

2018 Annual Reports

for the

Anglican Parish

of

Yass Valley

AGM - March 10, 2019



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Parish Council Reports

Chairperson

To begin I would like to thank the Parish for their willingness to contribute.

All the rosters were cleared, not one was left wanting.

Service times needed to be changed, after a short discussion that happened seamlessly.

We came together for combined services and Parish events we enriched our church family.

At times we your Parish Council have not been able to see a way forward because of lack of funds; but time and time again God has blessed us with his provision. When we put our faith and trust in him things happen.

When we step out in faith, things change. Working together, cooperating with each other, caring for our Parish, has enabled us to achieve more than we thought possible.

This year we must continue to pray about what God wants us to achieve.

We need to remember the importance of giving weekly even when we are not attending church.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our treasurer Margaret Buckmaster who has worked so hard.

Also thanks go to Kerry England for taking and distributing the minutes.

I look forward to spending time together as a whole Parish, in church as well as a fun lunch or dinner.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.
(1 Cor 13:13)

Rob O'Keefe

Treasurer

General Funding: The day to day funding of the Parish is, as always, fairly 'hand to mouth' but we finished the year, 2018, without any outstanding accounts. A BIG thank you to all the parishioners who have made this possible. There have been times when the treasurer has been a recording when the phone rang!

Sale of Cottage: At this stage this is an ongoing saga. The Property Trust has given in principal approval but has been unable to meet for some months while in the throes of selecting a new bishop. Our long-term tenant (at least 12 years) has vacated and the PC will assess if any repairs are needed prior to sale (or re-letting).

Community Trust Account: The Trust funded part of a SPARK program that assists with getting basic skills for young unemployed, so they are 'job ready'. Quite a few of the participants are now employed.

A contribution (\$5000) towards the costs of the SRE teacher at Yass High School came from the Trust. The SRE project has also received funds from other donations for resources. Thank you.

Mary Curll Room: The grant of \$15000+ that was received from the NSW Department of SHCIF has been spent to upgrade and repaint the room. Softfall has been laid in the 'outdoor enclosed play area', new blinds purchased. RAC installed. The alcove area has been revamped into a kitchenette with a sink and hot water. The carpet is to be cleaned and the shelves are tidied up and a TV/overhead installed. We have been fortunate to acquire some enclosed bookcases to house Jacob's Well Bookshop. This area will be able to be used for small groups for meetings or activities.

Fund Raising: A garage sale (\$1610), three street stalls (\$523, \$390, \$675) Catering events (\$773), Daffodil Tea (1663), Giddy Concert (\$377) Parish Dinner (\$1430). These were successful in raising funds. The Rectory kitchen has had a revamp and update (Remember last update was 1996/1997 – check the plaque beside the front door). The replacement of the guttering is planned for this year – this will stop the water running down the walls and is quite an expensive exercise.

We also plan to keep a watch (and apply) for any grants where we fulfil the criteria.

The Parish participated in 3 Driver Revivers during the year (\$761)

Money boxes: Money has continued to come in and assists with the ongoing maintenance (\$1283). So please keep putting small change in a jar/ box for this

purpose. The lights in the church were changed to LED(\$1980) but give a better light and use less power and have a longer life.

Money has been forthcoming for Compassion Projects (Coffee & Chat and the Christmas Day Lunch \$565): Ministry Projects (Operation Christmas Child and Mainly Music \$370): and Special Project - All Saints Centenary (\$1674) in April.

Every coin makes a difference, and, as Treasurer, I thank you for all your gifts to the Parish be they money or time.

Thank you: THANK YOU to all who have assisted the Treasurer in past year – your efforts are appreciated. I will not be re-nominating for the position for 2019.

Margaret Buckmaster

Rector

I thank my God for you every time I think of you; and every time I pray for you all, I pray with joy because of the way in which you have helped me in the work of the gospel from the very first day until now.

And so I am sure that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:3-6)

As Paul began his letter to the Philippian church so I cannot begin this report without saying thank you...

- Thank you to the entire parish for your commitment and cooperation during a year of ups... downs... and a few sideways... journeys. **I do indeed thank my God for you...**
- Thank you, to Parish Council and the All Saints Vestry who have continued to work in a godly and spirit filled way as we took on opportunities, responded to challenges and sought to continue the good work God started here in this valley 182 years ago. I particularly want to thank Margaret Buckmaster for the time she has served you so well as your treasurer, a task she is now relinquishing.
- Thank you to my brothers and sisters of the clergy (Judy, Steve, Emma and Cartherine) who have advised... prayed... and helped me **in the work of the Gospel.**
- In particular I thank Reverend Judy Heggart, who has provided me with supportive and Godly counsel, even before I arrived 6 years ago and throughout my time here. Like you I continue to pray that God will restore her health in full measure and will carry her further in his will and work for her life.

- Thank you to my wife Lynette who continues to be both His blessing towards me and his voice of reason and challenge when needed.
- Finally, I would be guilty of great sin should I not acknowledge publicly the great work of God in our midst. His real, active and transforming presence is the only thing that will carry us through to the end of our journey.

Always remember the great cost of our salvation and the real peril from which He saved you that together we might work with even greater urgency on those things He has set before us.

I encourage you to look at both the Treasurer's and the Auditors reports to gain a better understanding of the realities of parish finances.

The administration of the parish by both the Parish council and the All Saints Vestry has seen ongoing improvements to or buildings and facilities; including

- The approval to construct a toilet for All Saints Murrumbateman.
- Eradication of termites at St James Bowning and repairing the damage.
- Upgrades to the lighting and fans in St Clements church.
- Continued improvements in the Parish Hall, in particular the Mary Curl room.
- Upgrades to ZACS Place, (solar panels, new floor, driveway and porch).
- Significant investment in the amenities of Community Garden.
- Repairs to the fence and gutters of the Rectory.

We have also been engaged in a variety of fund-raising activities which continue to take us out into the community.

- The annual Garage Sale is not only well attended but anticipated.
- The All Saints community continues to conduct a successful food stall at the Murrumbateman Field Days.
- St Clements held three successful Street stalls in Yass during the year.
- The Parish Hall being used more frequently by the community.

We have been blessed over the past 18 months to have benefited receive over \$100,000 worth of government grants (Spark, Yass Council, NSW Government). This type of funding is essential for us to get our buildings back into good order, so if you are gifted in seeking out grants... don't keep it to yourself!

2019... the times they are a changing...

While we can rightly be pleased with our efforts on behalf of our Lord, our community and each other we still have some things do address.

Over the period that I have been Rector of this parish there has been one trend which, if not addressed, will be our downfall... the fact that we have not been able to retain or attract families and young adults to this Parish.

While some have left because they left Yass or Murrumbateman others left to attend churches who were more suited to either their personal and family needs.

This will require much prayer, some courage and imagination, and more than just a willingness to accept change but a ***desire to embrace the changes*** God brings our way.

This can only be achieved if we begin to imagine a church which is multi-generational and aspires to be a home for those who are a little different from us.

- Children
 - How do we engage meaningfully with them on the first day?
 - How will we accommodate large family groups?
 - How do we help them to want to come back?
- New comers
 - How can we make it easier for them to follow along in church?
 - How do they know what to do and where to go?
 - Who will invite them to morning tea... and who will take them there?
- The shy, the lame, the blind, the deaf, the lonely, the sick, the dying....
 - How do we love them?

I can't tell you that I have all the answers... and I do not know what is next but I am certain that it will start with each of us answering this question...

What can I do to love my neighbour [in church] as myself?

Reverend Ken Rampling

Wardens Reports

Saint Clements Yass

In the name of the Risen Christ, I am pleased to present the annual report for the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

This covers the period 1 January to 31 December 2018.

The year proved another busy one for the church and its leaders, with a mix of traditional and contemporary services, some social activities, works/working bees and special events, including baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Services continued at 9:00a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Sunday and 10:00a.m. on Monday. However, due to declining numbers the @5:30 service was discontinued and because of the need to meet all service programs, the Sunday 9:00a.m was moved to 8:30a.m.

During 2018, total attendance at St Clements fell with a total of 2984 attending the various services. The figure does not include funerals, weddings and baptisms.

Other services included:

- The World Day of Prayer (March),
- the Centenary of the end of World War 1 (Remembrance Day 11 November)
- an evening service in remembrance of those who had died during.
- inter-Denominational SRE Commissioning service for the high school SRE teacher
- the Blessing of the Animals (November)
- the usual Easter and Christmas services
- baptisms (7), a wedding and funerals (16).

Also worthy of note were

- the visit and address on 9 March of Rev Canon Dr Alfred Sebahane from Tanzania and
- the visit of Jane Alam Sheikh from Compassion Australia presenting “Curry with a Twist”.

Also, on 13 October, I was privileged to represent the Parish at the special Eucharist Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving held at St Saviours Cathedral, Goulburn, to commemorate the 930 men from this diocese who died during World War 1.

Bible studies were conducted in the Mary Curll room and the installation of the new air conditioner as part of the renovations was most welcome in the warmer months. They will continue through this year and I strongly recommend them to everyone; you WILL be challenged and learn new angles of God's written word.

Congregational social activities were wide-ranging during the period and included:

- the Driver Reviver program at the Muntoonan rest areas,
- the parish 'Garage Sale',
- Operation Christmas Child,
- The Daffodil Tea,
- A couple of concerts,
- Three street stalls,
- Yass Community Christmas carols,
- The first Christmas Day lunch,
- four film nights,
- the Winter Parish dinner and the Parish Vision Dinner.

External activities held on the Campus included the Indigenous program, after-school child support, concerts, Band of Brothers and Circle of Sisters meetings, a part of the Turning Page festival, and some private functions.

This year there will be further regular use of the hall with the pending introduction of the Mainly Music and Coffee and Chat activities, Operation Christmas Child 2019 and the pending elections; others will follow.

Mention must also be made of Rev Judy Heggart's off-Campus pastoral initiatives; a coffee morning each Friday at Thyme To Taste, which she started early this year. This is aimed at offering a social get together to single, mainly older men who have minimal social support bases here in Yass. It has been a joy and a blessing to watch how the five men who are the regular group have developed as a group and individually over the year.

The group complements a similar group that Judy runs for women on Thursday mornings.

During the year, several construction, maintenance and repair activities were conducted, while discussions and supporting paperwork for the sale of the cottage with the Diocese and Council continued.

Works included two major working bees in March and November, and which resulted in a wide range of activities both within and outside the buildings and surrounding grounds.

Following approval of the grant, work commenced on the renovation of the Mary Curll room including the installation of a new kitchenette.

Other major works included the installation of the existing lighting in the church with new LED ones and the lowering of some of the heaters to provide more efficient use and a more pleasant environment.

After much investigation, the microphone system on the lectern will be replaced with a better one shortly.

While much has been achieved on our Campus, more works and working bees will be necessary once the weather gets cooler again this year. I would hope that these may be an opportunity for closer trans-Parish interaction.

Mention must be made of the works undertaken earlier in 2018 by the NSW TAFE Certificate II Construction Pathway Program (SPARK) at Zacs Place, the Community Gardens and in the vicinity of the Columbarium.

This has made a significant change not only to the appearance of these areas but makes movement considerably safer. (See separate report.)

Finally, my thanks go to our hard-working and dedicated clergy for their leadership and example, to all those who step up to perform so cheerfully all those duties the church needs every week and finally to all of you, the Parishioners. It has been an honour and a privilege to serve you in love and fellowship and through you our Living Lord and Saviour.

May I ask you to pray for us to be a Living Parish, for our leaders, our new Bishop, the new PC and the challenges ahead as we now turn towards the new Church Year. Also, pray for each other and that through us all others who do not know of Jesus as their Saviour may have the opportunity to know Him.

To the outgoing Parish Council. My thanks for your unfailing collegiate enthusiasm and wisdom as we wrestled with the nuts and bolts of Parish management in its full range of demands and ever-shifting priorities.

To the incoming PC, my best wishes and prayers that the Spirit will guide you through the months to come.

In conclusion, I look forward joyfully to another Spirit-led year in 2019 as we continue our journey with its challenges, joys and sorrows, but with our trust and faith in our mighty Creator to show us the way ahead for the fulfillment of His plan for the Yass Parish.

Andrew Stackpool, Warden

All Saints Murrumbateman

IN September 2018 our Rector Rev Ken Rampling introduced and conducted a new parishwide program called STRIVING TOGETHER IN FAITH FOR THE GOSPEL. The idea of the program was to deepen individual commitment to Christ and his Mission. Part of this series included a Dinner and later a Ministry Fair which All Saints joined in enthusiastically.

All Saints had a Ministry Fair Stand at St Clements Hall spruiking the All Saints Bible Study activities in the hope of encouraging others to join bible study groups or start new bible studies .Our experience is that as well as studying the bible in a relaxed way there is lots of good fellowship.

At the Fair the Rector had on display for each separate congregation by a wide range of Volunteer Rosters which ended up producing excellent results for All Saints.

This year All Saints decided to erect a new toilet connected to the new Murrumbateman public sewerage system . Plans have been prepared and at the time of preparation of this report we are awaiting Yass Valley Council approval. Funds for the project are already in hand.

All Saints again had a successful Hot Dog tent at the Murrumbateman Field Days. The coordinator this year was Pamela Phillips . As usual the whole congregation plus others worked hard over the two day event.

Our Sunday service time was changed to 10.30 am. This has enabled the Rector to take two Communion services on a Sunday morning Yass followed by Murrumbateman for which the All Saints congregation is very grateful .Thankfully the St Clements congregation cooperated by starting earlier with us a bit later. We are very thankful to Rev Ken for the effort he puts into all the All Saints activities including attending Vestry meetings which have continued regularly. Thanks also to Rev Judy Heggart, Rev Steve Simkus, Rev Steve Neuhaus , Rev Emma Street and Gary Gruber .

Dick Peterswald, Warden

St Mary's Mundoonan

Two services were held at St Mary's during the year, 2018, on the fifth Sunday of the month, with attendees of around 12 people at each service. We have been delighted to welcome parishioners from All Saints Murrumbateman for services this year. A casual social time has been held afterwards at Kaffeinne.

The church building is in quite good repair with some minor cracks on the interior. External paint work will probably require renewing in the next year or so.

The old pine tree stumps at the back of the churchyard have been removed.

In January 2019 the top of one of the remaining pine trees blew down during one of the wild storms. Thank you to Phil and Adrienne for their assistance in removing the branch from the bitumen. SES assessed the tree and in consultation with John, Chris Beck and his team removed the tree completely and tidied up the area. A big thank you to them.

A working bee to repair the fence will need to be held in cooler weather

We are also very grateful to Phil and Adrienne for the use of their power and for Phil keeping the grass mowed.

The next service at St Mary's will be on Sunday 31 March at 11am. If you haven't been to a service out there you are very welcome to come that day.

John Buckmaster Warden

Saint James

Due to the hunger of white ants and the subsequent damage to the floor we had to employ a brilliant carpenter to replace all the damaged bearers and floor boards. He then had to sand the whole floor and Tung Oil the finished job – giving the old church a new lease of life.

We were able to recommence normal services on 26 May, following a rededication service attended by over 60 parishioners, with an average of 10 folk at each service since (5 Communion, 5 Morning Prayers).

We are grateful to all the volunteers who have assisted with mowing over the year and, in particular, wish to acknowledge the generous financial donation from the Manager of the Bowring Hotel.

In recognition of that contribution the congregation enjoyed a wonderful luncheon at the pub after the dedication service.

We hosted a small community carol service in the church grounds with a free sausage sizzle on 10th December which was well attended.

Our thanks are also given for the use of the CWA rooms during the restoration.

This year the challenge will be removing the ageing pine trees in the grounds that are causing an increasing danger.

Bimbi Turner – Warden St. James

Anglican Parish of Yass Valley

Bimbi Turner, Warden

Synod Report

During 2018, three sessions of the 46th Synod were held at the Workers Club in Goulburn.

The 1st (3 March), primarily focused on election of the Episcopal Elections Nomination Committee charged with the selection process of candidates for the vacant position of Bishop of the Diocese of Canberra/Goulburn.

The 2nd (7-9 September), focussed primarily on the Diocese response to the Royal Commission into child sex offences and the state of parishes,

The 3rd (8-10 November), was the electoral synod for the election of our Diocesan Bishop. As you are now aware the Rev Dr Mark Short, CEO of the Bush Church Aid Society, was elected.

Andrew Stackpool

Mission and Ministry

Some of the things we do

During the past year we have continued to maintain services in Parish, due in no small part to the efforts of the Clergy and Lay Ministers who serve you and help me. To Rev. Heggart, Rev. Neuhaus, Rev. Street, Rev. Blythe, Bimbi Turner and Garry Gruber, thank you for your Godly contributions to parish life.

The past year has presented many ministry opportunities and challenges both anticipated and unexpected, including:

- **The family minutes**, which continue to be played several times a day on 100.3 YassFM.
- **The SPARK construction program** for unemployed, which has produced tangible results... of those participants who completed the 2017 and 2018 courses more than half are in full time employment, others have reconnected with study which they had previously abandoned.
- **The Yass High School SRE Teacher** continues to be employed and is teaching Year 7 on a weekly basis.
- **Development of a Pastoral Care team.**
- The **Operation Christmas Child** team packed and collected 416 shoeboxes during 2018
- Growth of parish **bible study groups** in both Yass and Murrumbateman.
- Our partnership with Compassion Australia to host **Curry with a Twist**.
- Joining in with other community groups for **Driver Reviver**
- The re-emergence of a dedicated **Pastoral Care Ministry** under the leadership of Reverend Catherine Blythe.
- The success of the **Christmas Day lunch**.
- Preparations to celebrate **Centenary of the All Saints Memorial Church**.
- **Commencement of Mainly Music**, an outreach to young families with preschool children which began in February 2019.
- Our presence at the 2019 **Yass Show** with an information booth.

Fellowship

We also managed to have some wonderful fellowship during the year, including

- Yass Got Talent night,
- Daffodil Tea,
- the Vision Dinner, and
- Movie Nights.

Many thanks to those who provide and organise refreshments after services, set up, clean-up and washup for our various functions. Your service is appreciated and essential to our health as a fellowship.

Reverend Ken Rampling

Worship Music

As you consider the music in church know that the selection of songs is not a thoughtless activity, and that much prayer and preparation goes into the music used.

I am delighted if you enjoy the songs brought forth, but if it is not your flavour, or you don't know the songs used, take the time to focus on the lyrics – the words are amazing, and that way of worshiping our Lord is as valuable and inspiring as it would be if you had the voice of an angel... In fact as 1 Cor 13:1 tells us

“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.”

I would rather a church full of tone-deaf worshippers than a church full of magnificent singers whose hearts were closed to God!

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and willingness of Sue Gruber and Kerry England who week in and week out join with me to provide the worship in song for services at St Clements. Without them worship would be much emptier! They both take time to prepare during the week, arrive early to service, and use their talents to facilitate your worship. Take the time to thank them and pray for them.

Thanks also to Heather and Mel Bullock who provide live music for worship at All Saints once a month, Helena Painting and Geoff Townsend who play for St James and Rosemary Bear who pumps the organ at Muntoonan when services are held there.

All Saints uses recorded music most weeks: thanks to Frank, Niamh and Dick who play the iPad – that too is a great gift of time and concentration to their congregation.

It would be magnificent to have some additional musicians (and yes, vocalists are musicians!) to join the team to fill out our sound and allow the possibly of giving the musicians some time to worship without leading

Lynette Rampling, Worship Co-ordinator

Jacob's Well Bookshop

Jacob's Well has been in recess this past year.

We continued filling requested orders, carrying a limited stock, and only opening fully for special events. As such it provided a trickle of income for the church.

As part of the Mary Curll room renovations, the bookshop has now moved into this room, and we eagerly anticipate re-opening shortly for regular operations, fully stocked with a lovely and comfortable environment for browsing and conversations

We will need to have volunteers to man the shop – if you are interested, please talk to me.

Lynette Rampling

Steel Strings Singing

As begun in August 2016 every third Monday of the month finds Craig Szabadics from the Vine Church and I in Thomas Eccles Gardens providing an afternoon sing-along with the residents. We have 2 sets of 10 songs and chat with the residents over tea in between sets.

Robyn O'Keefe joins us to man the computer so that the residents can follow along with the words for songs ranging from John Wesley to ABBA and (just about) everything in-between.

We aim primarily to entertain, but also to be Christ's ambassadors both subtly and directly to this valued part of His kingdom.

If you enjoy a good sing-along and chat with folk who have limited opportunity for getting out amongst the community, why not join us?

Lynette Rampling

mainly music

“Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behaviour from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with Him and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn’t love in order to get something from us but to give everything of Himself to us. Love like that.”
Ephesians 5:1-2

During 2018 our Team has worked towards setting up mainly music at St Clements during 2019. The Sessions involve a combination of music and action, providing parents, grandparents, caregivers and the children in their care, a chance to connect with their child through music. Each session also includes snacks for the children and refreshments for the adults. There is a time for the children to play and the adults to chat. The five values of mainly music are Creativity, Connection, Celebration, Generosity and Honour.

After visiting Belconnen mainly music, our team were able to gain a better understanding of how we could run our sessions at St Clements. We organised two Trial sessions on 10th and 17th January, using grandchildren and friends. These sessions went very well and were enjoyed by all who attended. Videos of the sessions have been sent to Head Office for approval, and we hope to commence this new ministry in Term 1, 2019 on Thursday mornings from 9.30 to 11am. Each session will incur a small charge of \$5/family or \$3/child. The sessions are targeted at pre-school age children.

We will be able to advertise this outreach ministry once we receive our final approval. If you have any questions, or if you know of a young family who might benefit from coming to mainly music, please let me know. Any parishioners who might be interested in joining our team would be very welcome. You do not need to be available every week.

A very big thank you to the team, whose positive vibes really made the trial sessions so enjoyable. We are looking forward to starting officially.

The Yass mainly music team would appreciate your prayers as we get ready to begin our sessions during Term 1.

Kerry England, Team Leader

Yass Organic Growers Inc. (aka YOGI, or Yass Community Garden)

The Yass Community Garden was founded 4th July 2011 in the area of church land previously used as the tennis courts.

It's membership currently sits around 20 individuals, families or community groups, with a portion of those actively involved week to week. A few of the current membership have association with the Anglican church.

Although members may be in the garden at any time, we aim on a Sunday afternoon to do work together in the garden, and on the first Friday of each month we gather for an afternoon of drinks and nibbles to admire our efforts.

You might like to consider becoming a member of the garden as a way of reaching out into the community is a pleasurable and productive way.

The SPARK program (Certificate 2 training course in Construction) ran for a second time this past year using the Community Garden and Zac's place as work sites. The course is run in partnership by TAFE NSW and the Southern Region Business Enterprise Centre. It targeted people living within the Yass Valley and NSW surrounding regions.

The SPARK program itself has been hugely beneficial for it's participants. A quick analysis of the statistics from the 2 courses run: Of those participants who completed the course both in 2017 and 2018 more than half are in full time employment, most as a direct result of their involvement in the course. Further to those now fully employed, others have reconnected with study which they had previously abandoned, or have been picking up casual work. Participants in this program is well supported, and the outcomes are real.

Both the Garden and Zac's place were successful in obtaining substantial grants in 2018 allowing some major works to be carried out, much by the SPARK participants.

In relation to this work I must express the heartfelt apologies of the Community Gardeners for the dirt and rubble pile that has remained behind Zac's Place following the 2018 SPARK program... One of the local contractors offered to remove/make use of this material (the option depending on plans for a church yard project), but this has been extensively delayed due to surgery and illness. At this point we would beg your patience as a third SPARK program is due to begin in March. Following the conclusion of that course all material will be removed or used.

Lynette Rampling YOGI Treasurer
