



Reports to the Combined Annual Meeting
for the year 1st October 2016 to 30th September 2017
for the
Parish of Lara with Little River
held on Sunday 19th November 2017
at 11:00 am

**Holy Trinity
Lara**



with



**Christ Church
Little River**

'Encourage one another and builded each other up'

Reports for year ended 30th September 2017

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Meeting agenda

Opening devotion

Apologies

Reception of minutes annual meeting 2016

Business arising from minutes annual meeting 2016

Reception of parish electoral roll

Report presentations

Reception of reports

Election of wardens

Election of parish councillors

Election of incumbency committee

Election of auditor

Any other business of parochial interest



*Names Recorded on Electoral Roll as at 4th
November 2017*

HOLY TRINITY LARA

June ARMSTRONG
Marjorie BARROWMAN
Rosemary BASCOMB
Libby BATE
Ian BROWN
Anne CHASE
Joan COHEN
Rev'd Vernon COHEN
Brenda DARCY
Anne FAITHFULL
Helen GLARE
Christine HANLON
Robert HANLON
Liz HUNTER
Marie KEOWN
Sam KEOWN
Ian KERIN
Joy LEGGO
John LEEK
Wendy LEEK
Lola LEWIS
Vicar – Rev'd Shirley LITTRAS
George LITTRAS
Ellen MARSH
Dennis MARSH
Diana MARSH
Valerie MAWSON
Alyce MATTHIES
Gregory MEDWELL
Wendy O'BRIEN
William O'BRIEN
Patricia PEART
Cynthia ROSEBURH
Carol RUMBLE
Rev Warren RUMBLE
Denis SCOTT
Gaye SCOTT
Arch SMITH
Doris SMITH
Philip STARKS

Coralene STEWART
Dawn TEESDALE
John THOMPSON
Barbara THOMPSON
Val TONKIN
Robert TONKIN
Lee-Allan URBANSKI
Annette WENDLEMAN
Robin WENDLEMAN
Joan WILKS
Gwynith WILSON
Wes WILSON
CHRIST CHURCH LITTLE RIVER
Jenny CUNNINGHAM
Ivan FAIRCHILD
Garry GREEN
Donna HINCHLIFFE
Peter JONES
May McCRAW
Brenda SIMS

Vicar's Annual Report 2017

Give ear to my teaching, O my people: incline your ears to the words of my mouth; ² For I will open my mouth in a parable: and expound the mysteries of former times. ³ What we have heard and known: what our forebears have told us, ⁴ We will not hide from their children, but declare to a generation yet to come: the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, his mighty and wonderful works. Psalm 78:1-4

“Give ear... to my teaching,” says the psalmist. The psalmist invites us to listen and to be attentive to the teachings. The entire psalm details the history of God’s mercy for Israel. This psalm encourages its hearers to tell the next generations about these deeds of God. Sometimes we get so caught up in activities that we forget the larger purpose of the bustle. The busyness of church interferes with our connection with God.

This year I have been pondering the teachings of Richard Rohr, who is an Academic Dean of the Living School for Action and Contemplation in New Mexico, whose teaching is grounded in Franciscan practices of contemplation and self-emptying. I stumbled across Rohr via an article in the TMA which was a book review on one of Rohr’s book called ‘The Divine Dance, the Trinity and your transformation,’ which peaked my interest. So I ordered a number of his books from his centre in New Mexico. Since then much of my thinking has been shaped by his philosophy on contemplative prayer.

In Rohr’s book ‘The Divine Dance,’ he uses Rublev’s icon to explain the Holy Trinity. In Rublev’s icon Rohr states ‘the Holy Trinity in the form of Three- eating and drinking, in infinite hospitality and utter enjoyment between themselves... They’re circling a shared table, and if you look on the front of the table there appears to be a little triangular hole painted there. Most people pass right over it, but art historians say that the remaining glue on the original icon indicates that there was perhaps once a mirror glued to the front of the table!... It’s stunning when you think about it –there was room at this table for a fourth. The observer. You!...The mirror seems to have been lost over the centuries, both in the icon and in our on-the-ground-understanding of who God is and who we therefore are created in God’s “image and likeness.” (Richard Rohr with Mike Morrell; The Divine Dance pg. 29-31)

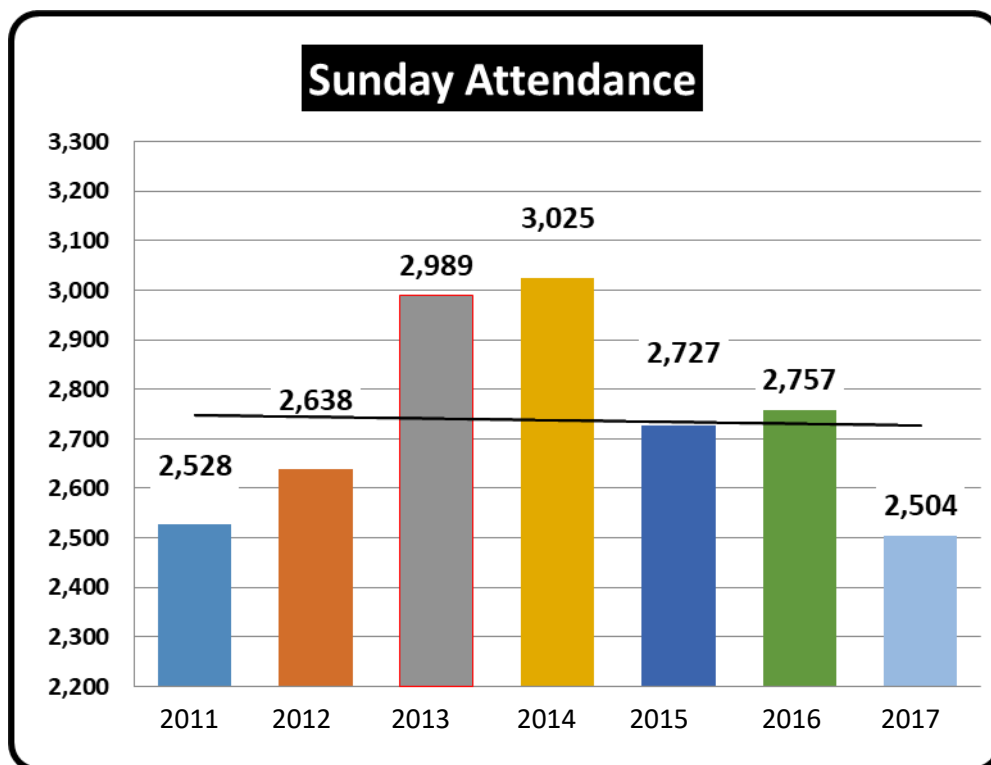


As I stated in my annual report last year the mission of the church must be expressed through the ways we as a congregation perform our basic function – worship, fellowship, education, proclamation and ministry – to achieve our mandate of being the Body of Christ in the world participating with God in the redemptive work of restoring all people to the unity with God and each other in Christ. Kevin Giles in his book ‘Making Good Churches Better,’ states ‘We often hear the voice of Jesus sending us into the world as individuals, but he sends us out because we belong to the community which confesses him as Lord. To be effective in Christ’s mission we need to be part of a Christian community that sustains and nurtures us as individuals.

PARISH STATISTICS:

You all know my frustrations with statistics as you have heard me preach and speak about it quite often. Especially the fact that I feel that they do not represent the total truth of our healthy congregation. You might think that I am saying this because our yearly attendance is at the lowest that it has been since I first began 6 ½ years ago. However, I feel that there are a number of mitigating factors behind this, illness,

people moving from the Parish for a number of reasons, as well as a seasonal cold winter which has impacted upon our ageing congregation.



Although Sunday attendance might be down Home Communion are on the increase along with pastoral visits, at one stage this year I felt that I nearly had a whole ward at the Geelong Hospital. With the help now from our Parish Office Assistant Chris this has enabled me to visit more widely and on a more regular basis to those who are no longer able to attend on Sunday and Wednesday services.

Israel Galindo also states that “Staying focused on the vision toward which the congregation is heading provides a constant reminder that there is a qualitative difference between a view of church and ministry whose measure of success is in numbers, and a view of ministry where the spiritual formation and growth of all the people of God is the criterion for effective pastoral leadership.”

Therefore I would like to reiterate my Vision for the Parish that we will be a faith community who reveals the seven marks of a Healthy church as Churches with these characteristics are deeply attractive because their focus is not on themselves and their programs but on God’s goodness and reality and on the world around them.

Mark 1: energized by faith: *rather than just keeping things going or trying to survive,*

Mark 2: outward-looking focus: *with a ‘whole life’ rather than a ‘Church life’ concern,*

Mark 3: seeks to find out what God wants: *discerning the Spirit’s leading rather than trying to please everyone,*

Mark 4: faces the cost of change and growth: *rather than resisting change and fearing failure,*

Mark 5: operates as a community: *rather than function as a club or religious organization,* **Mark 6: makes room for all:** *being inclusive rather than exclusive,*

Mark 7: does a few things and does them well: *focused rather than frenetic*

The particular way in which I interpret the term **healthy** is as a translation of the biblical concept of salvation, namely wholeness, balance and harmony with God and all creation. Healthy churches have an attractive and real humanity and are not trying to impress or achieve. They are what they preach. Healthy churches live out a faith that is real to them and shapes what they do and how they do it.

The perfect church is nowhere to be found on earth. Certainly churches on the journey to health are ones that have come up against costly experiences of pain, puzzlement, change and conflict. In them health is evidence by their willingness and capacity to face uncomfortable truth and real obstacles, but to keep going. They are the churches that reap the rewards of staying faithful to the costly call to follow Christ.

In September this year I preached a sermon on Forgiveness, I stated that “forgiveness, like faith, is part of the discipleship journey. It’s more process than destination. Sure, we Christians know our ultimate destination. It’s the living into and getting there that’s tough because it involves negotiating the already and not yet of life.” I then went on to say, “We see this played out in many ways: church parish council members holding grudges, or members in a snit. Forgiveness isn’t easy, but it’s about laying down the hurt, anger, and pain with the help of the Holy Spirit. Without forgiveness I stated nothing new happens, and we remain frozen in a small past.”

WORSHIP:

It is faith in God as revealed in Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit that is the source of vitality in the life of a healthy church. Different traditions express this in a variety of ways, but in all of them, prayer is a natural part of personal and church life, faith is talked about as a natural part of life and conversation, and the name of Christ is not a source of embarrassment. There is a subtle yet profound difference between ‘taking the service’ and ‘leading the worship.’ The focus of the former is on the following the liturgy or order of the service. The focus of the latter is on helping people to encounter the presence of God.

After some discussion at Parish Council it was decided to continue with the service of Prayer, Praise and Proclamation with Healing at Holy Trinity this year on the first Sunday of the month, with the assistance of Alyce Matthies on piano, and with Holy Communion at Christ Church. Once again our worship at Holy Trinity has continued to be enhanced on the fourth Sunday of the month with the very much appreciated assistance of the gifted musicians from the Lara Uniting Church. And once again I would like to express my personal thanks (Marian Couch, Judy Plowman and Alan Bradley) for their ministry to us. The midweek service at Holy Trinity on a Wednesday, still continues to be a small gathering. Also on the third Sunday of every second month and at our Christmas Eve Midnight service our Authorized Lay Minister Philip Starks who is a gifted teacher and preacher has lead and opened up the word of God to us.



In June with Bishop Philip Huggins we marked the 140th Anniversary of laying the Foundation stone on its original site at Little River. As Peter Jones stated on the day, “One hundred and forty years ago, in 1877 the tradition of setting the cornerstone was enacted here. A large choir was conducted by Miss McCord and a large crowd gathered by the site for the church, where his Lordship James Moorhouse, second Bishop of Melbourne said, ‘It is customary in the erection of all such edifices to lay with solemnity some principal

stone to represent the foundation or corner stone of a building to be dedicated to the special service of God.' He knew, that a worthwhile project deserved a good start, that a cornerstone that united two walls was a sign to unite those who would worship within and that what was placed under the stone would represent a time-snap to assist future historians. "

The attendance of Chapel services in St Catherine's Chapel at St Laurence Park (Gen U) have continued to increase with a number of our parishioners who have moved to the Park over the past years. At these services I am assisted by a faithful team from the Parish, Brenda Darcy, Doris Smith and Coralene Stewart at St Catherine's Chapel and Annette Wendleman at St Clare's Chapel. These dedicated women set up for worship, gather the congregation, choose the hymns and at times lead Morning Prayer. Along with the services in the Park there are those lead by Philip Starks on the first Sunday and the fifth Sunday in the month in the hub at Costa House.



Throughout Advent we had the opportunity to have Mary, Joseph and their donkey stop off and stay on their way to Bethlehem. Mary, Joseph and their donkey stayed a night or two in each home and leave the next afternoon. They were then delivered to their next destination and those gathered would take part in a simple act of worship, share a drink and snack or even a meal. This delightful initiative of Reverend Warren & Carol Rumble, one I hope that will pick up momentum with each passing year.

Throughout last year one of my goals for the Youth Group was to conduct and lead the Christmas Eve Service. Which they did. Although the play they used for the service stated that no rehearsal was necessary they did in fact come together over a number of weeks prior for rehearsal. I am unsure of how exactly it would have turned out without rehearsal but it was a great success and much fun was had by all. This service finished off the year for the Youth Group on a great note.

FELLOWSHIP:

Because of God's Trinitarian nature as Three-Persons-In-One, his life will find fullest expression in and through relationships, hence the importance of community and the church operating as one. Healthy churches are aware of and take care about relationships. Not only one to one but also in building a sense of community and belonging. It usually results in a wide number of people being involved in different ways in the life of the church. That involvement typically will be related to their particular gifts and personality, for communities recognize and release gifts rather than squeeze people into roles they do not fit. Thus highlighting the important ministry of our small groups from The You Yang walkers, the Craft group, Men's Group, S.A.L.T *serving and learning together*, the Book Club, the Youth Group and the Social Committee. Thank you to the members of all these groups for all the hard work throughout the year by the both at Holy Trinity and Christ Church.

EDUCATION:

The first mark of a healthy church, that it is energized by faith, finds expression in the nurturing of the faith of its members – rather than assuming faith. Therefore in S.A.L.T. *serving and learning together*, throughout the year we have undertaken a number of studies.

Our Advent Study this year by Walter Brueggemann "Names for the Messiah". In Isaiah 9:6, a divine utterance is given to us using four royal titles--Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. "Names for the Messiah" ponders each title and how the people understood it then, how Jesus did or did not fulfill the title, and how Christians interpret Jesus as representative of that title.

Christians have claimed from the beginning that Jesus was the Messiah foretold in the Old Testament. In this study, best-selling author Walter Brueggemann tackled the questions: "What were these expectations?" and "Did Jesus fulfill them?"

Our Lenten Study Spare a Minute! This six week study by Bishop John Ford, looked at how we approach the question of time. Whether we have a minute or an hour or a day, the moment of our baptism has placed us in a relationship with God in Christ that invites us into eternity. The course intended to encourage a renewed understanding of what it means to be baptised. Taking Lent as having its origin in the final preparations for initiation at Easter, it's purpose today is to prepare us for the annual renewal of our baptismal vows. The question to be posed is, was I baptised or am I baptised? Is my baptism a moment in history that might or might not be remembered or celebrated or an ongoing life to be lived both now and in God's future? Bishop Ford introduced the question of time and how during Lent we might be encouraged to reflect upon it differently.

Impacted by my reading from Rohr our next study we looked at was 'God of the Ordinary' by Ann Siddall. God of the Ordinary was gentle, inviting journey in four studies (group or individual) that examined ways in which we can engage God in the different parts of the day - morning, noon, afternoon/evening and night time. Familiar with the monastic practices of the hours of prayer, Ann Siddall leads the reader to consider natural, life-generating, patterns of prayer that take you deeper and deeper through the four weekly studies.

PROCLAMATION:

The Combined Churches of Lara Carols held for the third time at Pirra Homestead on the Sunday 18th December 2016, with the support from the Lara Community Bank, the Geelong City Council, the SES and the Lara Masonic Lodge we provide accessible, no cost, quality entertainment for young families. Jeanette Bence our Lara Carols coordinator, continued to provide her own flair and managerial expertise which made this once again such a successful and enjoyable event. This event continues to provide an opportunity for creative outlet for members of the community being involved in the choir. The local schools and music schools were approached to provide opportunity for their choir(s) to perform plus local musicians were invited to perform solos.

MINISTRY:

Healthy churches care about the quality of what is done, about how people feel, about the nature of the relationship within the church and the impact of the whole life of the church on a local community. This sense of vocation is found in the lives of individual members who, being energized by faith, have a sense of God calling them to contribute what they do in and through the life of the church.

LARA FOOD RELIEF:

As a church we are not only called to tell the good news of the coming of God's kingdom and to share in the work of the kingdom here on earth, we are also called to embody the presence of God's reign in human society by the way we order and express our life. As a church we are called to be a blessing to our Community, without expecting anything in return. Therefore it is imperative to note that the ministry of our Food Relief program is not about filling the pews on a Sunday rather, it is about offering a cup of cold water to those in need without any hidden agenda other than loving our neighbour and fulfilling the call that has been placed upon us by God. One of the amazing gifts that a small community like Lara/Little River offers those who live in their midst is the support and care they have for one another.

Our Food Relief ministry which has been coordinated by Helen Glare now for a number of years supported by a team of volunteers continues to operate out of the Hall on a Monday from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm by providing quality food parcels and guidance, sometimes as a once off, and others on a more regular basis

when people experience difficulties in meeting everyday demands. This program reaches out to our wider community with the amazing support of a number of groups from our Lara Community the Lara CWA, Meredith Masonic Lodge, Lions Club of Lara, The Laureatetau Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, Lara Community Bank, Lara Quality Meats, Second Bite, the Local Chemist and private donations.

PARISH OPPORTUNITY SHOP: *Where every day is a sale!*

Since the end of last year we have seen a number of changes at the Op Shop with the retirement of our long standing Op Shop Coordinator Dawn Teesdale in February 2017 and the appointment of joint Coordinators Robert Hanlon & Jeanette Klowss by the Parish Council. However, when we felt that things were just starting to settle at the end of June Jeanette also retired due to unforeseen circumstances. Due to this the Parish Council then appointed Robert as the sole Coordinator of the Op Shop.

Along with the past and present Op Shop coordinators and the Op Shop Management Committee, where would we be without the donation of goods and the tireless work of the volunteers who sort, mark, discard, straighten, clean and restock the shop?

It can't be underestimated the importance of the Op Shop to the Parish and the impact it has upon our community. Through the funds raised at the Op Shop it enables the Parish to not only be a visible presence of the Body of Christ in the world it enables us to participate with God in the redemptive work of restoring all people to the unity with God and each other in Christ.

The Op Shop not only provides affordable clothing to the customers, from the \$78,514.43 raised by the Op shop this year, \$75,800.00 was transferred into the Parish Account, ensuring the continuation of such programs as the Food Relief, Youth, Craft, and Men's Groups. Plus the pastoral services that we also provide from funerals, baptisms, weddings and Worship on Sunday and also at St Laurence Park.

This year we also saw the development of the Op Shop Manual by Bill O'Brien which includes details from role of the Coordinators, Occupational Health and Safety, Training new volunteers, Duties of volunteers to Code of Conduct. This has so impressed the Diocese Op Shop coordinator Reverend Jan Crombie that this might become a prototype Manual for all the Diocesan Op Shops in the Melbourne Diocese. Bill as the Op Shop Secretary also produces the Op Shop News each month after the Committee Meeting. Bill as the Op Shop Secretary not only produces the Op Shop News each month after the Committee Meeting, but also organises with Joe Urbanski, & Ian Brown the time consuming and expensive of the removal of those unwanted items to the tip each month.

LARA YOUTH GROUP

In last year's annual report I stated that the Combined Christmas Carols at Pirra was our major outreach program, however, I feel that it is now a close second to our Lara Youth Group. This is the second year for our Lara Youth led by our two dedicated Youth Leaders Jennifer Ratcliff and Kennan Fry supported by the Parish volunteers who provide supper each week. This group has continued to meet regularly on Friday nights 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm throughout the school terms. This year we have seen the weekly attendance of this group grow to an average of 11 young people. They are a marvellous group of young people.

Throughout the year we ran the Youth Alpha program on every second Friday night and games night on the alternate Friday. I was amazed by the response of the young people to the Youth Alpha at the end of the series. I went into this program hesitantly not knowing the response that we would receive. I obviously forget and underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit and the way the Spirit moved in these young people's lives. To see these young people move from indifference to faith was humbling indeed. As I said previously at Christmas the Youth Group did an amazing job in leading the Children's Christmas Eve Service

at Holy Trinity. Thank you to the leaders and to those from the Parish who have continued to supported them and the youth throughout the year.

Healthy churches affirm the gifts and contribution of all. They are well beyond the one-man or one-woman band. At both centers of the Parish we are quite active, from the Parish Council, Wardens, Treasurer, our Locums Warren & Liz, those who do the flowers each week, those who set up for worship, morning tea, readers, communion assistants, cleaning the church, servers, the gardens and lawns, maintenance on the buildings, Op Shop, Chapel services, Food Relief, the Drop in Centre, You Yang Walkers, Book Club, Youth Group, Men's Group Craft, Social Committee, Mission Interest, and S.A.L.T serving and learning the list goes on.

So in conclusion I would like to thank everyone for their work and commitment throughout the year. I pray that we as a Parish will continue to grow and work together as we make the word of God fully known, in Lara and Little River.

The Reverend Shirley Littras



'Encourage one another and builded each other up'

PARISH STATISTICS for 2017/18
(October 2016 - September 2017)

Please complete a form for each church in parish - if applicable. Combined parish figures will be accepted

Parish of Lara with Little River

Church: Holy Trinity Lara with Christ Church Little River

Please return to the Registry by 15 DECEMBER 2017

Most of the responses received from parishes are included in the statistics section of the Diocesan Yearbook and are used by various people. In other instances, the information is used in research projects carried out by the diocese. Your co-operation is sought in completing the data being collected. In instances where records are not maintained, your best 'guesstimate' would be appreciated.

WORSHIP

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 a <input type="text" value="156"/> Number of public services wherever held* <i>excluding weddings, funerals, private baptisms, services in residential facilities</i></p> <p>b <input type="text" value="103"/> Number of public Sunday services wherever held <i>excluding weddings, funerals, private baptisms, services in residential facilities</i></p> <p>c <input type="text" value="45"/> Number of publicised services held in residential care facilities</p> <p>2 a <input type="text" value="2967"/> Total yearly attendance at all Public services** <i>exclude weddings, funerals, private baptisms, services in residential facilities</i></p> <p>b <input type="text" value="2504"/> Total yearly attendance** at all Sunday services <i>excluding weddings, funerals, private baptisms, services in residential facilities</i></p> | <p>3 a <input type="text" value="2341"/> Total Acts of Communion in public services* <i>excluding private ministrations and services in residential facilities</i></p> <p>b <input type="text" value="2014"/> Total number of Sunday Acts of Communion <i>excluding private ministrations and services in residential facilities</i></p> <p>c <input type="text" value="340"/> Total Other Acts of Communion <i>Including private ministrations and services in residential facilities</i></p> <p>4 a <input type="text" value="149"/> Total attendance at Christmas Day/Eve services (Christmas Eve means after 5:00 pm)</p> <p>b <input type="text" value="76"/> Total number of Acts of Communion at Christmas Day/Eve services (Christmas Eve means after 5:00 pm)</p> <p>5 a <input type="text" value="68"/> Total attendance at Easter Day/Eve services</p> <p>b <input type="text" value="60"/> Total number of Acts of Communion at Easter Day/Eve services</p> |
|--|---|
- * Include weekday and Sunday services
** Include children and Non Communicants

MEMBERSHIP

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>6 <input type="text" value="59"/> No. on Church Electoral Roll presented at the Annual Parish Meeting</p> <p>7 <input type="text" value="9"/> No. of Baptisms</p> <p>8 <input type="text"/> No. of children admitted to Communion</p> <p>9 <input type="text"/> No. of persons received into the Anglican Communion</p> <p>10 <input type="text"/> No. of Confirmations</p> <p>11 No. of funerals conducted:</p> <p>a <input type="text" value="5"/> In the churches of the parish</p> <p>b <input type="text" value="2"/> elsewhere</p> <p>12 No. of marriages conducted:</p> <p>a <input type="text" value="2"/> in the churches of the parish</p> <p>b <input type="text" value="1"/> elsewhere</p> | <p>13 a <input type="text" value="10"/> No. of continuing home/small groups</p> <p>b <input type="text" value="81"/> Total No. of persons in continuing home/small groups per week</p> <p>14 Estimated no. of frequent attenders - including at weekly programs/worship services (excluding CRE)</p> <p>a <input type="text" value="1"/> Pre-school (0 - 5)</p> <p>b <input type="text" value="1"/> Primary School</p> <p>c <input type="text" value="2"/> Secondary School</p> <p>d <input type="text" value="1"/> Post Secondary (under 25)</p> |
|---|---|

Anglican Parish of Lara with Little River

PROFIT AND LOSS

October 2016 - September 2017

	TOTAL
INCOME	
Bendigo Bank Grant	6,050.00
Bequests (deleted)	3,000.00
Carols (deleted)	1,029.50
Donations	19,346.81
Envelopes	35,104.85
Fund raising	6,224.15
Hall hire	851.00
Interest income	454.20
Melbourne Cleaning Cloths	2,028.09
Mission donations	1,055.15
Open plate	19,794.75
Rental of Vicarage	4,217.75
Sundry income	162.00
Votive candles	286.15
Wedding supplice fee (deleted)	400.00
Weekly sales	71,645.20
Work for the Dole Programme	5,437.27
Total income	A\$177,086.87
GROSS PROFIT	
	A\$177,086.87
EXPENSES	
Assessment	23,928.92
Bank charges	48.95
Candles (deleted)	136.27
Charitable Contributions	5,500.00
Church chattels	901.92
Books	106.55
Candles	143.77
Plaques	6.82
Repair and maintenance	181.82
Sanctuary furnishings	12.73
Total Church chattels	1,353.61
Energy expenses	
Electricity	2,919.77
Gas	1,289.34
Solar Panel Refund	2,600.00
Water rates	963.23
Total Energy expenses	7,772.34
Fire equipment maintenance	315.83
Food cupboard expense	5,104.50
Fund raising expense	602.85
Gift	288.63
Hall Key Bond Refund	320.00
Insurances	
Building	6,794.61
Sickness and accident	572.00
Stipend continuance	1,560.80

	TOTAL
Total Insurances	8,927.41
Interest charge on loan	5,014.98
Lara Carols	7,522.60
Maintenance equipment	416.00
Ministry expenses	1,349.18
Mission Trust Funds	1,055.15
Motor expenses	
Fuel	1,477.33
Reg and insurance	1,118.69
Repairs and maintenance	1,024.07
Total Motor expenses	3,620.09
Office expenses	402.91
Photo copier	1,990.96
Secretarial	123.34
Total Office expenses	2,517.21
Op shop expense	818.67
Petty cash	463.64
Police Check	155.70
Rates - Church Property	2,567.44
Repairs and maintenance	677.91
Stipend	22,165.71
Benefit Account	26,228.27
Locum	2,595.57
Long service leave contribuion	1,131.00
Parish super contribution	9,365.43
Vicars super contribution	17,383.80
Total Stipend	78,869.78
Telephone	1,664.52
TMA	310.24
Travel and conferences	666.00
Wafers	120.00
Wine	72.73
Total Expenses	A\$162,181.15
OTHER EXPENSES	
BAS Roundoff Gain or Loss	1.30
Total Other Expenses	A\$1.30
NET EARNINGS	A\$14,904.42

Anglican Parish of Lara with Little River

Balance of accounts at 30th September 2017

ADF Access Cash 0509178	\$6,496.55
ADF Appd Build. Fund 05009120	\$1,100.25
ADF Lt. River Invest. 443008659	\$4,007.37
ADF Parish Giving A/c 05005195	\$ 3.62
ADF Vicarage Upgrade 05004543	\$6,427.04
BBL Carols ACC 157805193	\$ 735.48
BBL Lara Food Relief 152286019	\$1,666.42
BBL Op Shop 137905048	\$5,123.83
BBL Parish ACC 137904702	<u>\$2,562.10</u>
Total Funds	<u>\$28,122.66</u>

ADF Parish Loan A/c 444000637 \$108,902.78DR

Opportunity Shop

Income

Donations	\$ 85.95
Weekly sales	\$72,406.15
Melb. Clean. Cloths	\$ 2,028.09
Work for the Dole program	<u>\$ 3,994.24</u>
Total Income	<u>\$78,514.43</u>

Expenses

Nungalinya	\$1,500.00
Telephone	\$ 433.16
Rates	\$1,764.30
Maintenance & General	<u>\$1,684.54</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$5,382.00</u>

Net Income \$73,132.43

Lara Food Relief

Income

Donations \$4,524.10

Total Income \$4,524.10

Expenses

Lara Secondary College \$ 400.00

Food Expenses \$4,048.65

Lara Butchers \$ 120.00

Apco Petrol \$ 100.00

Lara Pharmacy \$ 234.72

Geelong Food Relief \$ 210.00

Total Expenses \$5,113.37

Net Loss \$589.27

Lara Combined Churches Carols

Income

Donations \$6,693.00

Sale of Candles & Drinks \$ 829.50

Total Income \$7,522.50

Expenses

Jeanette Glass \$2,500.00

Misc Expenses \$ 437.03

Go Traffic \$ 385.00

Glowstix \$ 979.70

Austen Animals \$ 500.00

Geoff's Mobile Toilets \$ 950.00

Music Works \$1,207.60

Total Expenses \$6,959.33

Net Income \$563.17

Anglican Parish of Lara with Little River

BALANCE SHEET

As of September 30, 2017

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Accounts receivable	
Parish of Lara	-112.67
Total Accounts receivable	A\$ -112.67
ADF Access cash 05009178	6,496.55
ADF Appd Build Fund 05009120	1,100.25
ADF Lt River Invest 443008659	4,507.37
ADF Parish Giving 05005195	3.59
ADF Vicarage Upgrade 05004543	6,427.04
Carol Account 157805193	735.48
Cash and cash equivalents	-1,054.86
Lara Food Relief 152286019	1,488.24
Op Shop 137905048	5,923.83
Parish of Lara 137904702	2,562.10
Total Current Assets	A\$28,076.92
Long-term assets	
Fixtures and fittings	2,372.00
Freehold buildings	601,985.00
Improvements	40,000.00
Total long-term assets	644,357.00
Total Assets	A\$672,433.92
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDER'S EQUITY	
Current liabilities:	
BAS Liabilities Payable	-6,685.65
BAS Suspense	329.00
GST Paid	4,159.00
PAYG Withholdings Payable	0.00
Tax paid	-584.00
Tax Payable	-1,000.00
Total current liabilities	A\$ -3,781.65
Non-current liabilities:	
Parish Loan Acc 444000637	108,902.78
Total non-current liabilities	A\$108,902.78
Shareholders' equity:	
Net Income	14,877.37
Accumulated surplus	497,737.47
Building appeal	266.00
Opening Bal Equity	1.00
Retained Earnings	54,430.95
Total shareholders' equity	A\$567,312.79
Total liabilities and equity	A\$672,433.92

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Churchwardens and Parish Council of the Anglican Parish of Holy Trinity Lara with Christ Church Little River.

I have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of the Anglican Parish of Holy Trinity Lara with Christ Church Little River (The Parishes), which comprises the Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended 30 September 2017, and other explanatory notes and information.

My audit excluded a review of the assets and liabilities of the Parishes other than a review of the various Bendigo Bank and Anglican Development Fund accounts.

Churchwardens' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Churchwardens of Holy Trinity and Christ Church are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the *Parish Governance Act 2013* and are appropriate to meet the needs of the users.

The Churchwardens' responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

An auditor's responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on an audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the needs of the users.

I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment; including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error.

In making those risk assessments, an auditor considers internal control relevant to the Parish's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Parish's internal control.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to the Parishioners for the purpose of fulfilling the Churchwardens' financial reporting requirements. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates, to any person other than the Churchwardens, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Parishes as at 30 September 2017 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies mandated by the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

Basis of Accounting

The special purpose financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the financial reporting responsibilities under the *Parish Governance Act 2013(as amended)*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Yours faithfully,


Alistair Horne FCPA
Melbourne
23rd October 2017

Treasurer's Report 2016/17

Holy Trinity Lara with Christ Church Little River

The start of the church year began with the upgrade of our accounting package so things are a little different to previously. It continues to be a bit of a learning curve but I am getting there!

Mission giving from our parishioners this year has continued to support a number of different concerns such as Africa Inland Mission, ABM through the Advent envelopes, Anglicare, CMS and ABM boxes, Lara Secondary College Breakfast program, Nungalinya from the Op Shop, NCCA, Samaritans Purse- Operation Christmas Child, as well as own Lara Food Relief.

The past church year of 2016/17 has seen a few trials with regards to the finances of the church. Due to a variety of circumstances, giving, via envelopes has dropped, though open plate donations have increased slightly but not enough to make up the shortfall.

The Op Shop continues to trade remarkably well, helping the parish to meet its commitments. Our thanks go to Dawn Teesdale, Jeanette Kloss and Robert Hanlon, the shop co-ordinators, for the past 12 months as it is no easy task managing 25 volunteers. Another source of income for the parish is the rental of the vicarage, which is handled through Ray White Real Estate, one of Lara's local businesses. Also the regular hire of the hall to a dance group, a yoga group and the occasional birthday party has helped with keeping our head above water.

Our loan with the Anglican Development Fund now stands at \$108,902.78DR. The loan has payments made to it on a weekly basis as well as regular Building For Mission payments made by a small group of parish members of which we are most grateful.

The Social Committee has again worked extremely hard in organising different events and activities, not just so we all enjoy our time together but to help with that extra dollar or two that is needed with running the vibrant parish that we have here in Lara.

We are once again most indebted to the Bendigo Bank and the City of Greater Geelong for their most generous contributions towards the Lara Food Relief and the annual Combined Churches Carols event.

My thanks to Rev. Shirley, the Wardens, Parish Council and the parishioners over the past 12 months for the support shown to me, as Parish Treasurer.

LeeAllan Urbanski

'Encourage one another and builded each other up'

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS FOR THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF LARA WITH LITTLE RIVER

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Income				
Parish Giving	\$ 48,000.00	\$ 49,440.00	\$ 50,428.00	\$ 51,436.00
Mission	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,854.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,960.00
Other/Op Shop	\$ 75,650.00	\$ 77,900.00	\$ 80,180.00	\$ 84,000.00
Donations/Grant	\$ 27,270.00	\$ 28,080.00	\$ 28,880.00	\$ 29,746.00
Rental/hall hire	\$ 21,325.00	\$ 21,925.00	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 23,500.00
	<u>\$ 174,045.00</u>	<u>\$ 179,199.00</u>	<u>\$ 184,388.00</u>	<u>\$ 190,642.00</u>
Expenses				
Stipends & Locums	\$ 78,070.00	\$ 80,410.00	\$ 82,710.00	\$ 85,190.00
Rates and Utilities	\$ 13,100.00	\$ 13,490.00	\$ 13,880.00	\$ 14,290.00
Mission and Out Reach	\$ 12,400.00	\$ 12,770.00	\$ 13,120.00	\$ 13,500.00
Assessment & Office	\$ 25,580.00	\$ 26,347.00	\$ 27,147.00	\$ 28,000.00
Maintenance	\$ 4,220.00	\$ 4,345.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,600.00
Other	\$ 1,160.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,600.00
Insurance	\$ 8,150.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 9,700.00
Interest on Loan	\$ 4,320.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 3,500.00
	<u>\$ 147,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 152,562.00</u>	<u>\$ 156,757.00</u>	<u>\$ 161,380.00</u>
Surplus	\$ 27,045.00	\$ 26,637.00	\$ 27,631.00	\$ 29,262.00

Notes on above categories

Income

Parish giving includes Open plate and Envelope giving

Mission is what is donated from individuals to be forwarded on our Mission Partners such ABM etc

Other/ Op Shop includes weekly sales in Op Shop, Work of the Dole & Melb. Cleaning Cloths

Donations/Grants are funds given for Building Loan, grants from other sources

Rental/ Hall Hire - vicarage rental

Expenses

Stipends payments for vicar and locums

Rates and Utilities- Council rates and Gas, power and water and telephone

Mission Outreach -Food cupboard, carols, payments to Nungalinja & AIM and other missions

Assessment and Office- Photocopier, church chattles, TMA

Maintenance- Op shop, fire equipment, petty cash

Other-Youth Group, police checks, fund raising expenses

Minutes of Parish of Lara with Little River Annual Meeting held on Sunday 27th November 2016.

PRESENT

Reverend Shirley (Chairman) Bill and Wendy O'Brien, Lee-Allan Urbanski, Annette Wendleman, Georgia Smith, Peter Wallis, John Thompson, Marie and Sam Keown, Josh and Marj Barrowman, Val Mawson, Helen Glare, Joy Leggo, Joan and Vernon Cohen, Ellen Marsh, George Littras, Peter Jones, Brenda Sims, June Armstrong, John Leeke, Libby bate, Dawn Teesdale, Diana and Dennis Marsh, Warren Rumble, Jenny Cunningham, Philip Starks, Lola Lewis, Patricia Peart, Cynthia Roseburgh and May McCaw.

APOLOGIES

Lesley Wallis, Barbara Thompson, Denis and Gaye Scott, Wendy Leeke, Rosemary Bascomb, Jenny Kelly, Coralene Stewart, Ian Brown, Carol Rumble, Ivan Fairchild, Rob and Val Tonkin.

Reverend Shirley opened the meeting with a short prayer.

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous Annual Meeting dated 8th November 2015 were moved Peter Wallis and 2nd. Helen Glare.

Electoral Roll

The reception of the Parish Electoral Roll was moved Patricia Peart and 2nd. Dawn Teesdale.

Vicar's report

The annual report by the vicar was received. Moved Vernon Cohen and 2nd. Annette Wendleman.

Parish Council Report

The annual report on the proceedings of the Parish Council was received. Moved Brenda Sims and 2nd Lee-Allan Urbanski.

Church Wardens Report

The Warden's report on the fabric, goods and ornaments was moved Jenny Cunningham and 2nd. Marie Keown.

Auditor's Report

The Auditor's report was received. Moved Lee-Allan Urbanski and 2nd Helen Glare.

The Auditor complemented our Treasurer on her good work.

Other reports by other Parish Groups

These reports were taken as read. Moved John Thompson and 2nd Cynthia Roseburgh.

Election of Church Wardens and Members of Parish Council

Nominated and declared elected as Parish Council members were:

John Leeke, Lee-Allan Urbanski, Jenny Cunningham, Philip Starks and Peter Jones

Nominated and declared elected as Church Wardens were: Patricia Peart and Gary Green.

The Vicar advised that her Vicar's Warden would be Cynthia Roseburgh.

Reverend Shirley may make up to two more appointments as her nominations

The Vicar thanked the out-going parish Council for their valuable contributions through 2015/16.

Election of Auditor

The election of Alistair Horne F.C.P.A. to be our Auditor for 2016/7 was moved Cynthia Roseburgh and 2nd Lee-Allan Urbanski.

Election of Incumbency Committee.

Patricia Peart and Peter Jones were appointed to the Incumbency Committee. Moved Cynthia Roseburgh and 2nd Bill O'Brien.

Other matters of parochial of general church interest.

Reverend Shirley to live in own home in Geelong.

Reverend Shirley advised that, due to personal circumstances including her Grandson Harry and the health of her Mother Alison, she needed to live in her own residence in Geelong and that she has sought the approval of the Archbishop for this arrangement.

She advised that she would commute daily to Lara and still operate out of the Parish Office as per normal.

It is possible that the Diocese might rent out the vicarage and Reverend Shirley thought that perhaps some of the rental monies would be well spent in paying a small stipend to our Lay Minister Philip Starks.

In the circumstances, the meeting felt that this was a time to support our Vicar and fully endorsed Reverend Shirley's endeavours to obtain approval to live in her own home in Geelong. A motion to this effect was moved Bill O'Brien and seconded Helen Glare and the motion was passed unanimously.

Challenges

Reverend Shirley advised that coming back to work after an absence of fourteen weeks has had its challenges.

Term Deposits at Anglican Church Development Fund

The Treasurer was asked to contact the A.D.F. to ascertain the level of deposits held against our Building for Mission Project and the effect, if any, on the interest rates.

Mission Giving for next two years.

Bushikori has been our major mission over the last two years. It has been our habit to move our support to another mission every two years and much discussion took place regarding which mission we should now support.

Philip Starks suggested Rob and Tianne Varicak who are working with African Inland Mission.

Others felt that we should stick to a mainstream Anglican Mission.

Anglicord was also mentioned as a possibility.

Also mentioned was the need for an incremental increase in our Mission Giving.

Someone spoke of the need to not only give money, but encourage ongoing interest and prayer support.

This matter is referred to Parish Council for determination.

Web Site --well worth a visit!

Reverend Shirley pointed out that our Parish Web site contained pew sheets, rosters, Christmas services times etc.

Clean Up Australia Day

Patricia Peart sought direction from the meeting regarding our continuing involvement in Clean Up Australia which in 2017 is scheduled for Sunday March 5th.

After discussion, it was decided to continue with the Hosting of this event. Moved Tricia Peart and 2nd Jenny Cunningham.

There being no further business, the Meeting Closed with The Grace at 12.25pm

W O'Brien, Secretary

'Encourage one another and builded each other up'

WARDENS REPORT

PASTORAL CARE

On behalf of all the parishioners and the Wardens I would like to thank Rev. Shirley for her spiritual guidance, support and efforts over a challenging and rewarding year.

A big thank you too, to all the locums who have led us in worship this past year, under Rev. Shirley's excellent guidance.

CHURCH CHATTELS

Holy Trinity Lara and Christ Church Little River are well maintained. Furnishings and ornaments are in good condition at both Centres thanks to the faithful efforts of all the people who volunteer in all roles to clean and care for the inner structures and holy vessels that enhance the worship services.

PROPERTY

The total property of our parish is made up of two worship centres (Holy Trinity Lara and Christ Church Little River); the Parish Opportunity Shop; the halls and the grounds at both churches; and the Vicarage in Lara.

Holy Trinity Lara additions include a large screen at the back of the church. Christ Church Little River additions include a handrail for the steps to the communion rail and a portable ramp for the front steps into the church.

The Parish Opportunity Shop has been supported by a few volunteer managers, along with a large team of volunteer workers, to keep it running smoothly. The Op Shop always looks clean and neat, with large quantities of donated goods sorted quickly and efficiently.

A number of social events have been held across both halls, with the general community also supporting the events. Both halls have been well-maintained through the year.

The grounds are well-kept thanks to the team of volunteers who donate their time to mow, trim and clean the gardens.

The Vicarage is now managed through Ray White Lara and is currently tenanted.

GENERAL CARE

There are many volunteers who contribute in a range of ways to make our place of worship a place we can be proud of. Those who manage social functions and dinners, those who run various groups to include our general communities in with our church community, those who manage important roles behind the scenes to ensure the success of our services, the cleanliness of our buildings and the creative visual aesthetics of our churches.

Patricia Peart (Warden) on behalf of

Gary Green (Warden) and Cynthia Roseburgh (Vicar's Warden)

'Encourage one another and builded each other up'

Parish Council report

Highlights and achievements of the Parish Council this year:

A parish council day away in February was held to consider last year's renewal and action plan working group meetings and parish survey results. The day away confirmed the value of our current work and outreach. Council is aware of the direction the Diocese is taking in parish renewal. The Diocese is forming its own recommendations for parish renewal, and will be offering workshops and opportunities for coaching in 2018 to assist parishes in their renewal work.

This year was the first of two years of support for the Varicak family in South Sudan with Africa Inland Mission. Updates from Tianne and Rob have been received along with intercession notes and AIM news magazines.

Council began work on the Child Safety Policy, a mandatory requirement of all parishes. The diocese has issued guidelines and working papers to assist parishes to systematically work through all the issues involved in forming a policy.

A copy of late Revd. Walter Dexter's war diaries was received from his family. Revd. Dexter was a parish priest at Lara and served overseas during WW1. Original documented field material, such as war diaries, is of significant historical interest to researchers, and the parish acknowledges the privilege it has in being the custodian of this material.

Council took the decision to offer the vicarage as rental property after the vicar moved into her own home. The decision was both economic and community in its focus: economic in that the parish benefits from a stream of income; community in that we can provide a family with a home at an affordable rent in the current climate of high housing costs.

Grateful thanks go to all who serve the parish in positions of office, locum tenentes and on rosters, all of whose contribution is valuable to our parish life.

Philip Starks

Secretary to the Council

'Encourage one another and builded each other up'

Authorised Lay Minister's report

My licence for ministry was renewed this year for a second term of 3 years.

I continue to exercise a preaching ministry on the third Sunday every 2 months with the aim of conveying a sense of personal response to the gospel message and what discipleship means for us today.

Evening prayer services at St Laurence Park on the first and fifth Sundays of the month are still well attended, between 9 and 14 each week. Services are based on the Sunday evening daily office, with a short homily preached and 4 hymns accompanied by piano and clarinet.

The Serving and Learning Together (S.A.L.T) evening group was run for two courses on Wednesday evenings. The studies were Spare a Minute and God of the Ordinary. These were on the theme of spending time with God, practicing the presence of God. The weekday evening S.A.L.T group is offered as an alternative time to Rev Shirley's Thursday afternoon group so that daytime workers can have access to that same teaching and learning opportunity. However, numbers attending have been very low in recent months to the point where the viability of running an evening group needs to be reviewed. My thanks to those faithful one or two who have attended.

An additional role this year has been deacon's duty on the Sundays I preach and the occasional additional Sunday if needed. Revd. Shirley has allowed me this opportunity because I am in the process of applying to Melbourne Diocese for acceptance as an ordination candidate.

I attended this year's clergy conference in July on the Thursday, and was most interested to hear the CEO of Anglican Overseas Aid speaking on why the church in the poorer parts of Africa is growing.

I am grateful for all the opportunities afforded me to minister how and when I can.

Philip Starks

Authorised Lay Minister

Opportunity Shop Annual Report

I Robert Hanlon was elected Joint Coordinator with Jeanette Klowss on 19th February 2017 when Dawn Teesdale retired.

Jeanette Klowss then retired on 30th June 2017 because of health reasons.

I was then made the Sole Coordinator.

We have 25 volunteers who do a fantastic job keeping the shop neat and tidy, and well stocked.

On the 16th October we had installed an EFTPOS machine, which is working well.

The financial report for the twelve months is as follows:

Total earnings for the Op Shop were \$78,514.43, which also included donations totalling \$85.95, Melbourne Cleaning Cloths 2028.09, Weekly Sales \$72,406.15 and Work for the Dole \$3994.24. The total transferred to the Parish Account was \$75,800.

Expenses for the year were \$5,354.73, which included a donation to Nungalinga College in Darwin of \$1500, property rates, telephone, general expenses, repairs and maintenance.

Thanks

Robert Hanlon

Walking the You Yangs – Mondays from 8:00 am

It has been a glorious spring – superb wattle varieties in bloom, plus gums, white mint bush other shrubs and wild orchids.

Birdlife is prolific, lots of little finches abound with the haunting cries of the Currawong & other birds in the background. Kangaroos are numerous, plus the black swamp wallaby. A highlight this year was a call from “David” from Point Cook, he was interested in a walk, that found us “on time” – “thank you Shirley”, so met up with us the following Monday. He was from Chile and retired. Peter Jones looked after him, a good time was had by all.

Scouts representing the local indigenous people have regular searches for Koalas, now rather few. On speaking with them we agreed, however they believe it is only a matter of time before they return, there are lots at Anakie.

The western cycling track to the top of the mountain bike area now has a pack, down the eastern side for bikes only. A new walking track from the turntable to the lower picnic ground. Walkers only and downhill presents an interesting display of large granite boulders, negotiate with care.

We meet in December for a Christmas breakfast with former walkers and good friends.

Jenny Cunningham 52 822 687

An invitation to anyone interested, one hour duration usually.

You Are Welcome

‘Encourage one another and builded each other up’

Mission Interest Group report

A quote from a poster on our Notice Board in the Narthex says :-

“The mission of the parish holds the balance between outreach to the local community and contribution to the wider world ministry according to the Great Commission.”

Since last year, the Mission Interest Group has not given up on its ‘brief ‘ which is “to keep the Congregation informed and involved in fulfilling its mission [especially in cross-cultural situations], but due to health issues and dwindling numbers, we have confined our meetings [for prayer and information], to the Wednesday morning Mid-week Service when we pray for world-wide and local outreach and , over Morning Tea following’ bring up news on a variety of topics including “Mission”.

The Parish Council decided to ‘adopt’ Rob. and Tianne Varicak as our special Overseas Missionaries to support for 2017 – 2018, giving a direct financial donation plus any free-will offerings [envelopes available for this purpose]. \$2020.00 in total giving this year. Rob and Tianne work with Africa Inland Mission in South Sudan. Rob’s family are Lara residents and Tianne comes from Michigan ,U.S.A. This makes their little boy Keenan an Australian/American African! They keep us informed about their work and prayer requests. Here is an excerpt from their latest letter:-



The past few weeks we have spent in Uganda having attended the AIM conference and Rob has been busy working on our car. The mountain trail and the muddy pot hole filled roads of S. Sudan are hard on cars to say the least! We are thankful for a restful place to stay and a time to refocus and refresh and are now back in South Sudan. Now that the rainy season has subsided we are anxious to head out into the hills again with the Jesus film and to fulfil the many invitations to share the gospel.

Keenan turned 1 year old on Aug 24th. It is hard to believe that one year has passed since he was born and we can’t imagine life without him now.

It has been encouraging to receive \$351.10 in the C.M.S. [Church Missionary Society] boxes thus far this year. Thank you to the faithful box holders and stamp collectors. \$210 was sent on to A.B.M.[Australian Board of Missions] as well. The Op.Shop continues to support the Aboriginal Training College, “Nungalinya” in Darwin sending \$1,500 this year. Also, closer to home, \$194.05 was sent to Anglicare.

The “Operation Christmas Child” project currently happening has been pleased to receive generous contributions by a number of individuals, parishioners and local community groups. So you see, we are blessed by those outside the Church as well as joining groups to ‘outreach’ in Lara. Mission is catching when compassionate hearts are given an outlet!! And thank you very much!

Finally, keep reading Mission News placed on the Notice Board and table in the Church Narthex.

Submitted by Wendy O’Brien – a member of M.I.G.

Social Events Annual Report

Once again we had a very busy and satisfying year.

We started off the church year by holding a Movie Night in early October 2016 which raised \$570. The movie was titled "Woman in Gold".

November was again a busy month with our Christmas Dinner and our stall at the CFA Christmas Market being held on successive weeks. The Christmas Dinner was free for Op Shop volunteers.

We began 2017 with an excellent Summer Dinner which was a musical evening. Profit from the evening was \$1350. Our entertainers Jeanette Bence and Peter Harbinson were wonderful.

In late February we supported Christ Church and their Shrove Tuesday function.

In late March we catered for a fine afternoon tea to mark the retirement of our Op Shop Coordinator Dawn.

At a Movie Night in early April we saw the movie "The Life of Pi". This function raised \$400. It was a thought provoking movie!

Then in May we held our "Royal High Tea". It was a great success and the profit was \$1866.

Later that month we supported the "Biggest Morning Tea". This event raised \$800 for the Cancer Council. Thankyou to Annette Wendleman for this initiative.

In June we assisted with the catering to mark the 140th Anniversary of Christ Church Foundation with Bishop Philip.

In late July we held our annual Op Shop Fashion Parade Luncheon. This function raised \$840.

Then in early October we held a Spring Dinner this time at "Millars". It was nice to give our ladies, who always prepare the food, a rest! We still raised \$198 from raffles.

We were saddened though the year to lose Jenny Kelly, who passed away following a short health battle. Her contributions over many, many years were most appreciated. Miss you Jen!

Our numbers on the Social Events Committee have eroded over time and the advent of "fresh blood" is greatly needed!

Finally, thank you to all our wonderful Parishioners who attended our functions, and/or provided help in preparing most delicious "tucker" over the course of the year. Also thank you to all members on the Social Events Committee who worked so tirelessly.

Bill O'Brien

'Encourage one another and builded each other up'

Report of the 52nd Synod of Melbourne Diocese

This year's synod was a long one, extended by one day. This was because of the large legislative agenda. General Synod met this year to consider a large agenda of legislation relating to the Royal Commission into institutional child abuse. Each diocese must consider and ratify the bills presented at General Synod. Issues brought to the synod included child safety standards, Episcopal standards, clergy reporting requirements.

There were amendments to the Parish Governance Act, such as a ban on spouses serving together on parish councils, and debate on Victoria's proposed assisted dying bill.

November's issue of The Melbourne Anglican is expected to contain coverage of Synod highlights as they affect parish governance and operations.

Parishioners can always approach their Synod reps to request further details of interest from the diocesan parish portal documents.

Philip Starks
Synod rep

LARA BOOK WORMS

Lara Bookworms was established by Holy Trinity eleven years ago now and we are still enjoying many good books and some lively discussions. We have 14 members 6 of whom have been with us since we began. This year we returned to the CAE Book Groups for our supply of books, and they have added many new books to their list for 2018.

Books we have read this year include The God of Small Things, a story of life and love in India. Captain Corelli's Mandolin, a very well-known film and book, which most of us enjoyed. Addition was an unusual story of anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder, which produced a vigorous discussion as to the benefits or not of medication and how Grace wanted to manage her life. The Bean Trees was a lovely story of an orphan Red Indian baby eventually adopted by Taylor, who called her Turtle. This story had many highlights and lows but portrayed the small town American Midwest very well. We loved this book. Other reads included March by Geraldine Brookes, An Australian Son, The Outcast, and Veronica wants to Die, which is the only book we have ever abandoned reading. Our last book for this year is Case Histories and we wind up for 2017 on the 22nd of November.

At present we are selecting next years books and are looking forward to another great year of reading and friendship. We wish to thank Freda sincerely for her wonderful job as club secretary and organizing all the paper work and book returns.

Helen Glare

'Encourage one another and builded each other up'

LARA FOOD RELIEF

This year has seen a significant increase in clients coming on Mondays and sometimes during the week seeking help. This appears to be in line with foodbanks throughout the City of Greater Geelong, who have estimated a 34% increase. There have been far more Lara families needing help this year, and the general consensus is that this is only going to get worse over the next few years. We have had remarkable success with some clients and have been able to encourage budgeting and a positive outlook by taking small steps back to healthy happy living.

We have been very fortunate to have so much community support from various Lara organisations and we thank them most sincerely for their wonderful help. I would especially like to thank Bendigo and District Community Bank for their most generous financial support and to Andrew at Lara Quality Meats for his continued generosity. The Sigma Beta Group of Lara, the Lara CWA, the Meredith Lodge, the Lions Club of Lara, Lara Medical Clinic, Lara Drop in Centre, and all who have donated to the Lara Food Relief, Thank you so much.

We have become a member of Geelong Food Bank, which not only supplies clients but also food-banks. Geelong Food Bank for an annual fee of \$50.00 will supply us with fresh fruit and vegetables, when available, and also some excess non-perishables. This food bank operates on a voucher and points system and as a supplier we may request \$20.00 vouchers which allow our clients to buy 20 points, worth up to approximately \$95.00 of food. This has helped with some clients from outside our own district.

Apart from food we are also able to supply \$10.00 Petrol Vouchers and where needed Medical Scripts from our local pharmacy. It is very important for some to make sure they continue their medication as ordered or needed.

Lara Food Relief belongs to the GFAN group and as such we attend quarterly meetings with other food bank members in the Greater Geelong area. This helps to centralise food needs and to share excesses as well as ascertaining where the greatest needs are. We encourage healthy eating with the foods we all supply.

I would like to thank the wonderful group of volunteers who regularly help each Monday and during the week when necessary. Without your help it would not be possible to service this Outreach programme. Blessings to you all.

Helen Glare

'Encourage one another and builded each other up'

Lara Youth report

Lara youth runs every Friday night during the school term from 5:30pm-7:30pm. We run this as a free event for the youth, with dinner provided by volunteers from the church. Myself, Keenan and Shirley would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has volunteered with dinner and in other ways, we could not have continued our youth program without your help.

Our regular set up for each term has the youth alternating between our *Youth Alpha* program and a team's game night each fortnight.

Youth Alpha is a video based program designed to introduce teenagers to the word of God. After watching the video the youth would be asked a series of questions designed to provoke conversation about the topic the being focused on this week. These topics included; sin, praying, reading the bible, miracles, trust and more. At the conclusion of this 12 week program the youth reflected on the topics covered and discussed their changed opinions towards God and religion.

Lara Youth was fortunate enough to attend several *Geelong United* and *Youth Alive* events. These events were attended by the combined Geelong youth and ran once a term. *Geelong United* and *Youth Alive* both had live worship bands and preachers directed towards youth committing their lives to God for the first time. We have had four of our youth commit themselves to God for the first time at these programs.

While we have not set uniform or dress code, Lara Youth had a crack at making our own tie dye T-shirts. These were fantastic and we would like to thank Trish for provided the dye, helping us make the shirts, and embroidering *Lara Youth* onto the shirts.

Across the year, Lara Youth have been involved in two community events. The first was at our own church, were the youth ran the play at the *Holy Trinity Lara* Christmas eve children's service. The youth spent a few weeks prior to the service preparing the play and all our youth members attended and enjoyed participating on Christmas eve.

Lara Youth was approached by the *Mountain to mouth* project and asked to participate in making a to scale paper mache canoe. After creating the canoe the youth wrote sentences about how they would like to see Geelong and Lara change in the next ten years. The canoe was used in the opening ceremony for the 2017 *Mountain to Mouth* 80km walk.



Lara Youth has held many fun and exciting nights over the last twelve months. These have included life sized monopoly, murder mystery, the winter youth-lympics, video games night, water balloon and extreme ice breaker challenge, mystery box challenge, Mother's Day craft and our much love speed switch board games night. These events have all been successful and well received by the youth. However, by far the winning game amongst our youth was Bible Smugglers. This game involves the youth trying to smuggle bibles into the church past two guards, while it is dark outside.

Along the way we have grown in numbers from five to eleven consistently. We look forward to continuing the youth program and we encourage the parish to come down on a Friday night and say hello, the kids are very friendly.

Jennifer & Keenan

Craft Group

The small in size, but big on fun and laughter, craft group continues to meet in the Parish hall on "Green Bin Thursday" from 7pm to 9pm.

Over the past 12 months ladies have bought along knitting, crochet, tapestry, weaving, cooking, scrapbooking, cardmaking, quilting, mending/alterations and one night there were exam papers being sorted. So as you can see a huge variety of activities happen in the hall on craft night in Lara. Not only have we attended to our own crafts but we have contributed in helping to fill boxes for the Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child.

To celebrate the coming of Christmas we shared a meal at one of our member's homes, where we were made to feel most welcome and enjoyed a laugh or two.

We look forward to sharing and caring for each other over the next twelve months and welcome anyone who wishes to come along.

LeeAllan Urbanski

'Encourage one another and builded each other up'

Parish council, wardens, incumbency committee nominations

Parish council:

Philip Starks, Brenda Sims, William O'Brien, John Leeke, Lee-Allan Urbanski

Church warden:

Gregory Medwell, Garry Green

Incumbency committee:

Philip Starks, Patricia Peart

'Encourage one another and builded each other up'