

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

19<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Parish of Queenscliff/Point Lonsdale

St George's Queenscliff with St James' Point Lonsdale



The Reverend Jo White  
Priest in Charge since 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023

# Agenda

Prayers

Acknowledgement of Country

- a) Minutes of 2022 Annual Parish Meeting
- b) Reception of Parish Roll
- c) Vicar's Annual Report
- d) Church Warden's Report
- e) Financial Report
- f) Budget
- g) Other Reports
  - i. History Project
  - ii. Save St George's
- h) The election of churchwardens and members of the parish council
- i) The election of representatives as parish nominators
- j) The election of an independent examiner
- k) Matters of Parochial Interest

## **a) Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting: 27 November 2022**

### Present

Fr Tim Gibson, who chaired the meeting

Kate Houghton; Jenny Price; Sue Mitchell; David Holloway; George Chomley; Jane Caldwell; Judy Grant; Jenny Bleakley; John Crisp; Sally Hawkins (Treasurer); Graeme Parton; Carole Barwick; Andrew Behan; Russell Jackson; Jill Jackson; Bodil Wright; Fiona Lindsay (Parish Secretary & Vicar's Warden); Joan Howe; Wendy Watson; Kay Cottrell; Rosalind Myer; Carole Hamilton; John Oxbrow; Sarah Farrell; Jenni Farrar

### Apologies

Val Lawrence; Helen Martin; Gillian McLeod; Kate Parton

The meeting opened with prayer (Fr Tim Gibson)

### 1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, 2021

Fiona Lindsay, Parish Secretary, tabled the Minutes of last year's meeting (28.11.2021) that were circulated with the Parish *Annual Report* for 2021. All present had an opportunity to read the Minutes and to ask questions or seek clarification. As there were no questions, the Motion was put:

"That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting, 28.11.2021 be accepted"

Moved: Kate Houghton      Seconded: John Crisp      Accepted

### 2. The reception of the Parish Electoral Roll as at 28.11.2022

The electoral roll for 2021 was reviewed and updated before the meeting.

Motion: "That the Parish Electoral Roll be received"

Moved: Graeme Parton      Seconded: Jenny Price      Received

### 3. The Annual Report of the locum Vicar

As locum Vicar since April, 2022, Fr Tim Gibson presented his report which had been circulated to parishioners. In summary, Tim noted that his role as locum is not to change the pattern of the Parish and to work constructively with Parish Council. The parish data that is required by the Diocese has been reported to the Diocese.

4. The Annual Report of the Parish Council and Vicar's Warden for 2022

The Annual Report was circulated to all attending the meeting and had been emailed to parishioners. The Annual Report of the Incumbency Committee was incorporated in the Parish Council Report.

Motion: "That the Annual Report of the Parish Council and Vicar's Warden for 2022, including the Annual Report of the Incumbency Committee, be received."

Moved: Fiona Lindsay      Seconded: Russell Jackson      Received

5. The Annual Report on the "fabric, goods and ornaments of the worship centres and the vicarage and other buildings of the Parish"

Fiona Lindsay, as Vicar's Warden, tabled a brief report that was incorporated in the motion to receive the Parish Council Annual Report.

6. Annual Report of the Treasurer & Financial Statements for 2022; Budget for 2023

Sally Hawkins tabled the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for 2022 and tabled the Budget proposed for 2023.

Sally thanked Andrew Behan for his accountancy support and Neville Barwick for his contribution as the independent examiner.

Motion: "That the accounts and statements be received".

Moved: Sally Hawkins      Seconded: Jenny Price      Received

Motion: "That the budget for 2023 be approved"

Moved: Sally Hawkins      Seconded: Kate Houghton      Approved

7. Report on the St George's Restoration Project

Jenny Price, Parish Councillor, tabled a summary report on the progress of the Restoration Project. Stage 2 is scheduled to commence in February/March 2023. A Diocesan loan has been secured to cover the budget of \$150,000, though it is anticipated that further fundraising will offset some, if not all, of this loan.

Motion: "That the Report on the St George's Restoration Project be received".

Moved: Jenny Price      Seconded: Fiona Lindsay      Received

8. Annual Report of the Office Administrator

Jenni Farrar presented her report as Office Administrator.

Motion: "That the Annual Report of the Office Administrator be received".

Moved: Joan Howe      Seconded: Jenny Price

9. Annual Report of the Parish History Project

Carole Barwick and Lindsay Howe presented their comprehensive report of the History Project activities for 2022.

Motion: "That the Annual Report of the Parish History Project be received".

Moved: Carole Barwick      Seconded: Lindsay Howe      Received

10. Annual Report of the Meditation Group

Gillian McLeod prepared a report that was tabled at the meeting by Fr Tim. The report will be distributed via email to parishioners after the Annual Meeting.

11. Mission Reports

Fr Tim tabled the annual report of the Geelong Refugees Program, which is a program of the Archdeaconry of Geelong and of which he is a member.

12. Election of churchwardens and members of Parish Council

Joan Howe did not seek re-election to Parish Council, but the remaining current members of Parish Council were re-elected unopposed. They are:

Fiona Lindsay (Secretary); Sally Hawkins (Treasurer); Andrew Behan, Jenny Bleakley, Jenny Price; Bodil Wright.

Sarah Farrell and Ros Myer were also elected as new Parish Councillors.

Fr Tim invited the following parishioners to join Parish Council: Russell Jackson and Carole Barwick-Hamilton.

Fiona Lindsay will continue as Vicar's Warden and Sally Hawkins will continue as Treasurer. Other members of Parish Council may become wardens during this year.

13. Election of Independent Examiner

Neville Barwick was thanked for his diligent work and was again proposed to be the Parish Independent Examiner for 2023.

Proposed: Sally Hawkins    Seconded: Fiona Lindsay    Agreed

14. Parish Incumbency Committee

The current Incumbency Committee of Fiona Lindsay, Russell Jackson and Graeme Parton will continue for 2023.

15. Other matters of parochial or general church interest

(1) Christmas Services

Fr Tim sought feedback from the meeting about arrangements for the Christmas Services, including confirming volunteers to be server, reader and welcomers for each service.

It was resolved that the services will be:

Christmas Eve:	5.00pm Family Service, including Holy Communion	St James'
	10.00pm "Midnight Mass"	St George's
Christmas Day:	8.00am	St James'
	10.00am	St James'

There will be no live-streaming of these services.

Kerley's have generously agreed to donate the signs at both churches.

(2) St George's Market, 17 December

Volunteers were sought to collect donations at the gate and to assist with morning tea.

Gate: Kate Houghton, Jenny Price (10.00-11.00), Sue Mitchell (11.00-12.00), John Crisp (12.00-2.00pm), Andrew Behan

Kitchen: Jill Jackson, Fiona Lindsay (scones), Sarah Farrell, Jenny Bleakley

Open the church: Wendy Watson

(3) Newsletter delivery: Sue Mitchell kindly volunteered to take on Joan Howe's delivery times.

(4) Ros Myer raised her interest in re-establishing an after-service discussion forum, generally hosted by the vicar to discuss matters of faith raised in the sermon.

(5) Sally Hawkins responded to a question about the necessity to upgrade the vicarage for a new vicar and reported certain improvements are required.

(6) Fr Tim responded to a question about the possible return of the chalice for communion and noted it will be discussed by Parish Council.

(7). With Thanks

Several parishioners nominated additional people to thank for their contributions to parish life through 2022.

The meeting warmly thanked John Crisp for his commitment to managing the weekly contributions.

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**b) Reception of Parish Electoral Roll** – Fiona Lindsay, Warden

**c) Vicar's Annual Report** – The Reverend Jo White, Priest in Charge

Entries in the registers of the Parish October 2022 – September 2023

Our records show that over the last year there have been 10 infant baptisms. Of note was a baptism on Father's Day of brothers who were baptised by their grandfather, a priest in good standing in the Church of England. There were 8 funerals and 4 marriages.

Sunday Services and Acts of Holy Communion

Our Sunday Services that include Holy Communion alternate between our two churches – St George the Martyr, Queenscliff and St James' Point Lonsdale. During the warmer months numbers swell as we welcome visitors and those who own properties coming down as much as they can during the season. We also provide a twice monthly service of Holy Communion at Arcare Aged Care, Point Lonsdale and a schedule of home communion for those who are housebound or in times of illness.

Vicarage What a wonderful welcome Ken and I received on arriving in the parish.

Among the many good wishes of welcome, we received a lemon tree which has now been planted in lots of good compost. May it stand as a reminder to us of the desire of us all to bear fruit, fruit that will last. A lemon tree is one of great practical value. Its fruit flavours a glass of water, graces a fish dinner and its zest enhances all manner of treats. May the ministry we share together be practical, full of flavour and a zest for the love of God and neighbour.

After only two months all boxes had been emptied and Ken and I were able to invite the parishioners to the vicarage for morning tea following the service. This



was to serve as our 'house warming' party. I recall that everyone was very excited to see the wonderful renovations and to see the family settled in the home you have all lovingly prepared for us. Thank you to those who have come in quietly to fix little things around the place and a special thank you to the private donor who allowed us to have a new roller door for the garage.



The vicarage is still a house of prayer for Ken and I. I have established a small prayer corner in the front porch adjacent to my study and find it a comfortable and warm spot for my Daily Office.



We both recognise the important role the vicarage has played in the life of this parish and most recently as St James' House of Prayer.

My personal goal over the past five months I have been working with our parish council to find what our purpose might be for the few months leading up to the 2023 AGM. At the start of a new ministry there is always a time of transition for both priest and people. What became clear early on was a desire for all to share in ministry together. There was a sense too that we could begin again and so the parish council began speaking in terms of 'Awakening our Parish to Share in Ministry Together'. This sharing has included opportunities for the equipping of parishioners to serve in the Sanctuary and to share in the Ministry of Prayer. A workshop was held for current prayer leaders and those interested in exploring this ministry. A training session was provided for servers. These will be repeated in the new year. Consultation and collaboration are important parts of empowering us to share in the ministry that is mine and yours.

I have also been conscious of working on three small but important goals as I begin my ministry with you. My focus has been threefold: Beautiful Worship; Beautiful Care of People and A Good Christmas.

Ministry Activities Since arriving there have been two funerals, a double baptism on Father's Day and a wedding at St James' when I assisted Bishop Philip Huggins. There have been a number of opportunities for me to get to know the community, including attending meetings of the 'Save St George's Group' as they planned their very successful flower show; the Voice Community Forum held in the Old School Hall in August; the Grand Final Cake Stall at St James'; most recently All Souls Service at the Queenscliff Cemetery and Blessing of the Fleet at the Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club. It has been a delight to be invited into your homes on many occasions for celebrations but also for pastoral visits. I have had opportunities to meet and get to know my fellow clergy of the Deanery with visits by Archdeacon Stephen Pollard and Dean David Wiltsher. I have been attending Deanery Meetings, two Installation Services and the Collation of Archdeacon Stephen at Christ Church Geelong.

I attended a training day for Marriage Celebrants to equip us to conduct weddings according to the Anglican Rite and to use the Department of Births Deaths and



Marriages website for recording any marriages we perform. I have also attended a seminar about Good Governance which set out the legal requirements of Parish Councils and prepared us to conduct the AGM and then make the required reports to the Diocese of Melbourne.



In October Fiona and I attended the four days of the 54<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Melbourne. A separate report has been circulated regarding the business of Synod.

I have established a pattern of ministry that includes fortnightly services of Holy Communion at Arcare Aged Care Point Lonsdale, weekly Morning Prayer at St George's and Evening Prayer at St James'. I spend a good part of Wednesday in Queenscliff working from the library and am available for meetings or pastoral visits in Queenscliff as needed. Other pastoral visits occur as the need arises including home communions on a monthly basis.

Mission Action Plan (some thoughts) As the parish council re-forms for another year a new Mission Action Plan is beginning. You may have some ideas about how the church might serve the unique community of which we are a part. I have already discerned the incredible love and respect people have for the history of this area and for the historical buildings that form part of our parish – St James', St George's and The Old School Hall. The wider community are deeply caring and neighbourly. There is also a strong sense of respect for the natural environment which engenders what we might call a 'green' attitude that motivates ecofriendly behaviour and decision making. There are many who live permanently in our towns but equally we welcome visitors who make Queenscliff and Pt Lonsdale home for much of the year, especially in the warmer months. Perhaps we can find ways to connect with these folk and help them feel that our churches are their churches, that they feel at home with us whenever they come to stay.

Importantly we are about building community and building relationships with people and with our fellow Christians of other denominations for the glory of God and the good of all.

Thank you to all parish councillors and to Fiona Lindsay, vicar's warden. Thank you to The Reverend Tim Gibson who looked after everyone as locum priest during the interregnum.

#### **d) Church Warden's Report – Fiona Lindsay OAM, vicar's warden**

##### **Report by parish council on the pastoral care, evangelism, social and ecumenical programs of the parish and on future plans for the parish**

#### **1. A Snapshot of the year past**

During 2023, parish councillors and individual parishioners were very conscious of the importance of extending support and friendship to fellow parishioners in the absence of a full-time priest. Mother Jo is now leading our pastoral care and outreach to parishioners and Sally Hawkins is committed to taking on the role of

“people’s warden” with the incoming parish council. However, our established commitment to fellowship and mutual support will continue to sustain us all.

Undoubtedly, the parish’s major achievement for the year was the installation of The Reverend Jo White as our new vicar - we are so happy to welcome Mthr Jo and Ken to our parish and community. Her presence and enthusiasm is invigorating our worship and our work together.

Formal evangelism does not characterise our parish, but every opportunity is taken to welcome the community and visitors to our worship and parish activities. Our two churches are again open every day and we all do our best to encourage our many part-time parishioners and their families to engage with the parish when they are here. We welcome diverse community use of our facilities; from family celebrations to regular recreation and social groups and even a gypsy-inspired music weekend. We hosted two forums for the referendum for The Voice to Parliament and held two lunchtime concerts for the Geelong Windfire Festival. These concerts were so successful that a couple of parish councillors are assessing the feasibility of holding monthly lunchtime concerts through next year.



When we review our parish life over the last year, we see that we have worked hard to foster community use of our special resources. Our long-standing parish fundraising events, such as the Book Stall, the Summer, Easter and Grand Final Cake Stalls and the annual Card Day generate community interest in our parish. On a larger scale, The Restoration Project has generated community-led fundraising for this project, such as The Coronation in May and The Flower Show in October. Similarly, the celebratory service to “Ring the Bell” at the completion of Part 2 of The Tower Restoration was a valuable opportunity to welcome the community and friends of the parish to worship at St George’s and raise community awareness of the

living history of St George’s.

There is now a community group functioning as a committee, reporting to parish council, to raise money for The Old School Hall. With such active community interest, the parish can more successfully encourage diverse community use of The Old School Hall. For example, plans are afoot to use funds raised from The Flower Show to upgrade the kitchen as a commercial kitchen and there will be some improvements made to the outside toilets to make them more weather-proof.

The parish joined with the Catholic and Uniting Churches for The World Day of Prayer in March and we will host this important ecumenical day on 1 March, 2024. The focus will be on the women and children of Palestine, whose current trials make the offering of our prayers and support so important.

## **2. Property review**

Early this year, parish council was fortunate to have the resources and leadership of Neville Barwick to undertake a disciplined review of our property and to identify



and prioritise work that needs to be done. This was such a helpful process and is the foundation for repairs and maintenance - except, of course, when there is an emergency! A property group of parish councillors was formed to keep our work on track for the year; Fiona Lindsay, Jenny Price, Russell Jackson, Carole Barwick (since retired), Bodil Wright, Andrew Behan and Rosalind Myer.

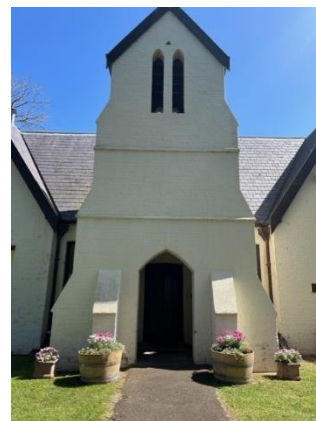
Our first priority was to renovate the vicarage in preparation of an appointment. This happened within budget and was enabled by generous support from parishioners and quality work by our tradesmen. Further improvements can be made, but will only be undertaken as funds permit.

Other paid building and maintenance work completed this year include: removal and pruning trees that were damaging our buildings; electrical work in St James'; gutter and downpipe cleaning at St James' and St George's and regular mowing of our grounds.

Significant work has been contributed by skilled parishioners: moving the altar at St James, removing the sliding doors in the vestry at St James; fixing locks, fixing doors and a host of small jobs. For all this, we are extremely grateful.

Gardening and mowing is also undertaken by parishioners and our friends in the community: clearing the hillside, building the fence at St George's and donating those beautiful floral tubs in front of The Old School Hall are highlights of the year's achievements.

Our list of high priority work seems to grow, but critical repair work includes some slate and guttering replacement at The Old School Hall, external painting at both sites, removing roof ventilators and caulking windows at Gill Hall and outside lighting and lighting repairs at both sites. The flagpole at St George's is unsafe and must be repaired or replaced as soon as possible.



Other important work will be funded as part of the St George's Restoration Project Fund and from community funding, such as from The Flower Show.

Concept drawings have been prepared for a disability access, external toilet at St George's and discussion has commenced with Heritage Victoria and the local council about this project. A quotation to upgrade the kitchen and improve the outside toilets at The Old School Hall is being prepared now.

A summary of the property review undertaken by Fiona Lindsay and Jenny Price at the beginning of November that lists priority work for 2024 is attached. (appendix 1)

### **3. A report by the churchwardens on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the worship centre and the vicarage and other buildings of the parish**

A thorough review of the vestries and their contents was undertaken in the early days of Mthr Jo's tenure. From this, all the linens and vestments have been assessed; damaged items have been discarded or mended, there has been a lot of washing and careful cleaning and fragile materials have been repaired and will continue to be repaired. We are so fortunate to have the needlework expertise of one of our parishioners and her sewing circle beyond the parish who can repair the beautiful altar cloths and skirts that we have in both churches. The brass

continues to be polished regularly by our roster of volunteers in both churches and each Sunday when we come for worship, in either St James or St George's, we are greeted by spaces that glow with the love and care bestowed on them, in part, by the work of our cleaners, polishers and flower arrangers.

Special mention must be made of our organs at St George's and in St James'. We keep the Fincham organ in St George's in good order with regular tuning and that enables us to enjoy this beautiful instrument for services and concerts. The organ in St James is currently being restored, thanks to the generosity of our parishioners. The aim is to have it "home" before Christmas so it can join in our Christmas celebrations.

#### **4. Future plans**

The parish will build on the foundations laid in 2023 for good worship, community outreach and sharing our spaces and buildings with community. Increasing community interest in and use of our churches and halls is critical to the future viability of our parish. More special services, events, concerts and being part of established local festivals will all make a difference. Attracting weddings, especially to our historic precinct of St George's and The Old School Hall, will help to make our parish special for many people.

#### **5. With gratitude**

The bonds in our parish community depend in large part on the personal contributions and generosity that come from all, especially that quiet help that keeps our parish alive. However, there are some contributions and transitions that must be noted.

On behalf of parish council, I wish to thank retiring and recently retired councillors, Jenny Price and Carole Barwick. Jenny has done so much for The Restoration Project and property maintenance and Carole took on the secretary's role in addition to her work on The History Project with Lindsay Howe. They are wonderful contributors to our parish.

I also wish to thank Neville Barwick for his planning workshops and for his ongoing contribution as the independent assessor of our finances. Neville helps to keep the parish on track and we hope he can continue to do so.

Our continuing contributions to supporting GR-AP (Geelong Refugee Assistance Program - Anglicans in Action) is largely made possible by the efforts of Kate Houghton to rustle-up and take in donations from the community to help meet the essential needs of newly arrived refugees. It is important to remember how many people in our community have so little and need our support.

Our two organists, Brian Simpson and Ken White, lift the spirits of our services with their playing and we thank them for being as available as they are. I know both are looking forward to discarding the keyboard at St James' and to enjoying the return of the "real" organ.

Finally, a heartfelt gratitude to all members of parish council who give freely of their wisdom and time. To Sally, Andrew, Ros, Bodil, Russell, Jenny and Sarah - a personal thank you for your work as a great team. We manage to work things out together without argument. Amazing!

e) **Financial Report**– Sally Hawkins, Sarah Felsovary

So much has happened since our last AGM, when The Reverend Tim Gibson was our locum and we were still searching for a full-time vicar.

In January, we began the renovation of St James Vicarage in preparation for a new vicar. The people involved in bringing this project did so efficiently and within budget. The result was a lovely, updated and welcoming home. During this process, our Incumbency Committee, interviewed and secured our new vicar, The Reverend Jo White.

Mthr Jo has brought to our Parish a wonderfully positive attitude and showed very quickly her motivation to understand her Parishioners and the local community. This was also evident at our Parish Council meetings. She came into the Parish knowing that we are stretched financially and that we need to look for ways to increase our funds.

Our present situation is that we continue to meet our payroll and operational expenses. However, our parish continues to face challenges financially.

We have been able to meet our costs for the renovation. We have six buildings that we need to maintain and while we continue to do this, there are limitations on how much we can financially commit at any one time.

We have a lot to be grateful for in relation to the generosity of our Parishioners. We have had a very successful fundraising year and raised \$11,500. This has been a great boost to our funds and has come about by our hardworking Parishioners. We have also received \$11,000 for donations to support specific expenses of the Parish, such as livestreaming, the organ fund, tree removal and other grounds work and supporting administration.

Our area of concern is our Assessment/Insurance debt which is shown on the balance sheet as outstanding. This is an annual amount that every Parish has to pay to the Diocese, and we haven't been in a position to pay it over the past three years. We are in discussion with the Diocese and they have been understanding and supportive of our situation. They have suggested that we come up with a 5 year financial repayment plan which we will include as an integral part of the financial section of our new Mission Action Plan.

We have formed a Finance Committee as a sub-committee of the Parish Council. The members of this committee are myself, Sarah Felsovary and Andrew Behan. We meet fortnightly to closely review our operational costs and reduce where possible. We continue to be conservative with spending and aim to grow our Parish along with its financial position.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank John Crisp who continues to do the banking of our Sunday open plate collections. He does this job willingly and is reliable and we are grateful for his contribution. In 2024 there will be a Stewardship Day. In the mean time we invite you to consider your current giving in light of this report.

On behalf of Parish Council, I would like to express our gratitude to all our Parishioners for their financial support and their sacrificial giving. It is an integral part of the longevity of our Parish.

- f) **Budget 2024** – Andrew Behan not available here
- g) **Other Reports** –
  - (i) History Project – Carole Barwick and Lindsay Howe

In 2014 the Parish History Project was established in the context of the Sesquicentenary of St George the Martyr and the Centenary of St James'. In discussion with the Parish Council, the aim agreed was to assemble the dispersed records and promote the history of St George's and St James'. A project Steering Committee was established to advise; people such as the President of the Queenscliff Historical Museum [QHM], the writer of the All Saints Geelong Parish History and longtime parishioners provided recommendations for the project's development across the first year and a half.



Parish records and historical material were gathered, and research carried out. Several informative publications were produced and distributed including a centenary history of St James' "*Biography of a Parish*", a WWI centenary booklet "*Remembering the Anglicans from the Borough who served 1914-1918*", and a presentation to the QHM "*Anglicans in the Borough 1853 – 2016*". Small, related exhibitions were periodically displayed in Gill Hall. An oral history project was undertaken across 2014-2016 to interview older parishioners [transcripts and audio can be accessed].

In the following years, much has been undertaken to gather, protect and preserve the physical records of our long history, which dates from 1853. Parish registers, minutes, reports, paper records, photographs and audio and video material has been collected, listed, described and safely stored in the Parish History room in Gill Hall and the Anglican Archives repository in North Fitzroy.

An extensive digitising project has been undertaken across eight years with over 6,000 parish records available to researchers. These include baptismal, marriage and funeral records, minutes of meetings and many photographs. The History and Archives tab on the Parish home page provide some understanding of what has been achieved and how records can be accessed, either as hard copy, or digital images.

see <https://www.queenscliffonsdaleanglican.org/history-and-archives/>



The History Project has been overseen by a vestry subcommittee comprising the former vicar, a member of Parish Council and a tiny band of volunteers. This group initially met monthly, and since Covid 19 on an ad hoc basis as required and each year 2015 -2023, have presented a report to the Parish Annual Meeting.

We are at the stage where we feel the Project is reaching its conclusion. Thus, a meeting [August 16 2023] was arranged to make a final briefing to Vicar Mthr Jo, Fiona Lindsay, Vicar's Warden and Sally Hawkins the History Project representative on Parish Council.

The major focus provision of a fuller outline of the project and processes designed for parish and client access to the collection stored in either the History Room, Gill Hall, the digital records, and the oldest, fragile records lodged with the Diocesan Archive, Fitzroy.

(Photos used here courtesy of Lindsay Howe)

#### (ii) Save St George's - Sally Hawkins and Di Rule

We are working through a report from our Heritage Architects, Conservation Studio, which outlines the steps to be taken to fully restore St George's so it can safely continue to be used for worship and to preserve its historical significance to Queenscliff.

We have formed a Save St George's Committee to focus on the fundraising required for this project. We are fortunate to have two local community members with experience in fundraising for significant projects agree to join this committee. The Committee is Sally Hawkins, Val Lawrence, Fiona Lindsay, Jenny Price, Dianne Rule and Karin Heinz. As a sub-committee of parish council Save St George's reports to parish council regularly. We have been meeting regularly and looking at the different ways we can raise the funds necessary to restore St George's.

We have held a number of fundraisers, notably the Coronation Event and the Flower Show. Both have been successful, not only in raising funds but raising the exposure of St George's. We are busy trying to find relevant grants. This is not easy as there very few grants etc available to restore old buildings. Unfortunately, the Diocese does not have the funds to support this work.

We are also having small get togethers in our homes to share our vision with the public. At these get togethers Val Lawrence has spoken about the church and its history and the public are invited to ask questions. This is proving to be valuable. We intend having more talks in the church over the warmer months.

We have already completed the Porch/Tower roof remediation and the stonemason work within the bell tower. We have installed a bell hammer so that the bell can ring once again.

Rising damp is causing the most damage to the church and this is something we would like to ensure is fixed so that the church is preserved for future generations.