

Welcoming God Centred Thriving



The Anglican Parish of
**Holy Trinity Lara with
Christ Church Little River**



ANNUAL MEETING

COMBINED REPORTS

**For the year 1st October 2023
to 30th September 2024**

Held on Sunday 10th November 2024 at 11:30 AM

Reports for year ended 30th September 2024

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Annual Meeting Agenda 2024

Opening Devotion

Apologies

Reception of Minutes Annual Meeting 2023

Business arising from Minutes Annual meeting 2023

Reception of Parish Electoral roll

Report Presentations:

- Vicar
- Proceedings of Parish Council
- Wardens
- Financial and Budget
- Other Parish groups

Reception of all reports

Election of Wardens

Election of Parish Council

Election of Incumbency Committee

Election of Auditor

Any other Business of parochial interest

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th November 2023 at Holy Trinity

Reverend Roxanne Addley declared the meeting open at 11.31am.

Opening Devotion: led by Reverend Roxanne Addley using poems from “The star in my Heart” a poetry collection by Joyce Rupp and based on the wisdom of Solomon, Chapter 7 verses 7-14. Poems were “Sophia”, “Leaf by Leaf”, and “Inside each one of us”

Attendance: Liz Hunter, Gregory Medwell, Annette Wendleman, Marjory Barrowman, Elizabeth Bate, Philip Starks, Soraya Starks, Val Mawson, Cynthia Roseburgh, Wendy Leeke, John Leeke, Brenda Darcy, Garry Green, Doris Smith, Arch Smith OAM, Lee-Allan Urbanski, Noel Cockings, Joyline Chipinduro, Peter Jones, Bill O’Brien, Wendy O’Brien, Leon Pollard, Arleen Friswell, John Rees, Marian Rees, Sylvia Pde.

Apologies: Ken Taylor, Ann Faithfull, Alison Campbell, Wes Wilson, Gwyneth Wilson, Georgia Smith, Helen Glare, John Thompson, Barbara Thompson, Marion Bennett, Rosemary Bascomb, Damalie Ayebale.

Reception of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 13th November 2022

Moved Cynthia Roseburgh **Seconded** Val Mawson **Carried**

Business arising from the minutes

- **Worship Times** Feedback after 12 months of Holy Trinity 10am and Christ Church 4pm has been positive. Little River attendance has increased leading to an increase in Sunday worship statistics.

Reception of Parish Electoral Roll

Discussion on the need for Parish Council at their first meeting to look at the Governance Act and then address the validity of names on the roll.

Moved: Annette Wendleman **Seconded:** Liz Hunter
“That the electoral roll be accepted.” **Carried**

Report Presentations

- **Vicar**
Roxanne presented her report and the Parish Statistics and highlighted:
 - the Mission Action Plan and the re-focusing of our ministry on family ministry.
 - The Op shop and in particular the 10 year celebration, paying off the building loan early and the revenue that enables us to engage a Child and family worker.

In summary she expressed how grateful she was for the support offered her and all the activities where we can proclaim the word of God. Next year we will be called upon to be part of the process of Roxanne moving from Priest in Charge to Vicar.

A question was raised by Leon Pollard on the Parish Statistics, average Sunday attendance which was entered as 45. The vicar explained that the Sunday worship figures included Christ Church and Zoom worship and not only the attendance at Holy Trinity.

The suggestion was made that attendance be totalled at the bottom of each page of register to minimise the workload at the end of the parish year.

- **Proceedings of Parish Council**
Taken as read
- **Wardens**
Taken as read
- **Financial and Budget**
 - We have had a profitable year and have increased the income largely due to the Op Shop.

- We have paid off the loan we had to build our new shop and so now have no outstanding debts. We are now looking forward to the future where we continue to need the support of the parishioners in employing a Children's and family worker.
- I thank you all for the support you have given me over the past year and am open to any questions you may have with regards to these reports.
 - **Question: Now that the loan is paid off, what are we doing with the money previously allocated to paying off the loan?** Parish Council for 2023 – 2024 will need to decide on this, however we have agreed to increase staffing to include a Children's and Family Worker.
 - The Vicar highlighted the budget for 2024 and the increased staffing commitment of \$30,000 per annum for the Children's and Family Worker. She noted that this would be funded from a Diocesan Ministry Grant, Op Shop revenue and increased giving from the parish.
- **Other Parish Groups**
 - **Authorised Lay Ministers** Taken as read
 - **Parish Child Safety Officer** Children's church and Little Treasures have been highlights.
 - **Craft Group** Taken as read
 - **Lara Food Relief** Taken as read
 - **Hospitality/ Social** Taken as read
 - **Family Safety Champion** Taken as read
 - **Op Shop** Taken as read
 - **Book club** is still operating and Annette will prepare a report for inclusion in the Annual Report for 2023-2024.

Reception of all reports

Moved: Garry Green **Seconded:** Marj Barrowman **Carried**

Election of Wardens

Moved: Gregory Medwell **Seconded:** Peter Jones

“that the wardens as nominated, Cynthia Roseburgh (Vicar's Warden) Marion Bennett, Garry Green be appointed.” Carried

Election of Parish Council

Moved: Liz Hunter **Seconded:** Lee-Allan Urbanski

“ that the nominations for Parish Council, Gregory Medwell, John Leeke, Arleen Friswell, Joyline Chipinduro be appointed.” Carried

Election of Incumbency Committee

Moved: Val Mawson **Seconded:** Marj Barrowman

“ That the nominations for the Incumbency committee, Philip Starks, Garry Green and Annette Wendleman be appointed.” Carried

Election of Auditor

Moved: Lee-Allan Urbanski **Seconded:** Leon Pollard

“ That Alistair Horne be appointed as our auditor for 2023-2024.” Carried

Any other business of parochial interest None.

Reverend Roxanne Addley closed the meeting at 12.23pm.

Libby Bate

Secretary

Parish electoral Roll

Names Recorded on Electoral Roll as of 24th October 2024 - Holy Trinity Lara

Damalie AYEBALE	Marie KEOWN	Arch SMITH
Marjorie BARROWMAN	Joy LEGGO	Doris SMITH
Rosemary BASCOMB	John LEEKE	Georgia SMITH
Libby BATE	Wendy LEEKE	Philip STARKS
Marion BENNETT	Lola LEWIS	Soraya STARKS
Anne CHASE	Miriam LOVADINA	Maya STEWART
Joyline CHIPINDURO	Ellen MARSH	Coralene STEWART
Joan COHEN	Valerie MAWSON	Bronwyn THOMAS
Brenda DARCY	Gregory MEDWELL	Barbara THOMPSON
Lewis Anthony DOLE	Wendy O'BRIEN	Val TONKIN
Paul Anthony DOLE	William O'BRIEN	Robert TONKIN
Anne FAITHFULL	Sylvia PDE	Lee-Allan URBANSKI
Arleen Joyce FRISWELL	Leon POLLARD	Annette WENDLEMAN
Lynley GILCHRIST	Erica PURNELL	Gwyneth WILSON
Helen GLARE	Tara RIENIETS	Wes WILSON
Judith HESTER	Cynthia ROSEBURGH	Rebecca WOS
Liz HUNTER	Denis SCOTT	Siona WULF

Names Recorded on Electoral Roll as of 24th October 2024 - Christ Church Little River

Jenny CUNNINGHAM
Garry GREEN
Donna HINCHLIFFE
Peter JONES
John Leigh PETIT
Catriona ROWNTREE
Brenda SIMS

Signed and Certified by the Parish Electoral Committee on 24th October 2024

Cynthia Roseburgh, Parish Councillor

Reverend Roxanne Addley, Vicar

Parish Statistics

Parish of **Holy Trinity Lara with Christ Church Little River**

Church: Holy Trinity Lara with Christ Church Little River

Most of the responses received from parishes are included in the statistics section of the Diocesan Yearbook and are used by various stakeholders. 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 estimate would be appreciated.

WORSHIP

<p>1 a 201</p>	<p>Number of public services wherever held* excluding weddings, funerals, private baptisms, services in residential facilities</p>	<p>3 a 1320</p>	<p>Total Acts of Communion in public services* excluding private ministrations and services in residential facilities</p>
<p>b 97</p>	<p>Number of public Sunday services wherever held excluding weddings, funerals, private baptisms, services in residential facilities</p>	<p>b 1035</p>	<p>Total number of Sunday Acts of Communion excluding private ministrations and services in residential facilities</p>
<p>c 69</p>	<p>Number of publicised services held in residential care facilities</p>	<p>c 379</p>	<p>Total Other Acts of Communion Including private ministrations and services in residential facilities</p>
<p>2 a 55</p>	<p>Average weekly in person attendance at all Public services: N.B: Divide the annual total by 50 to calculate a <u>weekly</u> average (not a service average) excluding Easter Week & Christmas Week. * include weekday services, Sunday services & Sunday non-English services, children & Non Communicants. ** exclude weddings, funerals, private baptisms, residential facilities services, live stream services, Easter and Christmas</p>	<p>4 a 113</p>	<p>Total attendance at Christmas Day/Eve services (Christmas Eve means after 5:00 pm)</p>
<p>b 47</p>	<p>Average Sunday in person attendance N.B: Divide the annual total by 51 to calculate a <u>weekly</u> average (not a service average) excluding Easter Sunday. * include Sunday services & Sunday non-English services, children & Non Communicants ** exclude weddings, funerals, private baptisms, residential facilities services, live stream services, Easter and Christmas</p>	<p>b 31</p>	<p>Total number of Acts of Communion at Christmas Day/Eve services (Christmas Eve means after 5:00 pm)</p>

c N/A Average **weekly** in person attendance at all non-English services **** exclude weddings, funerals, private baptisms, services in residential facilities, Easter and Christmas**

d 1 Average **weekly** viewers during live stream services **** exclude weddings, funerals, private baptisms, services in residential facilities, Easter and Christmas**

e N/A Average **weekly** viewers recorded stream services **** exclude weddings, funerals, private baptisms, services in residential facilities, Easter and Christmas**

5 a 53 Total attendance at Easter Day/Eve services

b 47 Total number of Acts of Communion at Easter Day/Eve services

MEMBERSHIP

6 58 No. on Church Electoral Roll presented at the Annual Parish Meeting

7a 6 No. of Infant Baptisms

7b 1 No. of Adult Baptisms

8 2 No. of children admitted to Communion

9 1 No. of persons received into the Anglican Communion

10 2 No. of Confirmations

11 No. of funerals conducted:
a 6 in the churches of the parish

b 0 elsewhere

12 No. of marriages conducted:

a 0 in the churches of the parish

b 0 elsewhere

13 a 1 No. of continuing home/small groups

b 7 Total No. of persons in continuing home/small groups per week

14 Estimated no. of frequent attenders - including at weekly programs/worship services (excluding CRE)

a 24 Pre-school (0 - 5)

b 5 Primary School

c 1 Secondary School

d 1 Post Secondary (under 25)

15 Estimated no. of children that the parish/congregation interacts with outside of worship services each week

21

16 Does this parish run children's programs? Eg. Sunday School, Youth Group, Playgroups. Please answer YES or NO

Yes

Vicar's Report

What a year this year has been! As I reflect on the year that was, I praise God for continuing to bless us, with a growing children's ministry, a healthy Op Shop, new people coming to worship with us and a great mix of church and community volunteers who make our place such a vibrant location for ministry and outreach. My thanks to you all who make so much happen in this corner of Lara and of course at our beautiful heritage church in Little River. After three years of ministry here, I thought it was time to take a look at what we have achieved together and present this table of data for our annual meeting.

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Average Sunday Attendance	35.2	41.5	45	47
Baptisms, Confirmations, Receptions	1	8	8	10
Electoral Roll	54	53	56	58
Parishioner Collections	\$68,170	\$65,269	\$63,435	\$64,269
Op Shop Income	\$91,783	\$116,790	\$135,780	\$140,416

I think we can be positive about what the data is showing us. There are small and steady signs of growth with burgeoning growth from our Op Shop. God is good! This year we also seem to have arrested the decline in parishioner collections. This may be partially because of the growth in both worship numbers and the parish roll. Over the year we had five people come off the roll, either because they joined God in heaven or because they did not worship with us across the year. The seven people who came onto the roll were all probably under the age of 50 and brought children with them. This has meant that the look and feel of our parish composition is becoming younger. My hope and prayer is that as our Children's ministry consolidates in the coming year that we continue to grow at a greater rate, attracting people of all ages to come and know Jesus and the benefits of being part of a welcoming, God centred, and thriving community.

This brings us to the topic of our Children's Ministry. I thank God that one of our newer parishioners Bec, urged me to start the playgroup last year with the help of a band of dedicated volunteers. The playgroup brought Tara to us who accepted our offer to take up the Children's and Families Worker. We have all been blessed with Tara being among us since February. Little Treasures playgroup, now one year old, is going from strength to strength with some members even coming to church occasionally. We continue to pray about finding the right pathways for this group to get to know Jesus.

This year I was blessed to be licenced as Vicar of our parish. My thanks to the Wardens and Nominations Committee who along with Bishop Brad agreed that I could stay after three years as Priest in Charge. I do thank Garry, Marion and Cynthia who have supported me this year as your Wardens. It's been a year of significant financial investment into our church site at Lara. In February, following the "hurricane" that came through Lara and felled a tree into the west wall of the Op Shop, we had the tree removed and an arborist give us an assessment of the entire block. These works were done in September. We also decided to upgrade the lighting in the Holy Trinity worship space which had the additional benefit of creating a warmer space because of the increased insulation provided by dropping the lighting below ceiling level. The acoustics are much better as well! In September our 30 year old mixer gave up the ghost, so was also replaced, giving us a better sound system. Wouldn't it be great if the new mixer also lasted 30 years?

I do also want to mention our Mission giving which broke records this year. Our giving comes in two forms. Planned Parish giving to agreed Christian movements including Nungalinya College in Darwin, the ministry of Chris and Naomi through Interserve and Hayley Rumble working for AFES at the universities located in Ballarat. We also engage speakers for specific mission drives and give our weekly collections to those charities. This year across all forms of mission giving we raised over \$17,000 for Christian endeavours around the world. I'm pleased that our generosity is reflected in our giving.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that since July, we share the Holy Trinity site on Sunday afternoons with a local Karen community. It's been a blessing getting to know them and my prayer is that they will feel at home here. I'm hopeful that we will have opportunities for shared ministry of some kind along the way.

This year, Bill once again steps down from his beloved Op Shop committee and I think he can be confident that the place will continue to hum. Rest well, you good and faithful servant. Your presence and care among us is most appreciated. My thanks to the Wardens and Parish Council who have worked so well together and supported me as we make this journey of parish renewal. Finally, thanks to Sandi who is invaluable in the office with her amazing skills and calm demeanour. There is much to look forward to as we move into our future, trusting in God. My prayer is that we continue to engage with our community, giving them opportunities to get to know Jesus, and let the Holy Spirit work in ways that only God can understand.

Blessings, Roxanne

Proceedings of Parish Council 2024

Parish Council met on the 3rd Sunday of each month following Church. There are three wardens and five other members. We have continued to use the Covenant Commitments for Christians readings at the commencement of our meetings to assist us in maintaining focus and understand that God is always with us, providing wisdom and peace. We have continued to report to Parishioners on three items discussed at our meetings following worship. Below are subjects discussed by Parish Council during the past year with a view to creating the best possible outcome for all.

The past year has been very busy and eventful as usual. We have welcomed Tara Rieniets as our Children's and Family worker. Tara has become such a valuable member of our Church Family, caring for the children within the Church and Sunday School.

During the past year we have seen many projects being undertaken to improve our Church environment.

Maintenance jobs such as the lighting and heating in the Holy Trinity Church, inspections of both Holy Trinity and Little River Churches following advice about safety and tree health, with trees lopped accordingly.

A memorial garden for Tricia Peart has been erected outside the Vestry. The backing board for this garden was designed and donated by Tricia. We remember her fondly.

We have many great assets within our Church one of which is our Church Hall. This has been put to great use for many events such as our Children's playgroup, the Night at the Op Shop, Craft groups, Sunday School, Dine outs, Alpha courses, Games nights, French lessons and The Creatives and recently by a new Karen group who use both our Church and the hall for worship on Sunday afternoons.

Our mission program has continued with presentations from Reverend Noah Park from the Mission to Seafarers, Steph Cantrill from Tearfund, Sister Margaret and Maricarmen from Mary McKillop House in Lima, Peru and Naomi and Chris in South East Asia. How wonderful it is to see God at work through mission.

Employment of Sandi Weber – promoted to admin Level 4. Sandi does amazing work for our Church and in support of Reverend Roxanne.

In conclusion, we thank the Vicar Reverend Roxanne Addley and licenced lay ministers for their ministry. We thank retired Reverends Elaine Ryan and Noel Cockings who help when required.

We also thank the volunteers who contribute to the beautification of the Church grounds and to those who support our community with their work at the Op Shop or Food Bank. To all who maintain our comfortable and welcoming Churches, thank you.

Arleen Friswell

Parish Council Secretary

Wardens' Report

The wardens met on the 2nd Sunday of the month following church.

Both Christ Church and Holy Trinity have grounds that are well cared for and attractive. We are all very grateful to the volunteers who continue to ensure this is the case. The trees which surround the grounds of church buildings on both sites have been checked for potential problems and maintained by an arborist to ensure that the storms such as those which caused such chaos this year will not leave us with damage to the property. We have continued a maintenance programme for all buildings. The upgrading of the lighting completed in the church at Holy Trinity has also improved the ability of the building to retain heat in winter.

The annual Bell Audit was completed, and the very minor issues identified have been addressed at both Christ Church Little River and at Holy Trinity Lara.

Wardens also hold responsibility for money matters, and we have been pleased to be able to benefit from the various sources of funds in order to employ our wonderful Families and Children Officer, Tara Rienets. The Little Treasures group and the Sunday School groups are thriving due to her dedication. Sandi Weber, our Office Administrator, has contributed enormously to the efficiency and effectiveness of the numerous facets of Parish life which we have been able to develop this year.

We are aware of the need for a second bathroom in the vicarage, as per diocesan standards, and this will be part of the long-term maintenance plans. There are several features of the Vicarage which may well soon need attention, and we plan to address these shortly.

Risk Management work continues.

Our year has been one of exploring possibilities and ways forward for our Parish as we put into practice our Mission Statement and Parish Values.

Marion Bennett, Cynthia Roseburgh, Gary Green

Church Wardens

Anglican Parish of Lara with Little River Balance of Accounts at 30th September 2024

Balance of Accounts	30 Sept. 2024	30 Sept. 2023
ADF Access Cash 05009178	\$6,964.55	\$6,867.80
ADF Appd Building Fund 05009120	\$1,804.95	\$1,779.87
ADF Lt River Investment 443008659	\$5,640.19	\$5,468.39
ADF Parish Giving 05005195	\$9,334.38	\$6,166.02
ADF Vicarage Upgrade 05004543	\$21,293.77	\$19,806.87
Bendigo Bk Op Shop 137905048	\$22,114.33	\$21,483.18
Bendigo Bk Parish 137904702	\$29,815.46	\$30,531.92
Total Funds	\$96,967.63	\$92,104.05
Bendigo Bk Lara Carols 157805193	\$12,531.94	\$12,897.74
Bendigo Bk Lara Food Relief 52286019	\$10,515.50	\$8,176.86

Anglican Parish of Lara with Little River

Profit and Loss Report for 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024

Income

Collections On Line and Open plate	\$64,269.43
Grants ADOM	\$10,000.00
Hall Hire	\$2,600.00
Baptisms	nil
Funerals	\$1,450.00
Weddings	nil
Interest Income	\$468.56
Op Shop Sales	\$140,416.30
Other miscellaneous Activities	\$2,910.80
Playgroup	\$1,090.00
Reimbursements	\$120.00
Total Income	\$223,325.09

Direct Costs	\$3,880.20
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Gross Profit	\$219,444.89
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Expenses

Assessment	\$24,600.00
Bank Charges	\$359.83
Insurances & Licenses	\$23,608.55
Mission Giving	\$6,320.00
Office	\$4,896.63
Op Shop Expenses	\$17,793.69
Repairs & maintenance	\$17,244.15
Salary/Stipend	\$110,505.13
Utilities and Rates	\$9,892.67
Total Expenses	\$215,220.65

Net Earnings	\$4,224.24
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Anglican Parish of Lara with Little River

Mission Giving 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024

ABM	\$440.00
AFES	\$686.00
CMS	\$145.60
Interserve	\$800.00
Mary McKillop Huasi Peru	\$900.00
Mission to Seafarers	\$800.00
TEAR Fund	\$1,000.00
Total Congregation Giving	\$4,771.60

Nungalinya	\$7,105.70
AFES	\$1,200.00
Interserve	\$4,020.00
Parish Council Authorised Giving	\$12,325.70

Holy Trinity Lara with Christ Church Little River Opportunity Shop Profit and Loss Report 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024

	2024	2023
Income		
Daily Sales	\$138,496.20	\$133,775.58
Melbourne Cleaning Cloths	\$2,100.15	\$2,004.30
Total Income	\$140,596.35	\$135,779.88
Expenses		
Bank Charges	\$1,799.27	\$1,352.24
Charitable Contributions	\$7,105.70	\$5,500.30
Op Shop Expenses	\$9,180.68	\$3,195.88
Council Rates	\$1,570.80	\$2,670.73
Telephone	\$308.70	\$307.92
Total Expenses	\$19,965.15	\$13,027.07
Net Earnings	\$120,631.20	\$122,752.81

Lara Food Relief

Profit and Loss Report 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024

	2024	2023
Income		
Grants and donations	\$10,252.00	\$6,015.00
Total Income	\$10,252.00	\$6,015.00
Expenses		
Fuel Vouchers	\$100.00	\$500.00
Geelong Food Relief Vouchers	\$2,620.00	\$680.00
Lara Butchers	\$1,067.69	\$850.20
Supermarket Goods	\$4,145.67	\$3,403.52
Other Expenses	Nil	\$24.00
Total Expenses	\$7,933.36	\$5,457.72
Net Income	\$2,318.64	\$557.28

Lara Combined Churches Carols

Profit and Loss Report 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2024

	2024	2023
Income		
Church Donations	Nil	\$2,000.00
Public Donations	Nil	\$11,100.00
Total Income	Nil	\$13,100.00
Expenses		
Animals		\$1,045.00
Candles	\$365.80	\$581.90
Entertainer		\$1,300.00
Management fee		\$1,890.00
Miscellaneous Expenses		\$164.88
Refund of donation		\$1,200.00
Sound & lighting		\$2,936.74
Traffic management		\$818.83
Total Expenses	\$365.80	\$9,937.35
Net Income	-\$365.80	\$3,162.65

Treasurer's Report

I would firstly like to thank the great bookkeeper that has done most of the work this year. (no name mentioned, but you all know who I am talking about).

As was the case last year it is the same this year that most of our giving is via direct debit. We still collect some money via open plate and I think there is only 1 or 2 people giving via envelopes. Thank you to all those who have contributed via any of these means.

Over the past 12 months a total of \$120,000 was transferred to the Parish from the Op Shop (an increase from 2023). I would like to thank everyone that works in the opportunity shop.

We are so grateful to the volunteers who come along to our Op Shop, day after day, week after week. For some it may only be a couple of hours a week and others up to 20 hours, thank you so much, the time you so freely give is appreciated by us all. Well done everyone! If it wasn't for the Op Shop, our volunteers, and the generous people of Lara with all their donations, we would not be where we are today.

During the year we have had the Karen people join us and they use our facilities on a Sunday afternoon. It is great having someone else use our worship space.

Over the past year we have given to numerous missions. They include but are not limited to Nungalinya, Bushikori, and the Mission to Seafarers to name just a few. The support the parish gives to these organisations is far reaching and helps so many others. Whenever there is a call out by the parish for these donations to these good causes, there is no hesitation from all to give. Thank you!!

My thanks to you all for the support you have given me (and my wonderful book keeper) over the past 12 months.

Gregory Medwell

Treasurer

Independent Auditors report

From Alistair Horne

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Churchwardens of the
Parish of Holy Trinity Lara with Christ Church Little River

I have audited the provided financial reports of the Parish of Holy Trinity Lara with Christ Church Little River (The Parish), which comprises the Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 30 September 2024, and other explanatory notes and the Churchwardens' Declaration.

Churchwardens' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Churchwardens of the Parish 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* (as amended) 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 requirements¹. 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.

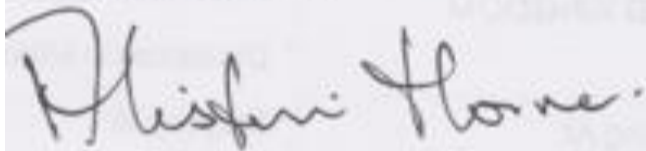
Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Parish as at 30 September 2024, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance to the financial statements.

Basis of Accounting

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

Yours faithfully,



Alistair Horne OAM FCPA 719447
Melbourne
10th October 2024

¹ **Parish Governance Act 2013 (as amended) Sect. 34. Parish funds (1)** The churchwardens have responsibility for the proper keeping and management of all parish funds and must maintain adequate and accurate accounting records of the parish's financial transactions.

Proposed Budget for the Anglican Parish of Lara with Little River

			2022	2023	2024	2025
Income						
Parish Giving			\$67,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$70,000
Mission			\$2,200.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$4,000
Op Shop			\$102,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$130,000.00	\$140,000
Fees/Donations/Fundraising			\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$5,000
Rental/hall hire			\$5,040.00	\$7,000.00	\$600.00	\$10,000
Grants ADOM					\$10,000.00	\$10,000
Total Income			\$180,240.00	\$199,000.00	\$225,600.00	\$239,000
Expenses						
Stipends & Salary			\$94,600.00	\$103,838.80	\$134,764.70	\$120,269
Rates & Utilities			\$8,560.00	\$9,416.96	\$9,174.25	\$9,170
Assessment & Office			\$30,152.00	\$30,428.55	\$37,469.82	\$43,194
Insurance			\$14,700.00	\$15,449.70	\$15,758.00	\$23,085
Mission & Outreach			\$13,300.00	\$12,191.60	\$12,985.00	\$12,300
Repairs & Maintenance			\$7,720.00	\$7,567.20	\$9,397.00	\$28,522
Interest & Bank Charges			\$1,800.00	\$7,891.80	\$1,800.00	\$403
Other			\$7,900.00	\$5,509.72	\$3,737.00	\$1,243
Total Expenses			\$178,732.00	\$192,294.33	\$225,085.77	\$238,186
Surplus			\$1,508.00	\$6,705.67	\$514.23	\$814

Notes on Budget

Income

- Parish giving includes Direct Credit, Open plate and Envelope giving.
- Mission income is donated from individuals to be forwarded on to our Mission Partners such as Mission to Seafarers, etc.
- Op Shop includes weekly sales in Op Shop & Melbourne Cleaning Cloths.
- Fees/Donations/Fundraising are funds received from Ministries and fundraising

Expenses

- Stipend and salary- payments for Vicar, Child and Family Worker and administration support.
- Rates and Utilities- Council rates and Gas, power and water.
- Mission Outreach -Food cupboard, Carols, payments to Nungalinya & Interserve and other missions, ministry costs.
- Assessment and Office- Assessment, Photocopier, telephone.
- Maintenance- Op shop, fire equipment.
- Other- fund raising and miscellaneous expenses.

Authorised Lay Ministers Report

The role of the Authorised Lay Minister (ALM) is a ministry of support and assistance to the priest and parish. The ALMs are licensed to preach, undertake the deacon's role at Holy Communion services, and preside at Prayer and Praise services. In preparation for these services, the ALMs met with the parish clergy on a monthly basis to plan for the services and to choose appropriate hymns.

The ALMs are rostered along with others from the parish in offering prayer support at the conclusion of services, as well as Intercessions during the service.

In November 2023 the ALMs, along with others from the parish, undertook training with Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry for deployment in emergency and disaster situations. Philip also participated in the LyCiG program during the year in support of our growth and revitalization efforts.

The ALMs were table leaders for the Alpha Program that was held here in the parish from July to September 2024.

Preaching has continued with ALMs rostered usually bi-monthly giving them an opportunity to share the Word of God in their own styles with our congregation.

Philip has continued to lead the Monday afternoon growth group, and they have finished the year with a study in John's gospel. They also look at the psalm for the up-coming Sunday each week with the aim of familiarising ourselves with what it has to say to our faith development when we come to it during Sunday morning worship.

Throughout the year, Philip has conducted a monthly Sunday evening service at Costa House. This includes singing, a short homily, prayers, and reserved Holy Communion sacrament. Attendance is 8 residents each week on average.

This year Philip registered with GenU as a volunteer with their Aged Care Volunteers Visitor Scheme and has 2 clients, both from Costa House, who he visits once a fortnight.

Leon is also a Synod Representative for the Parish and attended Synod in October 2023 and also the special meeting in June 2024.

Philip meets with Reverend Roxanne for Supervision each month and Leon meets with Reverend Noel, in accordance with Diocesan guidelines.

Philip Starks and Leon Pollard

Authorised Lay Ministers

Children's Ministry Report

This year has been marked by significant growth and positive changes within our Children's Ministry, enhancing our programs and supporting the families in our community.

1. Commencement of Part-Time Child and Families Worker. We welcomed our part-time Child and Families Worker this year, who has been instrumental in developing our programs and engaging with families. This role has helped us develop our outreach and support for children and their parents.

2. Playgroup - Little Treasures. In October, our playgroup, Little Treasures, celebrated its first birthday! Currently, we accommodate 15 families, many of whom have begun attending worship services on occasion. This program continues to foster connections among families and introduce them to our church community.

3. Children's Sunday School. Our Sunday School for school-aged children has commenced running every week during the school term, with the exception of baptisms and combined services. This consistency provides our children with regular spiritual education and community.

4. Changes in Creche Services. Due to space limitations, we have moved away from offering a creche for parents. Instead, our focus has shifted to providing a safe and distraction-free environment for our Sunday School attendees, ensuring they can engage fully in their lessons.

5. Improvements to Children's Area. We have relocated the children's area to a more visible and welcoming space within the church. New activities have been set up that are suitable for our toddler attendees, creating a more engaging environment for our youngest members.

6. Special Events. This year, we hosted several special events to strengthen our community bonds:

- **Mother's Day High Tea:** A delightful event for our playgroup mothers, fostering connection and appreciation.
- **Father's Day Breakfast:** We held our inaugural Father's Day breakfast, which will now become an annual tradition, providing an opportunity for fathers, and their families to connect and share in fellowship.

Overall, this year has been filled with progress and engagement, and we look forward to building on these foundations in the coming year.

Tara Rieniets

Children and Families Worker

Parish Child Safety Officer Report

Overview: This report outlines the current child safety measures in place and observations from the past period. While activities may have been limited due to handover of the role, to the part-time Children and Families worker, attention to child safety remains a priority.

Environment Checks:

- Regular inspections of play areas were conducted, ensuring that all equipment is safe and in good condition.
- Any potential hazards (sharp edges, loose parts were addressed immediately).

Policy Compliance:

- Parish risk assessment / compliance with current standards has been completed.
- No incidents were reported during this period.

Staff Training:

- Continued emphasis on the importance of child safety training to be completed by all staff, and volunteers.
- Volunteers from Little River Parish, have now undertaken module 1.
- The child and family worker, has undertaken the train the trainer, training for all 4 modules and will implement an in person training calendar for module 1 in 2025.
- Refresher module training has now been released, and relevant staff and employees are in the process of being booked in to complete the course online.

Conclusion: Overall, child safety has been effectively maintained during this period, with no incidents to report. Continued diligence in safety practices is essential to ensure a secure environment for all children.

Tara Rieniets

Child Safety Officer

Family Safety Champion Report

As Family Safety Champion of our Parish, I receive monthly newsletters from The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, about new information, training days and discussion groups that are available for Prevention of Violence against Women, throughout the year.

This year there will be a walk against Family Violence taking place on Friday 22nd November at 11am at Birrarung Marr (upper terrace) as part of the 16 days of activism aiming to raise awareness and advocate for an end to Family Violence.

This year I completed, as part of an online certificate course at Ridley College, a module that included 6 lessons. Areas explored were:

- The Nature and dynamics of Domestic and Family Violence.
- Spiritual abuse.
- How to teach helpfully.
- How to respond to disclosures of abuse.
- How to care for a survivor long term.
- Responding to people who choose to use violence.

I found this extremely helpful and it broadened my knowledge, especially with response to abuse within the church context.

If any parishioner would like to discuss what I've learned or need help understanding or clarification on DFV, I would be happy to share, or refer them to organisations who offer support and information on this matter.

Soraya Starks

Hospitality/Social Events Report

Our committee of 3 continues to work hard to ensure the hospitality provided maintains the high standard our Parish has become so well known for.

Our "Thank you Dinner" in November was well attended. It is a great chance to celebrate all the volunteers who help in so many ways from the Op Shop, the Food Relief and all those many other things that ensure our grounds are well maintained and our Sunday services run smoothly.

The Blessing of the Pets service at Christ Church is another chance to reach out to the broader community and we assist Garry and his team by proving salads and sweets to the menu. This is also the case for the Christ the King celebration day when this year we also had the Bishop present as Confirmations were performed.

Our "Mystery Parcels" stall at the GenU Christmas Market at the end of November, without bragging, is the most popular stall there, once again selling out before 12 noon. The number of customers who keep on coming back, telling us how they use the parcels they buy, puts smiles on all our faces. We also promote our Christmas Church services and are showing we are part of the community.

Pancakes at Christ Church on Shrove Tuesday led by Garry Green and the team, saw many of the Little River community join us for what has become a tradition.

Our "High Tea" returned to its usual date, the Sunday before Mother's Day and was very well attended. The theme was "A touch of silver" and our guest speaker was Helen Glare who told us about her many silver treasures handed down through her family generations.

June 30th was the 5th Sunday and our practice of having a combined Service followed by lunch was even more meaningful as we were joined by the Karen Anglican group who were starting to use our church as their worship place that very day. They provided a special Karen Noodle dish as part of the menu.

Games Nights with Bec and Matt at the helm continued on Saturday nights once a month and the Dine out Club led by Arleen was very active in the first part of the year but in the last couple of months took a break.

We catered for the Alpha sessions and then assisted with the Holy Spirit Day evening meal held at 40 Osterlund Court.

The “Night at the Op Shop” saw us catering for over 100 people. We provided individual plates made up of 2 sandwiches, a party pie, a sausage roll and 2 assorted slices/cakes. A cup of tea/coffee was also provided. This is a lot of work but certainly adds to the night and brings many favourable comments.

Our committee of 3 value the help received from members of the congregation when we put out a call seeking donations of food items for all the events we cater for. We are clearly demonstrating our Parish Values - Working Together, Relationships and Community Connection with our hospitality and social events.

Libby Bate

Committee Convenor

Opportunity Shop Report

I commence this report with a thank you to the Lara public who continue to support our shop by providing valuable donations “day in and day out”. We can barely keep apace with the donations, hence the occasional pop up shop in the hall and our much loved “Night at the Op Shop” evening.

In the twelve months just completed our Daily Sales were \$138,496. Sold over the counter at our shop. A record sum. In addition, we also received 15 cents per kg from Melbourne Cleaning Cloths. This rolled up into \$2100 for the year for our second class clothing which is picked up weekly from our shop. A total of 14 tonnes of clothing per year headed up the Highway to Melbourne. This meant that for the year our Grand Total Income was \$141,000.

In addition, we supply surplus stock to nearby Opportunity Shops, there are about ten shops involved without charge, our aim being to recycle as much of the donations as possible. Some drop off points include Blankets for Animal Rescue, magazines for Mission to Seafarers, materials for Early Childhood Centre etc.

The Holy Trinity Lara Opportunity Shop, is a very busy shop and we are blessed by having about 25 volunteers on our books to help with the “through put” of the donations. We need more Volunteers though, so if you know of any possibilities you are welcome to refer them to Bill O’Brien or Liz Hunter. This work has Centrelink approval for those with Centrelink obligations.

The Shop has an active interest in supporting Nungalinga Theological College in Darwin that trains Indigenous Leaders. Over \$7000 was donated to this worthwhile cause this year.

Funding has been made available for Holy Trinity church programmes such as the Playgroup and Sunday School programmes.

We are constantly expanding the shop to keep up with the donations. The Church updated the storage in the “stable” earlier this year, and is currently expanding and modernising the shipping container, in which, out of season stock is stored.

To those responsible for the beautification of the Op Shop and church grounds, thank you. The place looks lovely.

Finally, and most importantly, a very big thankyou to all our Volunteers and to those who served on the Opportunity Shop Committee over the last twelve months. Your endeavours and skills have been much appreciated and have played a substantial part in the tabling of this welcome report.

Well done everybody.

Bill O’Brien

Secretary

Lara Food Relief Report

Coralene and Denis have overseen the running of the Food Relief for the past 12 months, ably assisted by 12 generous volunteers whom we thank sincerely for their support. Thanks also to Sandi who readily manages all printing and distribution for us.

We are also fortunate to have a new volunteer in Carolyn MacKay this year and expect to have Marian Rees join the team soon.

To Cynthia, who has been responsible for the purchasing of items for the pantry – thank you. It's a big task and very much appreciated.

We remain a member of GFAN (Geelong Food Assistance Network) and are able to source supplies from them on a weekly basis although, we only do this occasionally as supplies there are often low or unavailable due to high demand. Food vouchers, that we have as alternative to actual food, are still purchased through GFAN and are redeemed at GFR by our clients.

This year we have again been generously supported by the Lara District Community Enterprise (Bendigo Bank), Lara Smile Group, Lara Lions Club, Bakers Delight, Rainbow Chiropractic, Lara CWA, Rods Bakery, Busy Bees @ Lara, Southern Star Lodge, Lara Beta Pi Master Chapter and also the Beta Pi Chapter, Lara Quality Meats, Lara Rotary Club and of course the Holy Trinity congregation and the general Lara community, with food and monetary donations. Many thanks to all these organisations and individuals.

This is our 11th year of operation with only a slight increase in demand despite the rising cost of living.

The client base currently stands at 119 after 36 clients records were removed, as per our usual practice, as these clients have had no activity in the past 2 years. 48 new clients have been added this year. Encouragingly, 21 of these new clients have only presented once to the end of June 2024. Hopefully, it is indicative that the urgency of their situation was short term, and our emergency food relief was able to assist them through their crisis.

Therefore, in summary, for the past 12 months the Lara Emergency Food Relief has been able to provide 257 food parcels or vouchers accommodating 391 adults and 321 children through the generosity of our wonderful supporters and the dedication of a fabulous team. We thank you all.

Last Christmas we prepared 24 Christmas hampers and divided them between the following schools – Lara Lake PS, Lara PS, Lara Secondary College, and Little River PS. The 4 schools gratefully received these hampers.

Now with Christmas approaching the team is starting to prepare our hampers again this year, and plan to maintain the number at 6 per school as the demand continues. We will no doubt be seeking donations of items to go into these hampers as in previous years.

Finally, due to personal circumstances the Lara Food Relief coordinator role was shared between Coralene and Denis this year. This arrangement is expected to continue in 2024/25 as the role can get very onerous, for one person, at times.

Once again, thanks to everyone for their support during the past year.

Coralene Stewart and Denis Scott

Joint Coordinators

Craft Group Report

The idea of forming a CRAFT GROUP was first suggested by LeeAllan Urbanski in 2013. It would be a group of women interested in working on Craft Projects of their own, meeting together once a week at the Church, for mutual encouragement and sharing. LeeAllan is still the co-ordinator of this group, which is still “going strong”, attended by both original members and new-comers.

The group meets NOW on every Thursday afternoon between 1pm and 3pm. We meet in the Church Hall. We are always open to new members who are beginners in Craft or “old hands”. There is no entry fee. We do not have a “roll-call” but are always aware of any of the current 14 members not present and if help is needed, act accordingly.

Although everyone has their own particular project going, we can also share craft knowledge and teach interested newcomers – and each other – new skills. The women range from very talented crafters to “beginners” and “plodders”. It’s O.K. to just come for a cuppa and chat because we have afternoon tea.

We hope to offer a friendly, non- threatening group where women can relax and enjoy the age old and new handcrafts that keep us busy as we chat. In a recent questionnaire to the group, the feed-back of “What is important about Craft Group?” was overwhelmingly – “Companionship”, “Being with Others”, “Friendly Atmosphere”, and “Creating a Caring Community”. We have also got some new ideas to add to next year’s programme such as demonstrations of various crafts and some home visits for lunch, etc.

Wendy O’Brien and LeeAllan Urbanski

Group member and Coordinator

Lara Bookworms Report

The Bookworms are affiliated to HT & CC and we have been meeting monthly for the last 17 years. Thirteen people make up the group and some of us have been part of it since its inception. Freda is our hard working secretary and we take turns to lead meetings. We are sad that Helen Glare has left our group. We will miss her a lot and we are thankful for her hospitality at every meeting. We read a wide range of genres provided by the Council of Adult Education and most of the books stimulate interesting discussions, always accompanied by laughter. We are a good outreach to Lara and we have provided pastoral care on occasions.

Annette Wendleman

Coordinator

Nominations for Parish Council, Wardens & Incumbency Committee

As of November 5th, 2024

Wardens

Libby Bate (Vicar's Warden)

Marion Bennett

Garry Green

Nominations Committee

Philip Starks

Garry Green

Marion Bennett

Parish Council

Gregory Medwell

John Leeke

Arleen Friswell

Joyline Chipinduro

Cynthia Roseburgh

Philip Starks

Judith Hester

RIP

Samuel Keown

Patricia Peart

John Thompson

June Armstrong

May McCaw

David Barrowman



The Anglican Parish of

**Holy Trinity Lara with
Christ Church Little River**