

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

17th November 2024

Parish of Queenscliff/Point Lonsdale

St George's Queenscliff with St James' Point Lonsdale



The Reverend Jo White
Vicar

Agenda

Acknowledgement of Country

Prayers

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a) Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting: 19th November 2023

Present: Graeme and Kate Parton. Val Lawrence. Ronald Farren-Price. Gillian McLeod. Carmen Ward. Norma Addison. Sue Mitchell. Geoff Brown. Peter Jones. George Chomley. Peter Chomley. Russell Jackson. Rob Idle. Judi Idle. Kate Houghton. Jeannette Hudson. Barbara Drummond. Michele Spencer. John Hooper. David Holloway. Jill Jackson. Sarah Felsovary. Fiona Lindsay. Rosalind Myer.
Apologies: Bodil Wright. Rosemary Robinson. Jenny Price. Wendy Watson. Carol McDonagh. Rosemary Selkirk. Jane Caldwell. Ted Baillieu. Jean Nelson. Kay Cottrell.

The meeting opened with acknowledgement of country and prayer (Mthr Jo)

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, 2023

the Motion was put:

“That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting, 189/11/2023 be accepted”

Moved: Sue Mitchell

Seconded: Kate Houghton

2. The reception of the Parish Electoral Roll

The electoral roll for 2023 was reviewed and updated before the meeting.

Motion: "That the Parish Electoral Roll be received"

Moved: Fiona Lindsay Seconded: Russell Jackson

Election of churchwardens and parish councillors. Mthr Jo has appointed Fiona Lindsay as Vicar's Warden, and will appoint two new members of Council to make up a quota of nine. Russell Jackson, Graham Parton and Fiona Lindsay will continue as Parish Nominators.

3. The Annual Report of the Vicar Mthr Jo's first report as vicar

"That the Vicar's Report for 2023 be accepted".

Moved: Val Lawrence

Seconded: Graeme Parton

4. The Annual Report of the Parish Council and Vicar's Warden for 2023

Vicar's Warden, Fiona Lindsay presented a report on behalf of the Parish Council on the pastoral care, evangelism, social and ecumenical programs of the parish and on future plans for the parish, for which Mother Jo White thanked her.

A summary was prepared of the Minutes of each meeting of Parish Council for the year and presented by Fiona Lindsay on behalf of the Parish Secretary, Rosalind Myer.

Motion: "That the Annual Report of the Parish Council and Vicar's Warden for 2023, including the Annual Report of the Parish Nominators, be received."

Moved: Fiona Lindsay Seconded: Russell Jackson

5. The Annual Report on the "fabric, goods and ornaments of the worship centers 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.

Annual Report of the Treasurer & Financial Statements for 2023; Budget for 2024

Sarah tabled the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for 2023 and tabled the Budget proposed for 2024. Financial Report Mthr Jo thanked Sarah Felsovary; Sally Hawkins and Andrew Behan for their contribution to the Parish Finance Committee, noting that our Operating Budget for 2024 was passed by Parish Council at its final meeting. Sarah Felsovary raised the subject of how we must ensure our financial viability for the future. Mthr Jo informed the meeting that strenuous efforts have been made to reduce our expenses, but the cost of maintaining our properties, some of them heritage listed, is high. It is imperative that our insurance costs, as well as our Diocesan Assessment, be tackled more intentionally. Sally Hawkins reported that the Diocese has commended us for the steps we have taken so far and acknowledges the work we have already accomplished towards our continued survival and flourishing as Christians sharing in ministry together. Sarah discussed the value of contributing regularly through the Anglican Diocesan Fund. Sally is available to help anyone wishing to make a regular contribution via the ADF or by electronic funds transfer to the parish account. Regular giving makes systematic financial planning possible and ensures that parish members continue their regular giving when they are not present at worship.

It was noted that our Independent Examiner, Neville Barwick, has resigned this honorary position after many years of diligent service; he has been warmly thanked by our Correspondence Secretary for carrying out his duties with impeccable integrity. A new Independent Examiner will be appointed.

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

Moved: Sarah Felsovary Seconded: Fiona Lindsay

Motion: "That the budget for 2024 be approved"

Moved: Sarah Felsovary Seconded: Graham Parton

12. Election of churchwardens and members of Parish Council

Parish Council is to consist of nine members. Mthr Jo has appointed Fiona Lindsay; as Vicar's Warden, she reserved her right to appoint two further members.

The following members were elected unopposed: Andrew Behan, Sarah Felsovary, Sally Hawkins, Russell Jackson, Rosalind Myer, Bodil Wright.

13. Election of Independent Examiner - vacant

The treasurer will bring the matter of a new Independent Examiner to the next meeting of Parish Council.

14. Parish Incumbency Committee

The current Incumbency Committee of Fiona Lindsay, Russell Jackson and Graham Parton has agreed to continue.

15. Other matters of parochial or general church interest

Parish History Project

Carole Barwick and Lindsay Howe have now completed their valuable work after years of meticulous and significant labour. The Parish Council has formally thanked them.

St George's Flower Show

A community committee convened by Dianne Rule undertook this successful event in October to raise money for the St George's Restoration Appeal. The Flower Show revives a tradition which is fondly remembered by older residents and visitors to our Borough. There were many stalls, Devonshire tea and exhibits for judging. Heavy rain complicated arrangements. Several people who attended had been students at the Old School Hall when it was a parish school and others remembered the school as their former Sunday School.

Property Review

Jenny Price presented the property review that identified immediate, medium and less urgent maintenance tasks for our buildings and gardens. The intention is that information will be regularly publicised and that parishioners be invited to fund specific projects.

Parish Questionnaire

After the formal meeting, attendees answered a Questionnaire prepared by Mthr Jo. Her opening question to stimulate discussion was: 'What is the reason for your attendance at church?'. She then reminded the gathering that we attend church first and foremost to worship God.

Mthr Jo also talked of the importance of extending welcome and hospitality to our community for all our parish activities.

2024 AGENDA

- b) **Reception of Parish Electoral Roll** – Fiona Lindsay, Warden
- c) **Vicar's Annual Report** – The Reverend Jo White

As of December 16th, I will have been vicar for 18 months. The parish is in good heart with a welcoming and generous nature. Thank you for your encouragement to Ken and I as we continue to live among you and share ministry together. I have enjoyed visiting many of you in your homes, in times of transition or when you have had need to go to hospital.

Highlights as vicar this past year have been those occasions when we have come together as a community e.g. **The Nine Lessons and Carols** when we gathered with fellow Christians the Catholic, Anglican and Uniting Churches to hear a message for the season, to sing carols and to share fellowship. Similarly, when we gathered for **The World Day of Prayer**; marching with our veterans down the main street of Queenscliff on **ANZAC Day**; a smoking ceremony for **NAIDOC Week**; and a service at the RSL Hall on **Remembrance Day**. We have developed a strong friendship with our Catholic brethren through shared events including the celebration of **All Souls** at the Queenscliff Cemetery and invitations to their patronal festival, St Patrick's Day, and a farewell for Fr Darien. The first anniversary of my ministry in the parish was marked by a luncheon at The Old School Hall attended by parishioners, community members and friends from Holy Trinity Catholic Church.

As a member of Oodnethong Episcopate I have attended a number of services to welcome new priests to our Deanery. I attend Deanery monthly as I am able. I also attended the annual Oodnethong Ministry Conference in May, a report of which was tabled at Parish Council in June.

This year we blessed and installed two icons to St James' that were gifts of friends of Russell Jackson. The first of Christ Pantocrator was blessed on the Feast of Christ the King 2023. The second of Mary with the infant Jesus was blessed on the Feast of the Annunciation to Mary 2024.



Christmas 2023 – My first Christmas with you. It was a joy to welcome so many visitors to our churches. Both St James' and St George's were decorated for the season including magnificent Advent Wreaths and Christmas trees with tasteful decorations. An invitation to families to decorate the window sills at St James' was not taken up so this will not be continued. **Midnight mass at St George's** followed by Christmas Cake and Sparkling Refreshments attracted a number of

community locals, parishioners and visitors. A total of 65 attended. **The Family Service at St James'** on Christmas Eve was attended by 63 children and adults (We did not record the number of children separately). We introduced a Christingle to this service which was appreciated by all. Services on **Christmas Day** were at St James' 8.00am said service attended by 35 and 10.00am sung Eucharist attended by 6 children and 65 adults. It was a personal concern that St George's did not host a service on Christmas Day.

However, after consultation with key parishioners the October meeting of Parish Council agreed to continue with our current pattern and not have a service at St George's on Christmas Day.

Lent and Easter 2024 – Lent began with a pancake dinner on **Shrove Tuesday** where we burned the palm crosses from last year and prepared the incense nails for Easter. **Ash Wednesday** included a simple service of Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes at St James' with 12 people attending. Our **Lenten Studies - Safetynet Discipleship** - by Bishop Peter Stuart was carefully chosen by members of Parish Council. Twenty people participated in this time of prayerful attention to the scriptures. We offered two study groups which were attended sporadically by a few parishioners most preferring to study at home.

World Day of Prayer was hosted at St James' and coordinated by a group of women from Anglican, Uniting and Catholic parishes. **Easter** was celebrated with joy firstly at a dawn service on the Point Lonsdale foreshore and then Easter was celebrated at St James' four children and 120 adults attended.



Bishop Brad Billings made his episcopal visit to the parish in July attending a Whisky Tasting on Saturday 27th night then preaching at 10.00am Holy Communion St James' on Sunday 28th July.



Entries in the registers of the Parish October 2023 – September 2024

Our records show that over the last year there has been 1 infant baptism. This was an important baptism in the life of the parish as Margaret Farrell is the daughter of our Treasurer, Sarah, and her husband Michael, who were wed at St George's some years prior. There were 7 funerals and 0 marriages.

Pastoral services i.e. marriages, baptisms and funerals have declined in number. This is due in part to the use of celebrants and funeral homes providing a 'one stop shop' without the need for clergy. There are three marriages coming up - November 2025, December 2025 and July 2025.

Sunday Services and Acts of Holy Communion - Sunday services continue to be held on rotation month about at St James' and St George's. This arrangement has cemented the parish as one. We are one congregation worshipping at St James' and St George's. We are united by love, fellowship and our shared ministry which is something we are very proud of. During 2024 we trialed a number of mid-week services including a mid-week Holy Communion on Tuesday at St James'.

This was not well attended so now the vicar says Morning Prayer in the church on Tuesday at 10.30am. I provide pastoral care and a Thursday morning Holy Communion twice a month at Arcare Aged Care Point Lonsdale. Morning Prayer on Wednesday at St George's has been well supported and now includes a monthly Holy Communion on the first Wednesday of the month.

Vicarage In February we installed some paths which have enabled some further landscaping work in both the front and rear gardens. Our garden continues to flourish with the help and support of friends and parishioners. The vicarage has benefited from the installation of reverse cycle air-conditioners in both the family room and lounge. Ken and I thank the property committee for their on-going support and prompt attention to the smaller maintenance jobs around the vicarage.



The vicarage is both a home and a place of hospitality. We use some of the rooms for meetings and interviews. During Lent we enjoyed hosting an afternoon tea to make Palm Crosses. Our dining table has hosted a number of lunches and a few dinners with members of the parish. It is also where we hold parish council meetings. The lounge is a comfortable place to talk with people who would like a chat or are planning a marriage, baptism or funeral. As vicar I believe it is important that I live within the parish bounds and provide a visible, welcoming and pastoral presence in the community. Thank you for providing such a comfortable abode for our family and friends.

Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG)



In February Sally Hawkins and I attended a three-day conference run by the Diocese of Melbourne. Its aim was to inspire leaders to lead our church into growth; provide encouragement to keep trying with God's help; to equip us with straightforward and workable strategies; provide teaching resources to share with our parish; and to enable us to create and put into practice a growth plan. At this stage we have made use of this material to inform the development of our Mission Action Plan. We have also been challenged to think about how we use our presence in the community to proclaim the good news, persuade people, and raise their interest so that they want to find out more.

The 4 P's as they are known in the language of LYCiG are Prayer; Presence; Proclamation and Persuasion. (These will be further explained during the Annual Parish Meeting 2024.)

Mission Action Plan

The Mission Action Plan Committee consists of Mthr Jo as chair with wardens Fiona Linsday, Sally Hawkins and Andrew Behan. This group met a number of times in the first half of 2024 to consider feedback from 2023 Annual Parish Meeting and social measures such as demographics, local patterns and needs. Our provisional Vision Statement was launched and following some feedback has been reworded to the following:

Vision: To share the love, joy, hope and peace that Jesus brings to our lives through loving service to our community.

At the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish in July we presented the Mission Action Plan for discussion. Noteworthy is our Parish Mission Statement which focuses on serving and ministering to people of all ages including holiday makers and retirees. We are in a unique position in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale that each Easter and Christmas we welcome regular and occasional holiday makers many of whom have homes here and consider these seaside villages their home away from home. To us these folk are not 'just visitors', they are members of our parish and are to be afforded a welcome and never seen as a nuisance. Our five goals are as follows:

Goal 1: To extend pastoral care; fellowship and support to our community

Goal 2: To increase engagement with people by installing screen-based worship

Goal 3 To promote our church to the community; improve our website and establish a Facebook presence

Goal 4: To offer quality and focused ministry to children and families during holiday seasons

Goal 5: Repay debt to Anglican Diocese of Melbourne (ADOM) and establish financial viability

Each of these goals will be expanded upon at the Annual Parish Meeting. In particular the Parish Council has noted discussion points around the introduction of screen-based worship and the use of social media. Our thinking on these issues in particular has been guided by our mission for the next five years, by our unique position as a tourist town and information gleaned from the LYCiG Program.

Since the launch of the Mission Action Plan 2024-2030 we have made plans for special Christmas Activities that were to include a Photo Project to engage children and families in the lead-up to Christmas. Unfortunately, this has been delayed but we will regroup with added vigour for Christmas 2025. The Parish Council has instructed the Finance Committee to look into how we can best use our resources to repay our debt to ADOM and become self-sufficient into the future.

With a generous donation of time and money we have updated our website and with help we continue to keep it fresh and current. We are aware that in order to reach a wider group of people we will need to branch out making use of other forms of communication, for example: Facebook, Whatsapp and Instragram.

During the year we have been fortunate to receive some positive news coverage by The Bellarine Times. The popularity of The Old School Hall as a venue for community events and concerts has grown, which is yet another way we are engaging with and supporting our community.

We are at the beginning of our Mission Action Plan so there is still a great deal to do as we seek, with your support, to lead our parish into growth.

HOPE 25 is an initiative of the National Anglican Church which focuses on bringing hope in an uncertain world. We are asked to commit to prayer and action from Easter to Pentecost 2025. The HOPE 25 team have provided a Lenten Study, copies of which have already been purchased.

54th Synod of the Diocese of Melbourne This was the final Synod of Archbishop Philip Freier after 16 years of leadership which has included a period serving as Primate of Australia. Archbishop Philip has a particular commitment to Reconciliation with Aboriginal people which has been evident throughout his reign. A full report of this most recent Synod was provided to the October meeting of Parish Council. Fiona Lindsay is our parish representative to Synod.

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

Report on the “fabric, goods and ornaments of the worship centre(s)”:

Prepared by Fiona Lindsay, Vicar's Warden

- The brass ornaments of St George's and St James' are well maintained by committed parishioners and friends of the parish. Mthr Jo, Judi Idle and I examined all the robes etc. in the early months of Mthr Jo's incumbency to establish their condition. Cloths and some garments have been cleaned and repaired. Communion items are in variable condition: eg. chalice and paten may not match and silver-plate is rubbed thin on most items. Several brocade palls are faded and have rust spots and much of the linen is quite threadbare. Parish Council will have further discussions with Mthr Jo about what, if any, items need to be replaced.
- There are many old robes and related items at St George's that are no longer used. The cupboards are now well organised so it is timely to consider what to do with the extra and unused items.
- Andrew Behan, as property warden, has included an appraisal of the parish buildings in his report.

Church Warden's Report

Mission Action Plan: The commitment to "Share in Ministry together" has guided parish council through our planning and actions this year, especially in developing the Mission Action Plan (MAP) in consultation with parishioners. Through this process of discussion, reflection and consultation, the goals of the MAP have been refined as:

- 1 - To extend pastoral care, fellowship and support to our community;
- 2 - To increase engagement with people (in church) by installing screen-based worship;
- 3 - To promote our church to the community (and improve the parish website)
- 4 - To offer quality and focussed ministry to children and families during holiday seasons;
- 5 - To repay our debt to the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne (ADOM) and establish financial viability.

Our parish works in many ways towards achieving these goals, from the leadership of Mthr Jo, to parishioners who are welcoming, supportive, inclusive and encouraging of each other and the people we encounter. More formally, the outreach work of Sally Hawkins as People's Warden and of Fiona Lindsay as Vicar's Warden, helps to build and sustain links with the wider community.

The website is now clearer and easy to navigate, thanks to the new design (courtesy of a local friend of the parish) and the commitment of Sarah Felsovary to maintain it.

We maintain a weekly email of Readings and News to parishioners and friends from within and beyond the parish and this is now supplemented by a quarterly photo-newsletter of parish activities, The Parish Quarterly.

Local people and visitors call into our open churches for prayer, a quiet space, a search for family connections and curiosity about the history contained within their walls. Parish council appreciates the daily commitment of Val and Wendy to open St George's every day, while Mthr Jo opens St James'. Our conscious strategy to foster community involvement with our spaces, especially with the Old School at St George's, means that more people view our parish as a welcoming environment and become involved in parish activities.



Ecumenical life: Parish council works with Mthr Jo to foster all opportunities for ecumenical involvement with other denominations in our district. This year was our year to lead the **World Day of Prayer on Friday, 1st March.**

As Palestine was the country in focus, we worked together to pray for peace through the service prepared by the small Christian community in Palestine. We prayed with Palestinian and Israeli women who work together to bring peace to their countries. Our recent service at the Queenscliff cemetery for All Soul's Day again reinforced the commonality of worship and fellowship across denominations.

Pastoral Care is reviewed confidentially by parish council each month and not reported in the Minutes. Sally, as People's Warden, is generally responsible for following up concerns as they arise and alerts parish council to issues raised by individual parishioners.

Future planning: Underpinning all our planning is the endeavour to make the parish financially viable; that includes the discharge of all parish debt to the Diocese, including unpaid insurance. We work hard to increase community use of our halls and to develop our wedding ministry as means to improve our financial situation. For example, the Flower Show community committee generously financed the work required in the Old School kitchen to make it a registered kitchen that can be hired out for more community activities. However, the bottom line is that the parish depends on its members to provide a solid financial base from which we can grow further. Similarly, our welcoming culture and community outreach can also encourage the growth of the parish. For example, we look to connecting our part-time and holiday parishioners as effectively as possible to our parish throughout the year.

Quiet contributors: In our small parish community, we depend on the "quiet contributors", many of whom are not known to the wider community, who bring comfort, order and beauty to our church environments and who repair with expertise and patience, generally at their own cost. We must never take for granted their work that is undertaken in faith and fellowship for the benefit of us all.

Report on hiring our halls and churches: 1 November 23 - 1 November 24
Fiona Lindsay - Vicar's Warden and Hall-Hire co-ordinator

Hiring parish facilities is an important function with many benefits. We raise our profile in the community; demonstrate hospitality; enable social mission; open our unique spaces for community use and, very importantly, raise funds.

When coordinating the hire of our buildings, there are several important dimensions that enhance the experience for our hirers, who may then re-book or spread the word about what we offer. As we know, "word-of-mouth" is the most effective advertising - and costs us nothing. It is all about fostering goodwill.

Our hire fees may vary, but we (The Parish Council) have recently reviewed our usual fees and increased the hall hire fee for private functions from \$100 to \$200. Having the weekly income from the Barwon Health program is very helpful.

There is more to managing our hiring program than getting people to complete a booking form and pay their insurance. Building relationships, being an active helper, helping to promote events, making sure buildings are clean and ready for use and generally being available with information and support - these are all important ways to demonstrate the values of hospitality and community outreach. I have prepared an explanatory and friendly document for prospective hirers that includes building information and advice about effective local advertising through the Visitor Information Centre and Council website. This has proven to be very helpful.

The booking process has been simplified by introducing the Teamup app that enables me to arrange booking in each of our facilities in the one place, including all relevant contact information. We use the diocesan booking and insurance forms to comply with our diocesan policy and procedures.

Here is a simple table of our bookings over the last 12 months:

Old School, Queenscliff



- Parish/community functions (3) Whisky Night; Heritage Walk & Dinner; Community Lunch
- Concerts & music workshops (9) Includes return bookings by artists and music groups (3)
- Community events (2) Queenscliff Primary School Art Show; St George's Flower Show
- Regular bookings (1) Barwon Health Wellbeing & Mental Health support program - weekly
- Occasional bookings (2) Craft Group; meetings
- Private functions (1) Friends gathering, "Christmas Carols in July"

2: St George's, Queenscliff

- Concerts (2) Cologne Orchestra; (1) Windfire Lunchtime Concerts (1)

3: Gill Hall, Point Lonsdale

- Parish/community functions (2) Annual Card Day; Red Cross Card Day
- Regular bookings (2) Yoga - weekly; Quilting - weekly
- Occasional bookings (2) Karen Retreat; Castlemaine choir

St James' Point Lonsdale

- Parish/community functions (1) World Day of Prayer
- Concerts (1) Windfire Lunchtime Concerts

NB: Between now and Christmas we also have bookings for two private functions and a concert.

e) Financial Report—Sarah Felsovary

The financial year 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024 was another challenging year for the St James' with St George's Anglican Parish. The net operating loss of \$33,973 demonstrates the challenges we face with our income falling short of our operating expenses.

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support throughout the year which helps towards the sustainability and strength of our Parish. For the regular giving by our loyal parishioners, those who give their valuable time, and those who are able to contribute financially what they can, I thank you. For the year, this equated to a total income of \$94,972, of which over \$68k was through regular donations. Also, to the Diocese I thank it for its continued financial support, in offering a line of credit where we are unable to pay for the insurance and assessments. This debt has increased to \$106,466 to the end of this financial year.

During the year, the Finance Committee has embarked on an asset rationalisation project to support the future financial sustainability of the parish. A business case has been developed with an assessment on the buildings and land held by the parish, recognising the increasing repairs needed and the shortfall of funds to support their maintenance. This includes potential sale of assets as well as potential opportunities for ongoing income streams, such as rental. Initial discussions with key experts have commenced in relation to this, with no decisions or clear path for the future decided as yet. This process will continue into the new financial year and further information will be provided as this progresses.

Whilst this financial year was an improvement on prior year of \$4,647, the aim is to return our financial operating performance to profit. This is not expected to occur in the next financial year, ending September 2025, however it is part of our 5-year plan, along with paying down the debt to the Diocese. There will continue to be a measured approach to managing expenses, which will include only critical property repairs (requiring an increase of almost \$20k in this year). There will also be the tightly managed financial controls maintained to ensure that, as a parish, we act in a financially responsible and accountable manner, with the upmost integrity, and focusing on the financial sustainability of our parish.

f) Independent Examiner's Report

To the Churchwardens of the Parish of St Georges', Queenscliff with St James' Point Lonsdale:

I have examined the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of The Anglican Parish of St Georges', Queenscliff with St James' Point Lonsdale, which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30th September 2024, and the Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended on that date, other explanatory notes and the Churchwardens' Declaration.

Respective Responsibilities of the Churchwardens and Independent Examiner:

The Churchwardens of The Anglican Parish of St Georges', Queenscliff with St James' Point Lonsdale have determined that an audit is not required for this financial year under Section 43 of the Parish Governance Act 2013 and that an independent examination is needed.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement:

My examination was carried out in accordance with the requirements of Section 47 of the Parish Governance Act 2003.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the parish and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items and disclosures in the financial reports, and the task of seeking explanations from the management and Parish Council concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required for a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the financial reports.

Independent Examiner's Statement:

In connection with my examination:

1. No matters have come to my attention which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect:

(i) accounting records have not been kept in accordance with the Parish Governance Act.

(ii) the financial accounts are not in accordance with those records.

(iii) the accounts did not comply with the requirements of section 42 (2) of the Act.

2. Matters to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached:

(i) The Parish has operated at a loss; income received this year has not been sufficient to cover costs of operating the parish.

(ii) Funds earmarked for the restoration of St George's should be continued to be accounted for separately. Inclusion of funds for the restoration within parish assets may give an unintentionally misleading picture of the state of the parish assets.

The restoration of St George's is a specific project, rather than an ongoing component of parish operations.

GEOFFREY IAN BROWN BSc(Hons), DipEd, DipCompSc, GradDipInfoTech,

g) Balance Sheet – appendix (a)

Budget 2024/25 – appendix (b)

h) Other Reports –

i. **Property Warden's Report** – Andrew Behan



Firstly, I would like to thank everyone that helped on various working bees during the year. A special thank you to Rob Idle who has been a wonderful help to me and also for the many maintenance issues he has tackled willingly and with great gusto during the year. In addition, there are many others who just quietly go about planting shrubs or prune or attend to maintenance issues. A big thank you to all of you.



Maintenance tasks tackled during the year include: -

- Cleaning all the gutters on Gill Hall, St James' Church, Vicarage and Old School Hall.
- Calking windows at Gill Hall.
- Replace tap in kitchen at Gill Hall.
- Erect rustic cross in rosemary patch at Gill Hall.
- Upgrading the playground area at Gill Hall including a new timber floor.
- Mending the flag pole at St George's.
- Fixing the cracked gate post at Old School Hall.
- Cutting branches away from gutters at St James'.
- Re-stain hand rails at St James'.
- Erecting new signs for notices of upcoming events at both St James' and Old School Hall.
- Repair front door lock at St George's.
- Mend seat at St Georges (thanks to Men's Shed Queenscliff).
- Mend Vicarage walls and repaint after installation of heater.
- Repair storm water at vicarage.
- Repair water leak in roof at vicarage and repaint ceiling.
- Installing a new frame for blown over sign at St Georges.
- Re-erect the St Georges restoration project sign.



Major repairs and building works conducted during the year included an upgrade of the kitchen at The Old School Hall to a commercial grade. Our thanks to Fiona Lindsay for coordination of this ambitious project. We also installed two new reverse cycle air conditioners in the Vicarage replacing the old gas heaters. An urgent increase in funds is needed to keep our ageing buildings in good repair. The longer we neglect these matters the bigger the problems will become. Currently we cannot fund the following projects:

- Repaint Vicarage windows and eaves.
- Repaint St James' and Gill Hall windows and eaves.
- Repair broken slates and rain heads and box gutters at Old School Hall.
- Replace rotten windows at Gill Hall. Office window and windows on south wall.
- Replace rotten windows at Old School Hall.
- Prune and shape conifer trees beside St Georges and remove self-sown trees.
- Prune and shape Chinese Elm at Gill Hall.
- Treat the elm trees at the Old School Hall for pests.
- The Old School Hall is in serious need of being brought into the twenty-first century with inside toilets, wheel chair access and heating.

ii. **Safe Ministry** – Sally Hawkins, Safe Ministry Officer

Our Parish is committed to upholding safe ministry standards and to ensure that everyone is kept safe. To do this anyone in a position of responsibility in the Parish is required to undertake the necessary and appropriate safe ministry training.

Safe Ministry is split into safe ministry trainings for volunteers and lay employees which are run within the Diocese and clearances for ministry for all clergy and authorised lay members, which are granted by Kooyoora (Office of Professional Standards) used by the Diocese.

For volunteers and lay employees (in our case volunteers) the Diocese has set up specific safe ministry training to cover their duty of care to everyone involved in each Parish. There are certain requirements that must be met, depending on the level of responsibility you have.

At present, the Diocese runs Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 trainings for volunteers and lay employees.

In our Parish, fifteen people have completed their Safe Ministry Essentials Level 1 training. Three people have completed Level 2 Safe Ministry with Children and Young People. This includes Mother Jo and myself who must complete this training as vicar and Safe Ministry Officer. Eight people have completed Level 3 Safe Ministry Training for leaders. All Parish Councillors must complete this training. There is a Volunteer and Lay Employees Safe Ministry register that records all these trainings with their completed date.

Kooyoora, a separate entity, upholds professional standards, and provides safeguarding services, with their main purpose being to protect and safeguard children and vulnerable individuals. Kooyoora has set up a new online clearance platform called OSCA for clergy and authorised lay members who require a Clearance for Ministry/Service. This is a pre-employment screening platform which conducts thorough checks of any person applying for a role within the Diocese, and they must apply for a clearance by Kooyoora stating that they are fit to hold the proposed role, office or position in the church. Once the clearance is granted that person is added to OSCA.

We have only two people in our Parish that require a clearance for service. Mother Jo has her clearance for service. As Safety Officer I am currently in the process of applying for a full clearance for service.

There is a clear and informative flowchart that best describes how Safe Ministry is managed by the Diocese. We regularly receive a Safe Ministry newsletter and updates are posted regularly on the Parish Portal.

Please feel free to ask any questions relating to Safe Ministry within our Parish.

iii. **St George's Restoration Sub-Committee Report** Sally Hawkins

The Committee continues to be committed to the restoration of St George's Church Queenscliff. We are fortunate to have a group of hard working and dedicated committee members. The members of the present sub-committee are: Sally Hawkins (Chair), Val Lawrence, Jenny Price, Fiona Lindsay, Dianne Rule and Karin Heinz. We are grateful for donations we have received, without these the project would not have been able to advance.

We have welcomed the addition of two community members, Di and Karin, who bring experience and skill sets in fundraising, grants and media exposure.

The St George's Restoration Sub-Committee has held a number of functions and helped raise the profile of the religious and historical significance of St George's Church within the community and to the state of Victoria. The Committee has a focus on fundraising to continue the work of restoration.

Val Lawrence, our historian and captivating story-teller is pivotal to the success of our events. She has extensive knowledge of the history of St George's which she shares in a compelling manner.

We have held a number of successful events as a committee.

- The Coronation at St George's for the coronation of King Charles.
 - A Heritage Walk and Celtic Music.
 - Cocktail parties in our homes inviting interested people to come and learn more about St George's and its rich history.
 - Music events in the Old School Hall
-

We have had a wide range of people attend these events and the word is spreading that we need funds and support for the restoration.



The Flower Show, now in its second year (which is solely run by community members) has been a great success. The community has embraced the return of the Flower Show and we have had a significant increase in people interested in visiting the church, especially after the Dog Show!

We received donations of \$37,500 in the last financial year. All donations are deposited into the National Trust account and all donors receive a tax-deductible receipt.

All other funds related to the St George's Restoration are put into a specific Anglican Development Fund (ADF) St George's Restoration account. Any funds relating to the restoration are kept separate from the Parish funds and do not appear on any Parish financial reports.

Our challenge moving forward is the need of significant amounts of money to continue the restoration. The restoration is set out in stages. The first stage was to restore and make the bell tower safe after the cockatoos attacked it and it was deemed unsafe. The bell tower has now been restored internally and the next stage is to render the outside of the bell tower to protect the internal work already done. This will cost approximately \$400,000. We need appropriate grants and generous benefactors to continue the restoration. We would be very grateful for any suggestions or knowledge of trusts or contacts that may assist us.

- i) **The election of churchwardens and members of parish council**
- j) **The election of representatives as parish nominators**
- k) **The election of an independent examiner**

I) Matters of Parochial Interest –

Mission Action Plan

Diocesan Vision Statement 2022 – 2025 *Making the Word of God fully known*

Vision and Goals of the Anglican Parish of
St George the Martyr, Queenscliff with St James' Point Lonsdale
2024 – 2030

Our Vision: To share the love, joy, hope and peace that Jesus brings to our lives through loving service to our community

Our Mission: We are committed to serving and ministering to people of all ages including holiday makers and retirees.

We value: Traditional prayerbook worship; Being Inclusive, Welcoming, and Respectful while Sharing the Ministry of Christ



Leading Your Church into Growth –

The 4Ps:

Prayer, Presence, Proclamation & Persuasion



PRAYER

Prayer for Growth - God of mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, joy to our worship, and power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRESENCE

Presence is about making relationships through caring for people

- Church buildings open and welcoming
- Actively being part of the community – some examples include ANZAC Day; a farewell street party for Karen and Paul who were Point Lonsdale Newsagents; the activities of the St George's Restoration sub-committee; Book Sales and Cake Stalls
- Pastoral Ministry and Church Services

PROCLAMATION

Proclamation is building on those relationships to offer a clear message of Good News to those with whom we have already established real and caring contact. Some of the best times for this is at the festivals of the church e.g. Christmas, Easter, Harvest Festival, All Souls etc.

There can also be opportunities when we gather with the community around food and drink e.g. Winter Luncheon, Whisky Night, Flower Show, Philharmonic Cologne and other concerts

PERSUASION

Pray for people, after establishing relationships and proclaiming the Good News, for an effective next step to help those who are interested to find out more.

Examples of Persuasion Events

- Small groups
- One to one visit
- Confirmation classes
- Courses such as Christianity Explained, Alpha, Pilgrim (There are lots to choose from.)
- Q and A event

Minutes of Appreciation