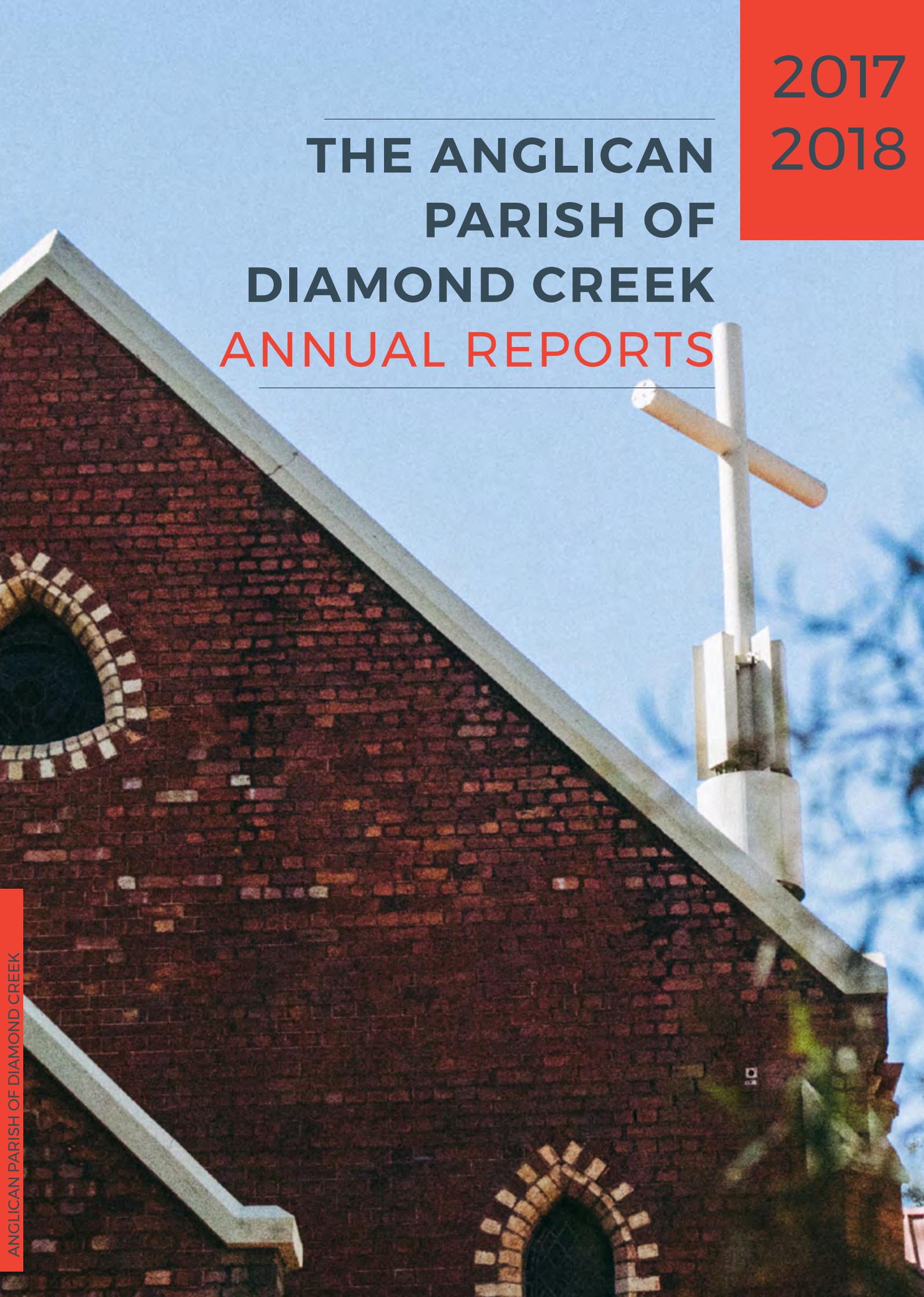


2017
2018

**THE ANGLICAN
PARISH OF
DIAMOND CREEK**
ANNUAL REPORTS





ANGLICAN PARISH OF **DIAMOND CREEK**

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VICAR'S REPORT

Tim Johnson

Our church exists because of Jesus and for Jesus. Through his death and resurrection Jesus calls people to follow him, forgives them, empowers them with his Holy Spirit, and unites them together into the church. As the church it is our role to grow deeper in our love and knowledge of Jesus, becoming more like him, and to share Jesus with others so that they can know the abundant life that is found through relationship with him. This is core to who we are and what we do and we sum that up in our church mission statement:

Everything we do centers on Jesus. As we reflect on the year past it is worth reaffirming this central truth. In writing annual reports it is tempting to focus attention on big events in the past year but much of what we do as a church

Know Jesus. Make Jesus Known

revolves around the regular gatherings we undertake which serve our mission, our services, our Life Groups, and our missional teams. These "ordinary" activities are anything but ordinary, as through them we carry out the mission of God and love and serve each other and our wider community.

Let me reflect of some of the ways we have done this over the past year and have been seeking to fulfill our church Vision 2022 which states:

*Trusting that God can do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, by 2022 we aim to be:
An intergenerational community, which is
Loving like Jesus,
Growing in Jesus,
Sharing Jesus.*

An Intergenerational Community

I love the fact that our congregations encompass people from ages 0 to 95. It is hard to find another organisation that does this like the church. It is beautiful to watch relationships across different age groups and over the past year we have welcomed new people of varying ages into our community. As a church we recognize that we need to keep encouraging relationships to flourish across age groups as we have more intergenerational services, Life Groups and Activities. One prime example of where this is working so well is Going Bananas where the team of leaders (some 70 this year) represents a variety of ages in our church working together to serve the children who come and share Jesus with them. Since our church covers such a range of ages it means that each year we say farewell to brothers and sisters who go to be with Jesus. In the past year we said goodbye to Len Johnstone who was such a faithful and generous servant of St John's along with his wife Dulcie. Praise God that we don't grieve without hope but can rejoice that Len has now heard Jesus say 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'



Loving Like Jesus

It is impossible to quantify all the acts of love that have taken place in our church over the past year. From phone calls and visits, to meals cooked and lifts offered, to prayers prayed, tears shed together, encouraging words and smiles, and the simple act of being present for another our church is a place that is full of love. I hope you have experienced that yourself this past year. Welcoming and hospitality are vital elements of our love for others. It is encouraging to see people welcome new people and those they don't know each Sunday. Around the local area people open their homes to each other for Life Group or social catch ups. Over the past year we have tried to spill over these acts of love, welcome and hospitality into our local community in more proactive ways. Initiatives like 'Love Your Neighbour' where people have adopted local businesses and simply seek to love and serve them are a great way to do this. Biscuits were baked for the staff of Mitre 10 each week, when businesses faced hard times our people visited them and encouraged others to support them, and there were deep conversations held as trust was nurtured and built.



Sharing Jesus

Jesus is the Lord of the whole earth and is passionately committed to all the peoples of every nation. We share that passion and so seek to partner with others working for Christ around the world. In the past year we gave over \$70,000 to mission partners working for justice and to promote the gospel. I love this generous heart of our church – may we never lose this external focus and passion. We are also committed to mission locally and have expressed this through various mission action teams and simply by community engagement in our everyday lives, work and study. We have focused on seeking to train and equip people to share Jesus with others. Through 'Everyday Evangelism' we saw 50 people trained and recently our 'Biblical Storytelling' training equipped 20 people for this technique that has proved so effective in world and local mission. Our Come and See services are also ways that we have deliberately tried to focus some services on outreach. We hope that any week you feel able to invite friends to church and know that they will be welcomed and hear about Jesus. However, it is great to focus this on occasion and to work to share Jesus through our regular gatherings.

Growing in Jesus

As a church which loves the bible and takes it seriously as the very word of God to us, we study it through our services, Life Groups and personally and seek to put it into practice in our lives. This year we have explored parts of John's Gospel, the Servant Songs in Isaiah, Philippians, 1 Peter and Acts. We have also resourced Life Groups to dig deeper together in their bible studies. Through prayer in various settings people have also been encouraged to bring their lives before God, put his word into practice and to seek after him in more intimate relationship. A good example of this has been the prayer course we ran in Terms 2 and 3 where around 8 people each time sought to grow their relationship with God through prayer. Again, it would be hard to quantify the number of prayers prayed in our church over the past year and how many answers to prayer we have seen. We have revitalised the church 'prayer chain' this year making the use of technology so that more people can be informed more quickly when there are urgent matters of prayer to bring before God. I'd encourage you join up if you haven't already done so as we pray expectantly confident that God changes things as we pray.



Thank you

I'm grateful to all the staff, Wardens, Parish Council, leaders and volunteers in our church who work so tirelessly for Jesus and people. We are a team, a family, a body together with everyone playing their part and I'm very grateful for this. Taking Long Service Leave in Term 3 meant that others had to pick up various responsibilities with me away. Things ran smoothly and well during this time and this was testimony to the high caliber of all those who led during this time. Thanks especially to Kirk Mackenzie who was acting Vicar and Megan Curlis-Gibson who assisted in the parish over these 10 weeks.

Kirk Mackenzie has continued to bring his passion for young people, evangelism, and strategic leadership insights to our parish and we are blessed to have him serving in our church. Kirk covers a range of responsibilities and does them all with high competence and diligence.

Julie Blinco has made a wonderful contribution in a short time, since joining the staff team in February. Julie is passionate about mission and a key strategic thinker in this area. Julie is warm and pastoral, hospitable and insightful, and we are blessed to have her with us.

Ros Rudd has continued in her role in the Parish, focusing her attention on St Katherine's and pastoral care ministry. Her wisdom and patience have been greatly appreciated and she is exercising a vital external ministry through funerals she takes at St John's for those with historical connections or from the wider community.

Kylie Pilkington has transitioned well into the role of Children and Families Minister. Kylie had to hit the ground running in late January but did so with passion and competence, powering up the steep learning curve she faced. She will continue to grow in confidence and skill as she moves into her second year in the role.

Carolyn Burns has continued in the role of office manager, combining pastoral warmth and administrative competence to our benefit. So much of what Carolyn does in the office is unseen and her knowledge of our church, its people, and its workings are vital for the smooth functioning of all we do. With Kylie's new role Carolyn has taken on new skills in finance and is always willing to learn and grow.

Andrew Barras has served brilliantly in the difficult role of Communications in our Parish. The varied nature of communication channels across a multi-generational church is mind-boggling but Andy is always positive and full of new ideas and initiatives. People from other churches have commented to me often about how effective our communication is and asking how we are doing it so well. My answer: Andy!

Sam Oldland has served as our Student Minister for the past two years. He has made a significant contribution in the parish, leading services at St Katherine's and St John's, leading in the Leith Park church services, and preaching. Both Sam and Rhonnie have thrown themselves into relationships and are much loved. They will be missed as they leave us at the end of the year to take up a new ministry role as Sam is ordained next year. We will continue to pray for them and look forward to the birth of their first child in early 2019.

Nat Coleman, Rob Shackleton and Michael Dorman have been wonderful wardens for our parish. Wardens cover such a wide range of responsibilities which can vary from week to week. These three have been faithful stewards of our property and finances and passionate about using them to advance our mission.

It is a privilege and joy to work alongside the staff, wardens, parish council, and many volunteers in the leadership of the parish. We are well served by each of these women and men and I am thankful to God that he has placed me here to serve you all. I celebrated 5 years at St John's in September. Sometimes people worry when a minister takes Long Service Leave that they might have thoughts about leaving. I'm afraid you're stuck with me. I love this church and am excited to continue serving and leading within it as we Know Jesus and Make Jesus Known together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

TIM JOHNSON
Senior Minister

Warden's Report

WARDEN'S REPORT

*Natalie Coleman,
Michael Dorman,
Robert Shackleton*

The wardens for the 2017/2018 church year have been Natalie Coleman, Michael Dorman and Robert Shackleton. Working together, Nat has focussed on finances, Michael on staff and Rob on property matters.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the members of Parish Council: Robyn Bland, Anna Greenhalgh, Carol Jenkinson, Andrew Jetten, Diane King, and Damien Knuckey. Their support, encouragement and collective wisdom throughout the year has made it a productive time in planning and carrying out the activities of the parish.

We would also like to thank Anna Greenhalgh for the great work she has done as Parish Treasurer this past year. The finances of a large church can be complex, and Anna has provided great help to the wardens in applying her considerable skills to the role.

We are pleased to present this report to the AGM to outline key events and matters that arose throughout the year.

Staff

This year saw some significant changes to staffing. We have been tremendously well served by the dedication of all staff members in caring for the people of our parish. The wardens thank them for the help and support they have each provided to the parish generally and to the wardens particularly.

Our staff team has included:

Rev. Dr. Tim Johnson

Tim completed his fifth year as Senior Minister in mid-September, continuing in his outstanding care for and guidance of the parish. We are truly blessed by Tim's clarity of mind in leading the focus and direction of the parish, particularly as he has worked to implement our new parish Vision 2022. During Term Three Tim enjoyed 10 weeks well deserved long service leave, traveling around Australia with Anna, Abi, Emily and Sam. A great time to refresh, recharge and spend quality time with family. It is a testament to Tim's planning and organisation (as well as the efforts of other staff) that the Parish continued to not only function but thrive during his extended leave. We regard ourselves as fortunate having Tim as our Senior Minister and we thank God for the love, wisdom and dedication Tim shows daily.

Rev. Kirk Mackenzie

This year the Parish has once again been blessed by Kirk's ministry. His main responsibilities have continued to focus on leading and nurturing the 6pm service at St John's, organising youth life groups and youth and young adults activities. During Tim's period of long service Kirk took on extra responsibilities as Acting Senior Minister. The Wardens are extremely grateful for Kirk's willingness and ability to take on extra tasks, including Parish Council and Wardens' Meetings. The administration the Parish can be complex at times and we have been ably served by Kirk who provided great leadership.

Rev. Julie Blinco

Julie joined our staff team as an Associate Minister in February 2018 and was ordained the same month. Julie's passion for evangelism has already had a significant impact on the parish and the Diamond Creek community. Her focus on community engagement and sharing Jesus in culturally relevant ways has led to several initiatives, such as 'Come and See' services and the 'Love Your Neighbour' program, encouraging people to adopt a local business. The 'Love Your Neighbour' program has generated a great deal of interest from other churches, who are now looking to adapt the idea for their local communities. Julie has preached regularly this year and it has been a joy to hear of her journey to faith. We praise God for Julie's many talents and for her ministry in the Parish.

Kylie Pilkington

Kylie transitioned from her administrative role into the role of Children & Families Minister in January 2018. Her focus is to continue developing and running our children's ministries, ensuring they are welcoming and accommodating to the ever-growing group of families that attend the vast array of children's ministries on Sundays and throughout the week. These include St John's Kids programs on Sunday, Mainly Music, Playgroup, Kids Hope and family activity nights targeted to specific age groups. The popular Going Bananas school holiday program has continued to be a significant community outreach under Kylie's leadership. We give thanks to God for health of our children's ministry and for the talents and leadership Kylie brings to her role as Children and Families Minister.

Sam Oldland

Sam has continued as part of our staff team for second year as a student minister. This year Sam has had to opportunity to preach more regularly, for which we are grateful. Sam is a talented preacher and communicator and we pray for God's blessing for both Sam and Rhonwyn as they look towards new ministry opportunities in the new year.

Andy Barras

Andy has continued in his role as the Parish 'Communications Guy'. In addition to his regular news updates, the Parish has benefited from Andy's technological skills behind the scenes as he works to ensure we have the appropriate equipment to function effectively in the 21st century. Andy has produced brochures, flyers, presentation graphics and multimedia material and has further developed our social media engagement.

Andi Fidock

While Kirk was acting Senior Minister, Andi Fidock was appointed as Sunday@6 Administrator, looking after most of the behind the scenes running of the Sunday@6 service. We are very appreciative of the support Andi has provided.

Rev. Ros Rudd

Ros has continued in an honorary capacity conducting services at St Katherine's. Ros' pastoral gifts and talents have been welcomed throughout the parish.

Carolyn Burns & Ann Young

The administration of the parish runs smoothly and efficiently due to the great work of Carolyn and Ann. Ann has assisted in a voluntary capacity on Fridays and has also backfilled for Carolyn during annual leave. They provide a welcoming and friendly first point of contact to those in the community reaching out to the church office. They are also unsung heroes, often working behind the scenes to support all kinds of events and activities throughout the parish. We are greatly appreciative for the help and support they provide.

Dianne Cheraghi

Also in the office, Dianne Cheraghi continues to perform the important role of financial bookkeeper with a gentle blend of helpfulness and guidance, making sure that everybody gets paid and every transaction is correctly and accurately entered.

Thank You

We praise God for the provision of a team with such a wide range of skills, capabilities and passions. Together, with the support of their families, all our staff members have played significant roles in doing God's work in Diamond Creek and we gladly take this opportunity to thank them.

Property

The St John's centre continues to be a strong asset in the operation of the Parish. It is a widely used community resource bringing a diverse range of outside community groups through our doors. It is not always apparent to those of us who come to St John's mostly on Sundays but the complex is buzzing with activity most days of the week right through the year.

We are happy to report that the buildings at all three centres have been maintained in good condition.

We continue to make gradual improvements and additions to the appointments within the buildings, some planned and some as the need arises. We give thanks for the amazing generosity of many within the congregation who have contributed in time, expertise and finances towards the maintenance of our buildings, lawns and gardens. We're hoping this continues to develop and spread across the whole parish as an evolving reliable and competent maintenance team. Cleaning of the St John's centre on the whole has been undertaken by a paid contractor.

Office space and facilities remain adequate for the employed staff. Following an ergonomic assessment new office chairs were purchased. A replacement "split system" air conditioner was installed to service the reception and open areas of the office, and another unit was installed to service the room used by Kylie and Ros. In the office area and in the Worship Centre, some LED lighting has replaced older technology.

Annual Essential Safety Measures & Site Safety Documents

We continue to monitor the legally required monthly inspections and documentation, ensuring they are fulfilled in a systematic and timely manner. A register of all items of plant and equipment requiring routine maintenance has been introduced.

Food Provision & Handling Policy

The kitchen operates under a Class 3 classification as overseen by the Nillumbik Council Health Department. We thank those who have been involved in the kitchen and encourage all who use the facility to remember that records still need to be kept.

Finance

The wardens have closely monitored income and expenditure over the past year to make proper use of the money available without extending our activities beyond our means.

Income for both St Michael's and St Katherine's was slightly under budget, but expenses were also under budget. Net income for St Michael's was \$244, and for St Katherine's \$4,346.

The 2017/18 budget for St John's set no increase in offertory from the 2016/17 actual offertory. Received offertory for 2017/18 exceeded budget by \$7,120. This places St John's in a reasonable financial situation, although it should be noted that staffing cost in 2017/18 were lower as the Associate Minister position was vacant for several months.

We have been able to continue to support missions this year, directing 15% of our offertory to a variety of international, Australian and local missions in accordance with the intentions expressed by the congregation.

Our Thanksgiving appeal this year received just under \$30K. We continue to give thanks to God for his provision and the willingness of people to be involved in supporting the finances of our church.

During the year the wardens were ably assisted by our bookkeeper Dianne Cheraghi, our office staff Carolyn Burns and Ann Young, and our treasurer Anna Greenhalgh. We thank them all for their commitment and hard work in this important area.

Over the past two years we have been negotiating the renewal of our telco contract with Optus, and have been considering various options. This has been very complex and a time consuming process for all involved. We are extremely thankful for Mick Fisher, his commitment, hard work, time and expertise in managing this on behalf of the wardens. This deal is near completion and we hope to speak further to this at the AGM.

We have maintained a set of books that have recorded the income and expenses of St John's, St Michael's and St Katherine's in an accurate and clear form. To our team of counters, thank you for your work in this important role. A very special thanks also to Bruce Allen for his time and support as auditor.

Our parish is blessed to have such wonderful people serving in so many different ministries. It has been an honour to work together with them in this church and this community. As we embark on our 152nd year we look to live out our new Vision 2022 to the praise and glory of God.

NATALIE COLEMAN,
MICHAEL DORMAN,
ROB SHACKLETON.

Wardens

Sunday Services

9:30AM
ST JOHN'S

Morning Service



Julie Blinco

It has been 9 months since I began as an Associate Minister at St John's and I've loved being part of such a healthy, loving, missional-minded community of believers! I'm particularly grateful to Tim and a dynamic team in this!

This year's planning and practise has largely been informed by two initial Focus Groups conducted. Listening both to what the Missional Leaders had to say as well as what the Holy Spirit has been showing, has been key in informing my decisions concerning the 9.30am Sunday morning service, and providing support to our people involved in local missional initiatives.



Gatherings

We have continued to gather together in the name of Jesus each Sunday morning. The sermon series have taken us through the Book of Isaiah, Philippians, 1 Peter and Acts. Between sermon series, we have aimed to increase the number of evangelistic services and community engagement. Come and See have been two services to this effect, where people are encouraged to invite friends who'd like to 'come and see' what it's like to follow Jesus. Additionally, we've had an increased spotlight on community within our gatherings, including interviews of our people who are engaged in community outreaches, family discipleship times where practical wisdom has been shared in growing in Jesus in homes through the week, Diamond Creek community prayer day, as well as a Community Prayer Space both in the foyer and the Button's Quilt in the prayer room.

We give thanks to Jesus for a number of new people, including several new families who have joined us this year or had their children baptised. We recognise the valuable input of Megan Curlis-Gibson and Kirk McKenzie who were a part of the morning service whilst Tim and his family were on long-service leave in Term 3. We also give thanks for numbers of people who have served faithfully on teams for years, without whom we could not regularly offer the rich experience we do.

JULIE BLINCO
Associate Minister

6:00PM ST JOHN'S

Youth & Young Adults Service

An intergenerational community **Loving Like Jesus**

In response to our Vision 2022 we have slightly reoriented the focus of Sunday@6. Instead of being a purely 'Youth and Young Adults' service we are thinking of ourselves as 'An intergenerational Service with a special focus on Youth and Young Adults'. In part, this change was acknowledging something that was already the case, however it has motivated small changes to the way we include children in our service and communicate about St John's Kids. Pleasingly, this year we've seen many of our younger teenagers step up into service and leadership roles, this is something we have struggled to do in previous years. More older adults have been attending the service too, sometimes attending with their children but often by themselves.

Growing in Jesus

Recently we have instituted extended QandA times after some services at key times during each teaching series. The idea is that we grow in faith not just by listening to the wisdom of the preacher (although that's a great thing to do) but also by discussing with each other the important issues of faith in Jesus. QandA is risky because of its off-the-cuff nature, we have only a small amount of control over the questions and the answers, but this creates a great environment where people are not expected to be "perfect Christians" but rather encouraged to engage, express their doubts and ask their questions as we sharpen each other's faith.

Similarly we are running extended prayer and worship sessions once a term that provide a space to worship and pray together with a bit more flexibility and freedom than is available in a normal service. So far both these initiatives have been well received. We are regularly reviewing and refining them.

Sharing Jesus

In August we launched a new Sunday@6 Goal: By mid 2019, Sunday@6 will have an average attendance of over 100 people.

Given that Vision 2022 states that our growth be primarily because people are becoming Christians, we estimate this means we're aiming for 17 people coming to know Jesus in the next 12 months, with Sunday@6 helping them in their journey.



We've made a number of changes so far (more to come) so that we're as ready as we can be to work with God as he changes people's lives. I'll give one example to demonstrate: We have shortened our services by 20 minutes. We now go for 60-70 minutes. Here's the thinking:

- Visitors may find shorter services easier to digest if they are new to church.
- Earlier finish times makes it easier for people who have early starts on Monday mornings. For those with later starts on Mondays, there's more time to socialize and build relationships after church is finished.
- Given our focus on younger generations, it's good to be aware that the majority of youth and young adults in Melbourne are very "unchurched" and so just aren't familiar with things like worship music and preaching. A shorter service with great pre and post activities seems to be a good fit for Sunday@6.

The changes we've been making are often experimental and so we're constantly learning from our mistakes and successes as we pursue a service that more and more honours Jesus Christ.

It's been a good year at Sunday@6 and I'm really looking forward to what God has got in store for us next year. As we seek to be more outward focused in our church generally, my hope is that God will make this new vision for Sunday@6 a reality and that my next AGM report will celebrating his blessings.

KIRK MACKENZIE
Youth & Young Adults Minister

8:00AM ST KATHERINE'S

Traditional Service of Holy Communion

Facts & Figures:

Attendance: 8.00am.H.C. Services have been held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, and Easter Day.

A Christmas Holy Communion Service with Carols was held on the Sunday before Christmas Day.

St Katherine's parishioners were invited to join the Christmas Day Parish Service at 9.30am at St John's.

Church Services: Total number of Services – 23;

Total attendance – 437;

Average attendance – 19

Total number of H.C. Services – 23;

Total number of communicants – 431

Average number of communicants – 19

Historic Talks and Tours:

A group from **Leith Park** visited in April for a historic talk & cemetery tour. Four grades of Year 2

students from the **Glen Katherine Primary School** visited with teachers and assisting parents in May

for their annual local area heritage excursion. The **Wahroonga Kinder** 4 year old group, teachers &

parents walked across the parkland for the first time for a basic talk & tour of the church, cemetery and

grounds. In May 140 students from the **St Thomas the Apostle Primary School** Year 2-3 students also

visited again. Four groups have booked for **Talk & Tour** in October this year. Bev Ward and The

Revd. Julie Blinco met to discuss the structure and improvements for these tours. Guidelines were set

up and will be used in the future.

Buildings & Grounds

The church building and grounds have been superbly maintained again this year by Geoff

Blunt (paid work) and Bill Ward (volunteer).

Cemetery: David Smith has continued to manage the cemetery records and administration with

great care. There have been two burials and one interment of ashes in an existing grave site and

one interment of ashes in the Memorial Garden.

Ministry Team:

The Revd Ros Rudd has continued her valuable leadership role including regular preaching,

teaching pastoral care and preaching. Student minister Sam Oldland has been a valuable and

regular preacher and Service Leader over the past year.

Mission:

A number of missionaries were supported financially and prayerfully over the past 12 months which

included annual commitments to **Wycliffe Bible Translators, BCA (Bush Church Aid), CMS (Church**

Missionary Society), AOA (Anglican Overseas Aid), Open House and Breakaway Camps. Regular

small amounts were also distributed to a number of local Missions throughout the year which was

the result from the "Mission Coin Collection Box" collected after church at the "Sunday Café Coffee".

Fellowship:

The "Fellowship Café Morning Coffee" has continued to flourish again this year at the St

Helena Shopping Centre Coffee Shop following the 8.00am Services. Valuable fellowship and the

sharing of life and faith experiences have been helpful in developing friendships. Discussions on

the sermons have been most enlightening and very interesting while enjoying coffee and delicious

treats. It has also been a visual witness and an outreach opportunity to the local Sunday morning

shoppers as well as the nearby folk from Leith Park Aged Care who also meet at the coffee shop.



Thank You:

A big thank you to all who have faithfully and willingly contributed to the life of St Katherine's

over the past year and the regular excellent preparation and cleaning of the church has been

very much appreciated by **Charlotte Chidell** prior to each service.

Future:

God has truly blessed and provided richly for our small church family who have worshiped faithfully, supported each other lovingly and given generously financially towards the work of God in the St Helena

area and beyond. On Sunday 25th Nov the 160 years **Thanksgiving Service & Celebration** will take place with an open air 2pm service in the church grounds.

As we look forward to another year may God bless us with His grace and love to grow in faith, knowing Christ more dearly and making Him known in St Helena area and beyond as Katherine Rose Beale

prayed would happen back in the 1840's.

BEVERLEY WARD

Volunteer Leader of St Katherine's

8:00AM ST MICHAEL'S

Contemporary Service of Holy Communion

At St Michaels Yarrambat we continue to be a small group of Christians meeting each week.

For us the real meaning of Church goes beyond a building to a group of Christians meeting together in God's name to worship Him, support and grow each other and reach out to others, welcoming them to join in.

We meet, worship, learn and pray together each Sunday at 8am...sometimes for Holy Communion (2nd & 4th Sundays) and other times for study services (1st & 3rd Sundays). We thank everyone who contributes to our services, and especially thank Tim Johnson, Kirk Mackenzie, Ros Rudd, Val Philips and Roy Gwyther-Jones for their valuable and thought provoking ministry. We also appreciated the contributions of Julie Blinco and Megan Curlis-Gibson for their thought provoking and insightful sermons during Tim's absence.

We are also part of the wider parish, although an older group, some of our folk join in Small Groups across the parish; and others are part of the team which supports the Going Bananas School Holiday Program.

We also participate in the Biggest Morning Tea and are grateful for the support from everyone in this valuable outreach.

Our grounds are lovingly maintained and last year's plantings are thriving, along with orchids and local indigenous plants, thus enhancing the appearance of St Michael's. Come the warmer months, maintenance to the building will be undertaken. Thus we are a witness via the buildings and grounds to the community.

Our services continue at 8am each Sunday. It is a blessing to begin the day with God, and, although some find this difficult, attendances are fairly regular. A good heater is absolutely necessary. We are always delighted to welcome visitors, from within the parish or those who "drop in" to see what St Michael's is about. Thank you to everyone who has come to share God's word with us.

We continue to meet our financial obligations within the parish.

We aim to show the presence of God in Yarrambat; thank you to everyone who aids and assists us in this important work and we pray for God's love and guidance as we continue in the year ahead.



ANDREW CORDING
IAN O'NEIL
KAYLEEN O'NEIL
LINDA SAMSON
MICHAEL MUSGROVE
PAM DENSLEY

St Michael's Vestry

LIFE GROUPS

Kirk Mackenzie

In August we surveyed our life groups to get a sense of their membership and purpose. 14 of our 19 groups participated. Here's some statistics we drew from the survey:

- We have approximate total of 166 people in Life Groups (approximately 16 youth, does not include primary aged children and younger).

Note on the stats: We have been very conservative with the stats this year, avoiding exaggeration or wishful thinking. The numbers may seem a bit down on last year but I believe the overall engagement with Life Groups is at similar levels to 2017.

- Average attendance per group: 8.7.
- 3 Youth Life Groups.
- 3 Adults Life Groups with younger children.
- 13 Adult Life Groups.
- Over 50% of groups meet on a Wednesday night.

DNA

DISCIPLESHIP
NURTURE
ACCOUNTABILITY

This year we have tried to articulate what Life Groups are about with our DNA model. The format (how the group expresses their DNA) can vary from group to group as each group works to the strengths and gifts of the people in the group. Leaders are not recruited to lead generic, carbon-copy Life Groups, but rather encouraged to find the angle/focus for their particular group without losing the DNA heart.

You can read a brief breakdown of our DNA model on our info hub: stjohnsdc.org.au/card/join-a-lifegroup/

DNA has been useful in speaking with leaders and coaches as it's given us a bit more focus and some common language.



Coaches

This year we've instituted a new layer of leadership in our Life Group Ministry. We now have 8 coaches who support our Life Group leaders in their leadership and meet regularly with the Life Groups Minister. It looks like this:

Life Groups Minister ➡ Life Group Coaches ➡ Life Group Leaders ➡ Life Group Leaders' Apprentices

- The Minister has oversight and resources the groups.
- The coaches help leaders have a culture of DNA in their groups.
- The leaders help group members embrace DNA.
- The apprentices prepare to become leaders.

Eventually, as our church grows, the ministry might need to grow to look like this:

Life Groups Minister ➡ Coach Coordinators ➡ Life Group Coaches ➡ Life Group Leaders ➡ Life Group Leaders' Apprentices

There is an extra layer in there, that of Coach Coordinator. In my opinion, we need to move to this model sooner rather than later in order to accommodate the growth we are seeing in our church and in Life Groups. Many of our groups are bulging at the seams. We need more lounge rooms and more leaders in order for this ministry to grow in health and numbers.

Overall I would say the changes we've implemented this year have been successful and have helped us to move in good directions. I look forward to seeing this ministry develop and evolve next year.

KIRK MACKENZIE

Youth & Young Adults Minister

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Kylie Pilkington

St John's Kids

Whilst children are always welcome to stay in the service during the sermon, we recognise the value of age appropriate teaching, discussion and prayer in the deepening of children's understanding and faith development. The opportunity to spend time together also helps establish peer relationships and intergenerational relationships with leaders and assistants, which help children gain a greater sense of belonging within the church community.

At the beginning of the year, our Sunday children's programs were renamed St John's Kids. This covers children up to Grade 6 at both the 9:30am and Sunday@6 services.

We continue to run a crèche program at the 9:30am service. Currently, due to the lack of toddlers at Sunday@6, we have put a hold on the crèche program at the evening service. The need for a rostered crèche in the evening will be reviewed as demographics change.

To manage numbers and present meaningful teaching to the Pre/Primary program, children aged 3-12 are divided into groups. At the morning service during Terms 1 & 2, there were sufficient volunteers to divide into four groups on most weeks: Pre-school, Prep & Grade 1, Grades 2 & 3, Grades 4-6. However, since mid-year, despite growth in the number of children in the program, most weeks have only been able

to divide into three groups due to more limited leadership availability. With a smaller number of children in the evening, two groups work well for their teaching and activity time: Pre-school to Grade 2, and Grades 3-6.

For most of the year, the morning and evening children's programs have followed the sermon series: Vision 2022, Philippians and 1 Peter. The morning program ran a God on Mission program at the beginning of Term 2, during the Mission Visit and Come & See weeks, so this term, instead of following the Acts sermon series, is looking at the book of Judges, followed by Prayer, before starting an Advent series. The evening program is currently following the Acts series.

Many grateful thanks to all those involved in this ministry. Particular appreciation and thanks to Tania Grinton, as she steps down after 8 years' service to the Sunday morning program.

There is a great need for new team members to fulfil a number of roles in this ministry: coordinating the roster, helping to plan the weekly program, leading and assisting small group teaching and activities. Please pray expectantly for volunteers, knowing that God can do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine.

Mission

Family Discipleship

In order to equip and encourage parents in sharing Jesus with their children on a daily basis, we have run a series of family discipleship talks, during the 9:30am service. Families have shared with the congregation an area of discipleship that has worked well with their own family. Topics covered: Praying for Mission, Resting with Purpose (Sabbath), Reading the Bible and Bible Stories, Preparing for Christmas and Easter, Tithing, and Kid's Devotionals. The talks have been well received and highlight the value of sharing our successes and our struggles.

Family Fun & Film Night

In order to develop further relationships with families across all of our ministries, we held a Family Fun & Film Night in October. Families who attend our Going Bananas, Mainly Music and Playgroup programs, as well as our Sunday services, were invited. Inclement weather prevented us from outdoor activities, but indoor games, craft and a BBQ dinner were enjoyed by all, before popcorn and a movie. Almost 80 people attended the evening.



Peak Experiences

Peak Experiences are memorable events intended to build relationships and community, encounter God, and encourage children as they gain a greater understanding of a relationship with Jesus.

In Term 2 an event was held for Grade 4-6 children from both services, involving a bush scavenger hunt, BBQ dinner and sharing time around a bonfire. In Term 3, an event was held at the church for the largest group of regular attendees, those in Grades 2-3. A treasure hunt, games and dinner provided opportunities for children and parents to get to know one another better. Feedback from both events was overwhelmingly positive.

In Term 4, a transition event is planned for Grade 6 & Year 7 children, to introduce the Grade 6s (and the Year 7s not yet involved) to some of the youth, the Youth Minister - Kirk Mackenzie, and to introduce the Youth events and Life Groups available to them next year.

Mission

LOCAL MISSION

Julie Blinco

Training

50 people attended the 'Sharing Jesus Course' run by Stephen Abbott over four nights in May. 20 people attended the 'Biblical Story-Telling Workshop' run by Wycliffe missions partner Josh Bartlett in October.

Houses of Hope:

19 local asylum seekers have been assisted with accommodation, Christian counselling, English tuition and conversation, provision of transport and practical helps through a team of 15 people provided by Baptcare. 2 (soon 4) of these people are from St John's.

Baby Boomer Dinners:

30-40 Baby Boomers gather on a Saturday night at St John's every two months for fun and friendship. They met formally 6 times this year and also gathered informally at other times.

Footy Chaplaincy:

With the sudden development of W-league, there is a surge in the need for and request of football chaplains. The faithful work of 3 St John's football chaplains has led to teams requesting further assistance in local clubs.

Town Fair

We give thanks to God for the various ways Jesus is being shared within our local community. Hospitality, flowers, face painting, good conversation and a place to rest and refresh was offered to the people of Diamond Creek through our September Town Fair.

More Mature Members (Triple Ms):

15+ 'More Mature Members' gather for a supportive and social Friday lunch every second month. They have been meeting for 30 years and have had various guest speakers this year. Transport logistics are proving difficult.

Relief LANs:

3 events were offered, hosting over 100 people since last AGM. The structure was changed this year, rescheduling to a single day which has reduced the effort to run the event. Support was raised for CanTeen and Kid's Under Cover. Over \$23,000 has been raised since 2009.

Men's Shed

4 St John's men are regularly involved in the local Men's Shed, a community of 95 members who gather together for Tuesday lunch and to be involved in the things of friendship building; food, woodwork, games, cooking, music, tours, working bees, bike riding and repairs, horticulture and so on.

CFA Suppers:

Up to 40-50 fire officers enjoy the home cooked supper of various St John's people and warm hospitality of up to 3 coordinators and 24 cooks volunteers once a month on a Monday evening. This community partnership has existed for nearly 10 years, with great trust and friendship between groups.



Going Bananas:

This event lives out our Vision aim of being an Intergenerational Community, Loving like Jesus and Sharing Jesus, with team members ranging in age from 12-70+ working together and learning from each other, to deliver a highly engaging program of teaching, songs, drama, craft, science and games over three days during the July School Holidays.

The theme this year was Mega Makers! with much of the action centring around the Mega Machine, an invention in which small things were placed and larger items emerged. This reflected themes from the teachings from Matthew's Gospel of things getting wider, deeper, stronger and greater, and that the more we discover about God, the more vast his love for us may seem, calling us to respond by loving him and becoming followers of Jesus.

In past years we have capped our maximum at 100 places. Last year, due to a waitlist forming,

Diamond Creek Primary:

6 adult mentors regularly meet with 6 children at risk from Diamond Creek Primary School for one hour per week through Kid's Hope. SRI is taught by a local chaplain in this school and St John's families are actively involved in school community and happenings.

we appealed for additional leaders in order to accommodate up to 120 children and were delighted when these leaders were provided. This year, we stepped out in faith that leaders would be forthcoming and planned for 120 from the outset, and yes, leaders were provided, the places filled, and we still had another 30+ children on a waitlist! Everyone involved over the past 19 years should be congratulated that this program has garnered such a quality reputation.

Considerable thanks need to be given to Sue Jetten and Carol Jenkinson for their dedication and commitment to such high levels of planning, preparation and organisation. We were blessed this year with the involvement of Julie Blinco, who presented captivating bible teaching spots to the children each day. Heartfelt thanks to each and every person who contributed in any way: Front Desk Sign-in, Group Leaders & Assistants, Drama Team, Craft, Science, Games, Catering, Audio Visual Support, Prop/Set Making, First Aid, Vacuuming, Prayer support.

Mainly Music

This year we have run two Mainly Music groups (Wednesday & Friday). The majority of families who attend this program are not from St John's, so the program provides a wonderful outreach opportunity to establish and build relationships with, provide pastoral care to, and share the message of Jesus with families from the wider community.

Alison Knuckey and Bethany Fairweather have continued to faithfully oversee this ministry and are the upfront leaders for the Friday group. Sue Jetten has been a wonderful addition to the team this year as the leader of the Wednesday group, with Renee Mackenzie continuing as an additional upfront leader on Wednesdays. These leaders are supported by a vital team that sees to welcoming, hospitality, craft and tech aspects of the program.

With Bethany stepping down at the end of the year, an upfront leader is needed for the Friday group. Additionally, Krissy Veerhuis who has diligently organised the craft activities for the program is stepping down from that role, so that role is also needing filling. Roles are also available for kitchen helpers to prepare morning tea on a rostered basis, and general team members who are willing to get to know the families, engage in meaningful conversations and lend a hand where necessary e.g. hold a baby to allow a mum to participate with her toddler. Please pray that volunteers are raised up to fulfil these roles, so that we can look forward to another fruitful year in 2019. Both days are currently running a waitlist.



Playgroup:

A number of last year's families did not return to Playgroup in 2018, due to children starting pre-school or school. During the first half of the year, numbers dropped further due to mums returning to work and a family moving overseas. A conscious effort was made to promote Playgroup to local kindergartens and the Maternal Child Health Centre but did not result in any new families joining, so the decision was made to cease this program at the end of Term 3. There are no plans to relaunch this program in the immediate future. Whilst there is sadness involved with the finishing of such a long-running program, recognition needs to be given to the changing dynamics and needs of our community and we celebrate all that our Playgroups have achieved in the many years they have been run at St John's.

Thank you to Robyn Burke, Jessie McCue and Lee Chenoweth for their faithful service to the Playgroup families this year, providing a fun program and supporting the needs of those who attended.

Newer Initiatives:

Retirement Toolbox:

50 participants from the Carlton Garden's Probus Club heard a short presentation about The Retirement Toolbox. In May, 16 participants from St John's gave feedback on the newly developed 2-hour workshop, designed to provide holistic support to those entering Retirement. Connection has been made with a local financial planner who will be using the 2-hour workshop for their clients, the initial workshop scheduled for November with an anticipated 30 participants.

Love Your Neighbours:

25 local businesses have been 'adopted' by people in our parish for this year. In 'adopting' people have agreed to pray for the traders, find way to proactively show love and deliver a letter of introduction from the St John's ministers.

GLOBAL MISSION

Tim Johnson

Missions Committee

The Missions Committee is appointed each year by the Parish Council and operates under a charter, which outlines its relationship to the Parish Council as a subcommittee of the council. The members of the Missions Committee for 2018 were Tim Johnson (Chair), Diane King (Parish Council representative), Kaye Chenoweth, Katherine Shields, Brian Gillott, and Tim Hemsworth. We are very grateful to Nola Borrie who continues to assist in many ways with missionary liaison. The missions committee has met bimonthly throughout the year to ensure that we are meeting our mission commitments, to support our missionaries in the field, and to promote mission activities across the parish.

Mission Trip

Katherine Shields and Andrew Simpson participated in a mission exposure trip to the Northern Territory for the Katherine Christian Convention and which also included visits to Nungalinga College and Katherine Anglican Church. The trip was run by Bishop Genieve Blackwell from Melbourne. The congregation generously supported this trip and it was wonderful to be encouraging and promoting what ministry amongst indigenous Australians is like. Both Andrew and Katherine found it a rewarding trip.

Missions Giving

In the 2017-2018 budget cycle we assigned 15% of our offertory income to missions, as has been the pattern for some years at St John's. This amounted to a total missions giving of \$74,356. Of this money \$63,000 was allocated upfront, keeping a reserve in case the parish didn't meet its budget for offerings. This initial \$63,000 was allocated as indicated on the next page.

Through the year some discretionary giving was used for the Beers deputation, the Northern Territory Mission trip, assisting the Gifford family relocate to Australia and for Josh Bartlett's Wycliffe Storytelling workshop hosted at St John's. This amounted in total to \$2084.

At the end of the church financial year when the actual offertory income was known an additional \$9272 was made available and the missions committee will be rolling this over into the coming year's mission budget to be approved by the parish council in November.

Money was also raised by members of our parish to support our CRE teachers and to pay our financial contribution for the Kids Hope Program at Diamond Creek Primary School. Additional money was also paid to various mission partners through the direct mission giving of congregation members through the offertory.

Mission Partner: Amount Given:

CMS (Beers & Giffords) \$14,000

Wycliffe \$11,000

(Symons, Fidocks, Blackmas, Liems,

Josh Bartlett, and Nayudo PNG)

Open House \$9,500

Ridley College \$5,500

Breakaway Camps \$5,000

Diocese of Morogoro \$4,000

Bush Church Aid (Weickhardt) \$2,500

Nungalinga College \$2,000

Anglican Overseas Aid \$2,000

ACCESS Ministries \$2,000

St Helena Collge Chaplaincy \$2,000

Prison Fellowship \$1,500

Langham Partnership \$1,000

Kid's Hope \$1,000



Missions Promotion

Missions are promoted in a variety of ways throughout the parish. Mission Partners are regularly featured in the Church News, the church wide email and on social media (primarily through the St John's Meeting Place).

Through the year we had services with Missions speakers doing the sermon and sharing about their work. In April Tavis and Kate Beer with Beka and Finn, our link missionaries with CMS in Darwin spoke at our 9:30am and 6pm services. They also spoke at a special Coffee and Dessert night. In July, Bob Mitchell from Anglican Overseas Aid spoke at 9:30am and 6pm services and shared about the relief work being undertaken in Syria. Also in July, Josh Bartlett from Wycliffe Australia spoke at St John's services about his work of bible engagement. Josh also ran a workshop for us in October on biblical storytelling, assisted by Lauren Dale (CMS) and Mavis Payne (formerly working with Scripture Union.) In October, Kirk Mackenzie ran the Youth program and Kaye and Lee Chenoweth and Kayleen O'Neil ran the preschool program for Bush Church Aid's National Conference held in Marysville. This was a great way to help our partners in mission as their workers gathered from all over the country. The Gifford family will be visiting our Thanksgiving Services on 11th November to be interviewed and thanked for their work in Barcelona.

I am proud of the history of missions within this parish and the commitment to supporting God's work throughout the world. Let's encourage each other to be prayerful, generous, and consider our own personal involvement in serving the Lord wherever he calls us to go.

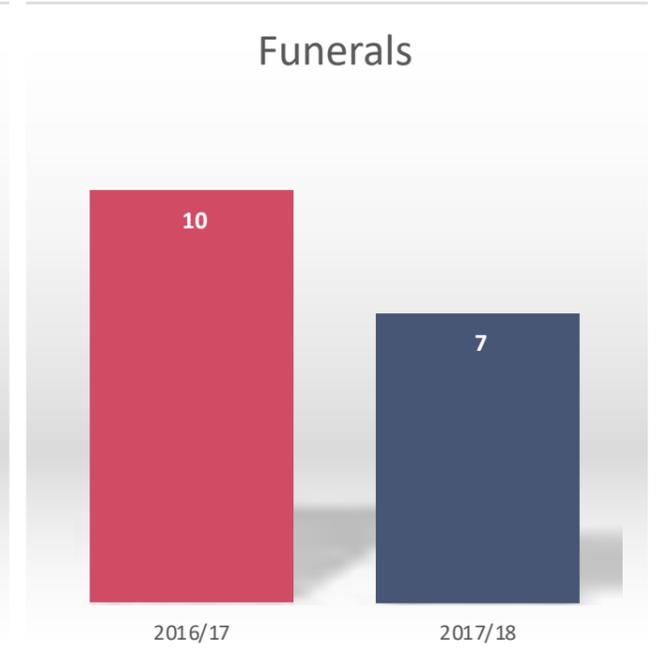
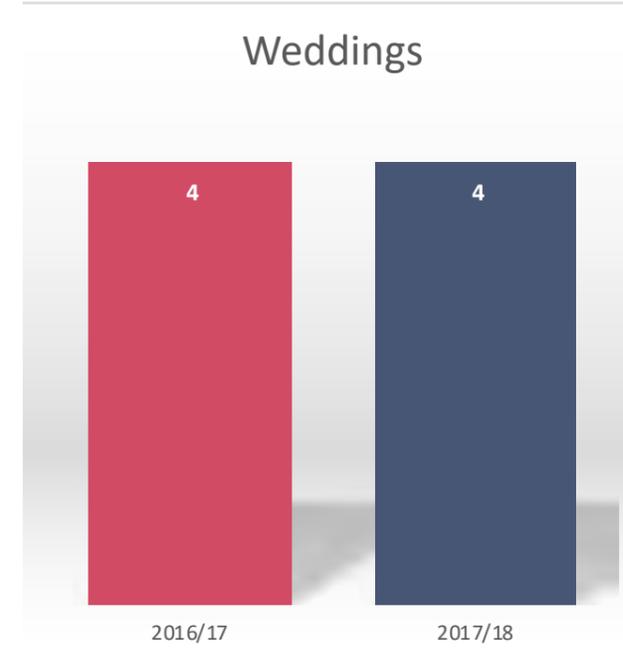
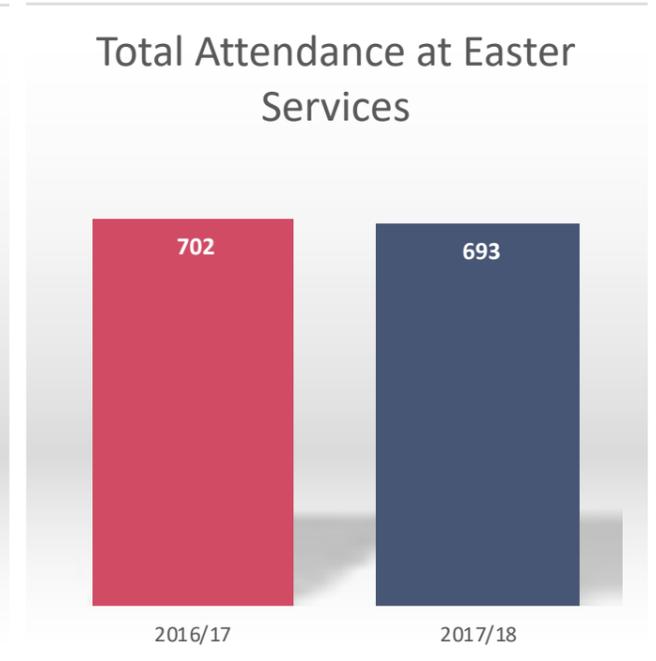
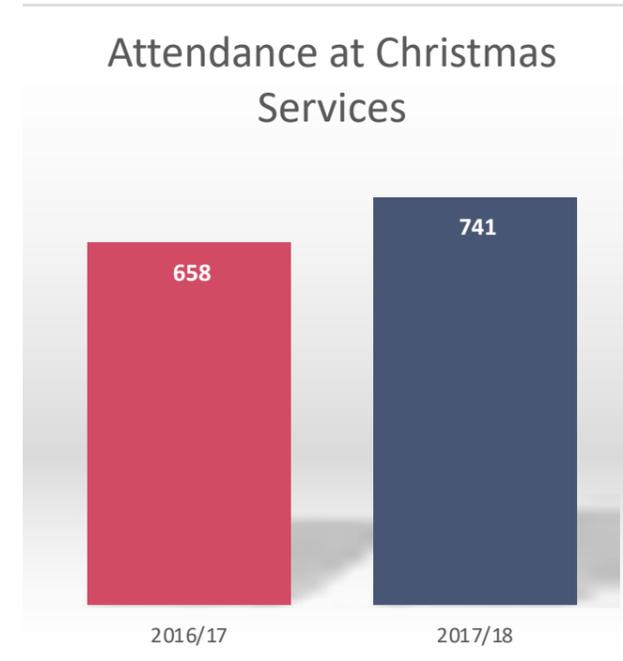
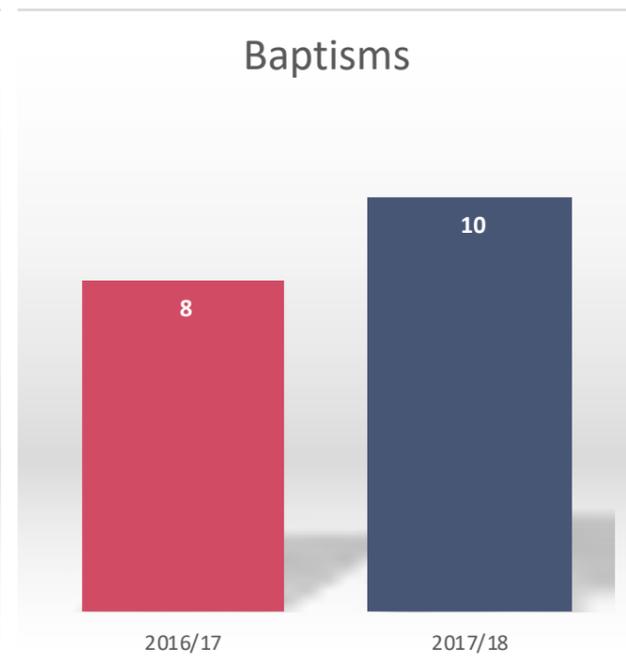
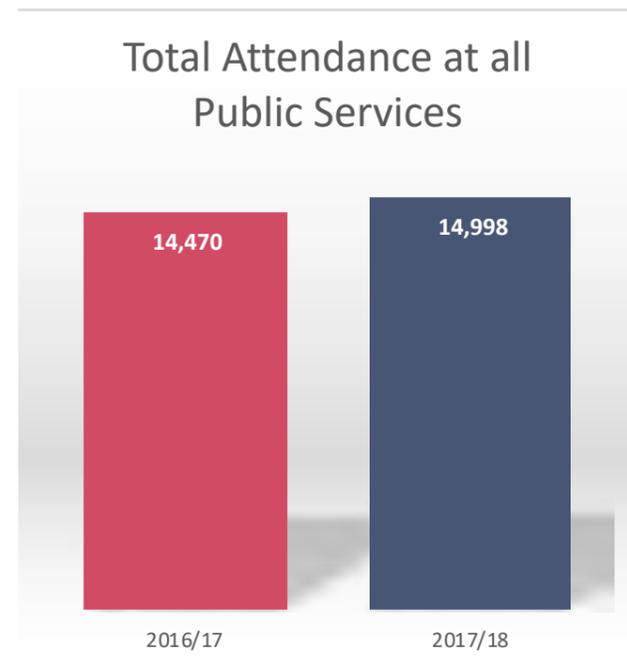
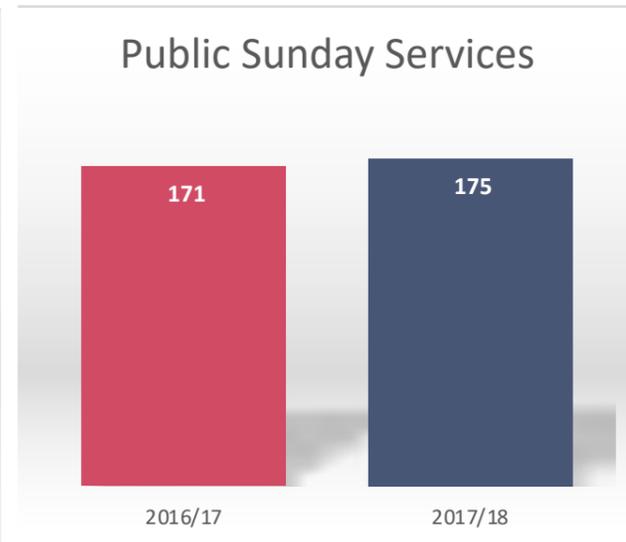
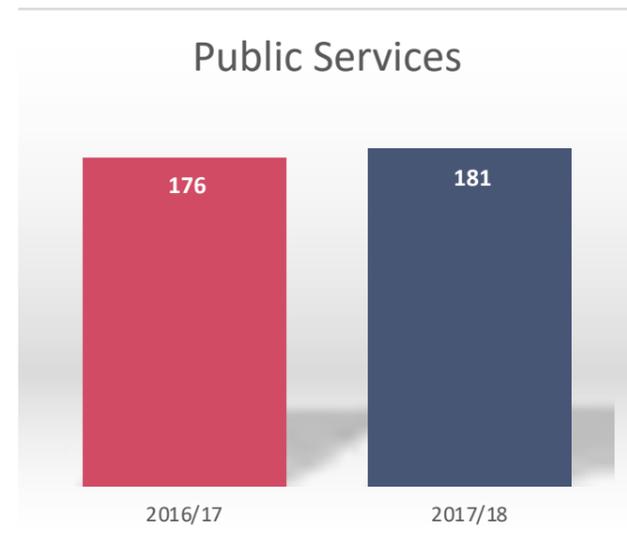
TIM JOHNSON

Senior Minister

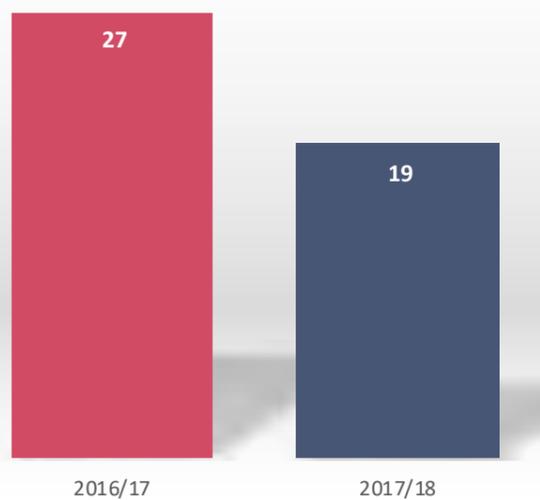
Parish Statistics

Parish Statistics:

Numbers never tell the whole story, but here are some key statistics about the life of our Church. You can find the full data for 2017 and 2018 on page 43.



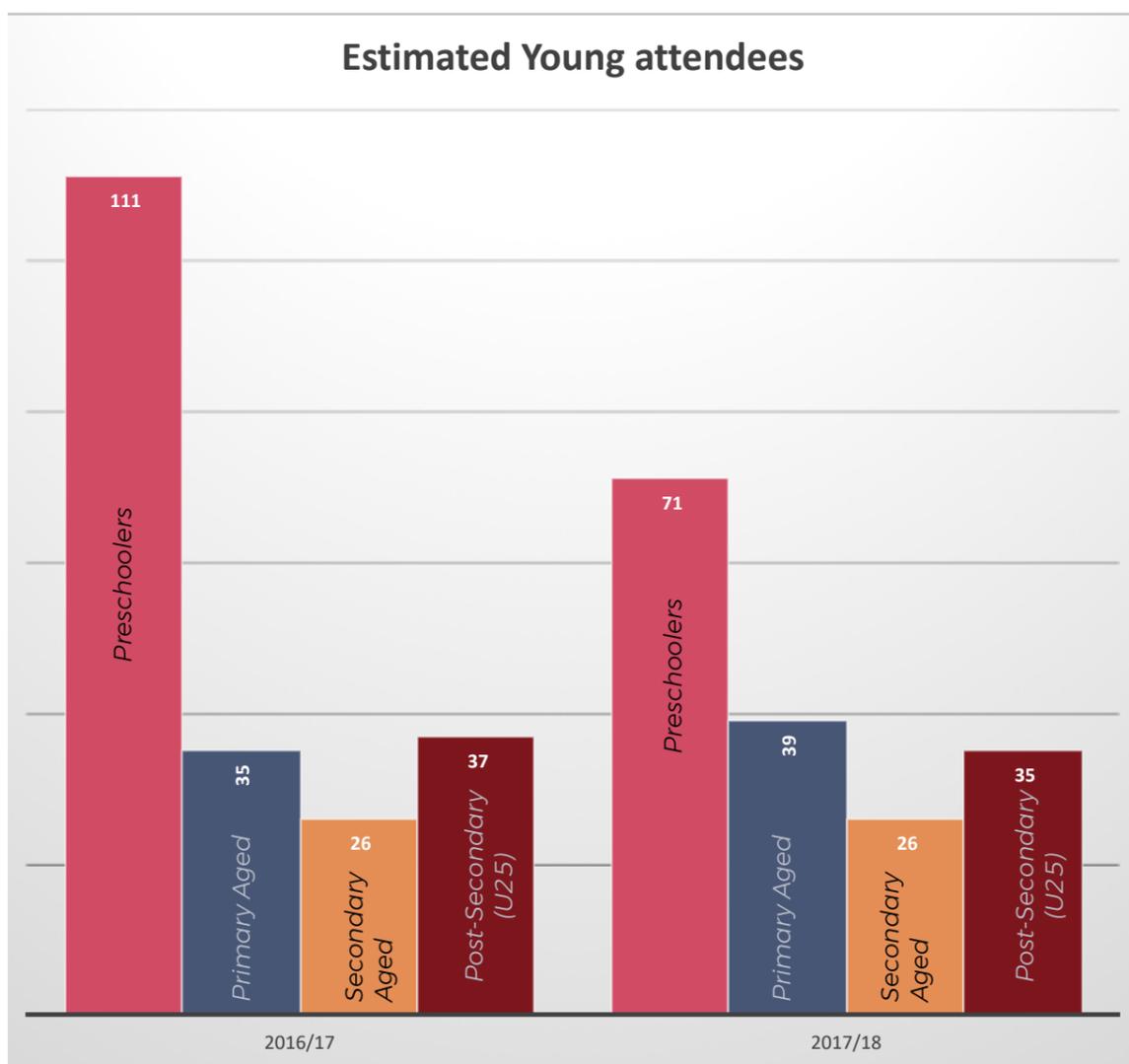
Number of Life Groups



Persons in Life Groups



Estimated Young attendees



Description	2016/17	2017/18
Public Services	176	181
Public Sunday Services	171	175
Public Aged Care Services	28	26
Total Attendance at all Public Services	1,4470	14,998
Total Attendance at all Public Sunday Services	13,613	14,414
Total Acts of Communion In Public Services	5,481	6,361
Sunday Acts of Communion	5,195	6,173
Other Acts of Communion	425	268
Attendance at Christmas Services	658	741
Acts of Communion at Christmas Services	366	342
Total Attendance at Easter Services	702	693
Acts of Communion at Easter Services	306	361
Names on Electoral Role	232	226
Baptisms	8	10
Children Admitted to Communion	0	0
Persons Received into Anglican Church	0	0
Confirmations	0	5
Funerals	10	7
Weddings	4	4
Number of Life Groups	27	19
Persons in Life Groups	189	166
<i>Estimated Weekly attenders</i>		
Preschool	111	71
Primary School	35	39
Secondary School	26	26
Post-Secondary (U25s)	37	35



**ANGLICAN PARISH OF DIAMOND CREEK
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday 15 November, 2017 - 7:30pm**

1. Prayer and Bible reading: 7:36pm, Vicar – Revd Dr Tim Johnson

Hebrews 13:7-8

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Time was given to pause, reflect and give thanks for all those who have spoken God's Word to us and influenced and encouraged our Christian journey. The verses are a reminder to us that God's Word needs to be central to tonight's proceedings, election of leaders, and guide all that we do.

2. Apologies: x 40 names (*see appendix A*)
Attendees: x 79 names (*see appendix B*)

Chair: Revd Dr Tim Johnson
Minute Secretary: Kylie Pilkington

3. Minutes of previous meeting: AGM – Wednesday 9 November, 2016

Dianne Cheraghi made a correction to Point 10. *MF* is minuted to have moved the acceptance of the Churchwardens' Report. This should read *Mick Fisher*.

Motion made to accept the Minutes of last year's AGM, with this correction.

Moved: Roy Gwyther-Jones

Seconded: Andy Barras

Carried unanimously

4. Reception of the Electoral Roll

There are currently 232 names on the Parish Electoral Roll, which has been published on the noticeboard in the foyer. The quorum required for this meeting is 1/5 of the Roll. The quorum has been met.

Moved: Chris Grinton

Seconded: Mick Fisher

Carried unanimously

5. Notice of Items for any other business

Janet Tiller: Would like to address Children's Ministry in the Parish.

Bev Ward: Would like to ask questions regarding Kids Hope.

It was pointed out that it may be appropriate for Janet and Bev to raise their queries during Agenda Item 14: *Other Reports*.

Dianne Cheraghi: Would like to move a formal motion of thanks to those involved in the organising of the 150th Anniversary celebrations.

6. Vicar's Report – Tim Johnson

Taken as read.

Tim expressed apologies for his typos – a consequence of the busyness in the lead-up to the 150th; 2016 was mentioned twice instead of 2017, and there was an *of* instead of *on* in the title of Roy Gwyther-Jones' book.

At the time of the report being written, the 150th hadn't yet been celebrated. The day went very well and was a credit to the core team: Jo Hemsworth put together the Psalm daily reading plan, Rob Shackleton oversaw the historical display, and Taryn Tyack was in charge of the lunch. Nearing the date, the team benefitted from Phil Wadeson and Carolyn Burns joining them to plan logistics of the day. Extra visual and sound requirements, for the service, were seen to by Andrew Barras, Daniel Bamford-Clark and Pete Ellicott. Many others were involved and Tim expressed thanks to all. Special thanks was given to Roy Gwyther-Jones for writing, *Light on the Hill*, a valuable record of the history of St John's and the wider community. Mention was made of the foresight of Mike Terry (*deceased*) who moved a motion, at the AGM a few years ago, that preparations for the 150th be started well in advance.

Thanks was given to those who served on the Vision team. The process required more involvement than originally expected. Through the process a series of statements were formed to identify who we are: We are a large church with multiple congregations; We are an evangelical Anglican church; We are a church with people on mission wherever we are – our mission has a strategic purpose in Diamond Creek, but is not limited to Diamond Creek; We are a multi-generational church, but desire to be a more inter-generational church – we want to be more inter-related and connected and draw from the strengths of all, for the benefit of all; We are a training and equipping church, which trains, equips and sends out people on mission.

In addition to the staff movements mentioned in the report, Sam Oldland joined the team this year as a student minister and has given above and beyond in that role. We have benefitted from his preaching and from his ministry at Leith Park. He will continue in this role next year. Tim acknowledged the valuable contribution of Carolyn Fairweather during her time as a staff member. We are still looking for someone to fill this role and prayer for this was encouraged.

Thanks was given to the Wardens – Natalie Coleman, Michael Dorman and Rob Shackleton, Treasurer – Anna Greenhalgh, and Parish Council members – Andrew Barras, Robyn Bland, Diane King, Damien Knuckey and Vicki Miller, for their service over the past year. Special acknowledgement was given to Andrew and Vicki who are stepping down from their roles.

Questions invited.

Q: Graham Batcheler – Will there be a review of the previous Vision and Goals?

A: There has been ongoing review. Each year, a set of objectives is set for the year and Parish Council reviews the progress of these quarterly. A review was also part of the new Vision process. In the new year, strategic directions and goals will need to be set in order to fulfil the new Vision, and these will be reviewed regularly by Parish Council.

7. Statement of Accounts 2016/2017 – Anna Greenhalgh, Treasurer

Anna gave thanks to God for a good response to the Financial Deficit Appeal, which enabled us to meet budget at the end of the year.

Overhead slides outlined the following key points:

- Surplus from ordinary activities of 47k.
This was due to the successful deficit appeal and Andrew Bowles departure, which meant lower a payroll for a couple of months. However, we were still under budget in offertory every month, including the months of the deficit appeal.
- Cash increased to 127k.
- Loan balances decreased by 28k to 414k.
- Average monthly giving below budget.
At last year's AGM an increase of 7% in offertory was agreed. However, the actual didn't increase, so it was only through the deficit appeal that budget was met.

The accounts have been audited by Bruce Allen, of GNS Group and copies of the Independent Audit Report are available from the office. The audit opinion is that *The financial reports present fairly the financial position of St John's Anglican Parish of Diamond Creek*.

Questions invited.

Q: Delle Matthews queried where the offertory figure is shown.

A: Page 2 of the Financial Report. However, this figure is the combined parish offertory, from all three centres. St Katherine's and St Michael's both met their offertory budget, the deficit was St John's.

Motion made that the Financial Statement ending 30 September 2017 be accepted.

Moved: Anna Greenhalgh

Seconded: Vicki Miller

Carried unanimously.

8. Budget 2017/2018 – Anna Greenhalgh, Treasurer

Each centre continues to have its own bank account and has its own budget.

St John's

This year's Thanksgiving Appeal is aiming to raise 150k in celebration of our 150th anniversary and based on what is raised, a lump sum loan repayment will be made to the building loan.

Staffing costs have slightly increased, taking into consideration Julie Blinco joining the team next year and allowing for a Children and Families' Minister.

There is no budgeted increase, from 2017 actual giving, for St John's Offertory in the coming year. This might look like we're not asking for an increase in offertory, however the 2017 actual figures include the Deficit Appeal. We need to make good on last year's agreed increase of 7% so that another appeal is not needed.

Pie charts were shown on the overhead depicting St John's Ordinary Income Budget and St John's Ordinary Expense Budget.

St Katherine's & St Michael's

These budgets are largely in line with the previous year. They both include a 3% increase in offertory and Parish Contribution. Mission payments will increase in line with offertory increase.

Questions invited.

Q: Bev Ward – Is there an allocation set aside for St Katherine's 160th celebrations.

A: There is not a separate line specifying an amount, however money is available for the special occasion.

Q: Mick Fisher – The mission segment on the pie chart only shows 12% giving, are we no longer maintaining the 15% previously agreed.

A: Church Mission payments only make up 12% of our overall expenses, which is what that chart depicts, but it is still 15% of the offertory giving.

Q: Alan Fairweather – for those new to all of this, can you please outline what the St Katherine's Trust Fund is and what it can be used for?

A: A trust fund was established with the proceeds from the sale of land around St Katherine's. Interest from the fund may be used for maintenance and upkeep expenses. The money cannot be used for any other purpose.

The motion was made that all three budgets be accepted as presented.

Moved: Anna Greenhalgh

Seconded: Daniel Bamford-Clark

Carried unanimously

Anna gave thanks to the finance team – Natalie Coleman, Dianne Cheraghi and Kylie Pilkington. She also expressed special thanks to Dushi Arulanantham and Chris Grinton, both past Treasurers, for their assistance in the lead-up to the AGM.

9. Appointment of Auditor

A motion was made to appoint Bruce Allen, from GNS Group, as auditor for the coming year.

Moved: Anna Greenhalgh

Seconded: John Schmidt

Carried unanimously

10. Churchwardens' Report – Rob Shackleton

Taken as read.

Rob thanked the small army who express their service in many practical ways, from those who bring collections from the other centres, to those counting and banking, those who replenish items in the toilets and kitchen, to those who maintain the grounds, and many others.

No questions asked.

Motion made to accept the Churchwardens' report.

Moved: Rob Shackleton

Seconded: Mick Fisher

Carried unanimously

Tim Johnson expressed grateful thanks to Rob Shackleton, Michael Dorman and Natalie Coleman, for their report and for all of their work throughout the year.

11. Election of Wardens and Parish Council

We have the required number of nominees to fill the positions available, for both Wardens and for Parish Council.

There are three Warden positions and three nominees. Two are elected at the AGM and one is appointed by the Vicar. Michael Dorman has accepted Tim's appointment. Therefore, Natalie Coleman and Rob Shackleton are elected unopposed.

There are six Parish Council positions and six nominees. Four are elected at the AGM and two are appointed by the Vicar. Robyn Bland and Damien Knuckey accepted the Vicar's

appointments. Therefore, Anna Greenhalgh, Andrew Jetten, Diane King and Carol Jenkinson are elected unopposed.

12. Election of Incumbency Committee

In a parish with multiple centres, each centre elects one representative and the parish elects one. Four nominations have been received. As Bev Ward is the only nominee from St Katherine's and Michael Musgrove is the only nominee from St Michael's, they are both elected unopposed. Of the two St John's nominees, Sarah Jetten accepted the appointment as St John's representative and Alan Fairweather as Parish representative, and both were elected unopposed. One of the Wardens will also be added to the committee.

All appointees, who were present, were invited to stand and were introduced and congratulated.

13. Parochial Statistics

We report these particular statistics due to Diocesan requirements. The previous year is also presented, for comparison. There is a typo at 14c, in most copies. The figure should read 26, not 16. This was rectified on later copies.

Every three months, Parish Council reviews attendance figures and it should be noted that in the past year, every service in the parish has had an increase. The combined attendance of the St John's services is at its highest since 2009/10, which was the time of the PlentyLife church plant.

Questions invited.

Q: Lee Chenoweth – Do you have any idea of how the church plant has gone? Numbers?

A: Tim Johnson meets with Craig Ogden, and other local ministers, regularly. We don't have actual figures for PlentyLife, but there's been ongoing healthy growth and there would be over 100 attendees. They operate in missional communities. They do have some land and plans to build in the future, when funds allow. Sandy Solomon is now planting from PlentyLife in Mill Park.

Q: Bev Ward – Has there been any communication with the Diocese regarding updating their statistics requirements?

A: Tim Johnson has raised the subject of updating various Diocesan requirements, but doesn't know if/when we'll see changes.

Q: Roy Gwyther-Jones – Would it be possible to remove the grey shading in the boxes? It makes it hard to read the figures.

A: This is a pro forma Diocese document, but it might be possible. We will have a look at it for next year.

Q: Rob Shackleton – In terms of the statistics required to be submitted, do we ever see the data returned by all the parishes to the Diocese?

A: No, unless there are some inclusions in the Synod papers.

Q: Nikki Isaks – Is there anywhere that splits these numbers into age brackets?

A: Not in these statistics. However, as part of the Vision process we did put together age demographics of everyone in our database. Our biggest age brackets are the Young Adults (20-30yrs) and the 60+. The smallest age bracket is 30-50yrs.

Moved: Tim Johnson

Seconded: Leigh Greenhalgh

Carried unanimously

14. Other Reports

Taken as read. Questions invited.

Q: Bev Ward – The Kids Hope report mentions two mentors have left. Do they have enough mentors? Are there other children needing mentors?

A: With this program, one church partners with one school, and one mentor pairs up with one child for one hour each week. The school would love more mentors, they value this program and sees the benefits it provides. As mentors become available, the school will nominate the next child in most need of the program.

Q: Simon Veerhuis – I'd like to suggest that we support AFES.

A: There are a lot of very worthy missions we could be supporting, but one of the challenges our Mission Committee is facing is that we have a lot of mission partners. In addition to financial and prayer support, we want to be able to effectively promote the missions we support and that becomes harder, the more we support.

Neil Barras – It is mentioned in the reports, but I'd like to draw attention to an area of local mission that we have become involved in, Sports Chaplaincy. If anyone has a passion for chaplaincy in a sport area, from U10 to mature age teams, speak with Neil.

Motion made to accept these reports.

Moved: Jack Joynson

Seconded: Bev Ward

Carried unanimously

15. Any other business

Janet Tiller: Concerned that there was no mention of the ongoing work of Children's Ministry in the reports, but satisfied it has been addressed tonight, along with the intention to replace Carolyn Fairweather.

Tim Johnson: Whilst there is no separate Children's Ministry Report, all areas of our children's ministry have been addressed in the Service Reports and the Mission Action Team Report, as well as mentions in the Staff section of the Vicar's Report and the Churchwardens' Report.

Bev Ward: Satisfied her questions were answered during the reports.

Dianne Cheraghi moved a motion of thanks to all those involved in providing us with a beautiful 150th celebration, held on 12 November 2017, and praised God for his provision.

Moved: Dianne Cheraghi
Seconded: Pam Fletcher
Carried unanimously

Rob Shackleton acknowledged the involvement of Janet Tiller in the historical display for the 150th celebrations, and Chris Tiller for his work on the stained glass windows which are now displayed in the front entrance.

Close in prayer: 9:05pm, Vicar – Revd Dr Tim Johnson

Appendix A: Apologies

Sue Batcheler	Yvonne Dunt	Diane King
Margie Baxter	Nerida Fidock	Ted King
Hamish Bland	Terissa Fidock	Alison Knuckey
Katelyn Bland	Olga Forsyth	Roslyn Manson
Ian Borrie	Tania Grinton	Jessie McCue
Gary Burke	Joan Hammond	Mandy McGarr
Robyn Burke	Jan Hayman	Janeece McPherson
Adam Coleman	David Hickingbotham	Val Phillips
Maureen Collins	Pam Hickingbotham	David Redfern
Linda Cridland	Dora Huggins	Judy Redfern
Michael Densley	Ben McInnes	Jean Schmidt
Pamela Densley	Victor Jetten	Krissy Veerhuis
Breanna Dorman	Anna Johnson	Philip Wadson
		Bill Ward

Appendix B: Attendees

Dayanthi Arulanantham	Anna Greenhalgh	Jordan Miller
Dushi Arulanantham	Leigh Greenhalgh	Vicki Miller
Daniel Bamford-Clark	Chris Grinton	Warwick Miller
Andrew Barras	Janet Gwyther-Jones	Michael Musgrove
Lenny Barras	Roy Gwyther-Jones	Kylie Pilkington
Neil Barras	Barry Hollingsworth	Mark Pilkington
Pam Barras	Jan Hollingsworth	Ellie Plumridge
Graham Batcheler	Henry Huggins	Carol Randle
Neil Bland	Nikki Isaks	Leah Rudd
Robyn Bland	Ross Isaks	Murray Rudd
Nola Borrie	Sarah Jetten	John Schmidt
Carolyn Burns	Sue Jetten	Rob Shackleton
Lee Chenoweth	Linda Joyce	Katherine Shields
Kaye Chenoweth	Jack Joynson	Andrew Simpson
Dianne Cheraghi	Carol Jenkinson	David Smith
Andrew Cording	Damien Knuckey	Janice Smith
Ron Cridland	Danielle Mackie	Rod Smith
Robyn Delbridge	Ian Mackinnon	Marianne Tait
Michael Dorman	Liz Mackinnon	Chris Tiller
Alan Fairweather	Chloe Manson	Janet Tiller
Carolyn Fairweather	Ken Manson	Leanne Turnbull
Peter Fidock	Delle Matthews	Nick Tyack
Chris Fisher	Joy Maxwell	Taryn Tyack
Isobel Fisher	Scotty Maxwell	Simon Veerhuis
Mick Fisher	Nick McInnes	Debra Wadson
Pam Fletcher	Margaret McNicol	Bev Ward
		Lyndell Whiting

2017
2018

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