ANNUAL MEETING 2010

Events in the parish during 2010
Merlyn Quaife recital (July) and Women’s breakfast (August).
**VICAR**  The Venerable Dr Bradly Billings  
**ASSISTANT PRIEST**  The Reverend Samuel Morton  
**MARRIAGE MINISTRY COORDINATOR**  Gay Djumas  
**STUDENT MINISTER**  Janet Winfield  
**CHURCH WARDENS**  Vicar's Warden: Hamish Nye  
Wardens: Keith Beecher; Brenda Mouritz  
**VESTRY**  Jane Anderson, John Horan, Gillian Horwood, Ron Moore, John Morgan, Mary Ogilvy  
Carmen Papageorge, Peter Phillips, Vivienne Randall, Michael Sedgley, Rex Williams.  
**LAY REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE**  Brenda Mouritz  
**SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES**  Hamish Nye, John Morgan, Milton Robinson  
**INCUMBENCY COMMITTEE**  Brenda Mouritz, John Horan, Peter Phillips.  
**HONORARY AUDITOR**  Jeffrey Luckins  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR**  Professor Mel Waters  
**ADMINISTRATION**  Sally Robertson, Milton Robinson (Accountant)  
**VERGER**  John Walker  
**KINDERGARTEN**  Baiba Thompson (Director)
Parish of TOORAK Church of ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will be held on 28 November 2010 at 11:30am in the CHURCH.

After prayers, the order of business shall include -

1. The reading of this notice;
2. The Minutes of the previous annual meeting
3. Reception of the electoral roll of the church of the Parish;
4. An annual report by the Incumbent;
5. An annual report on the proceedings of the Vestry and on financial affairs of the Parish by Vestry;
6. The audited accounts of the churchwardens for the year ended 30th September immediately preceding the meeting;
7. A report from the Vestry on the pastoral care, evangelism, community service, and educational programmes of the Parish;
8. A report by the churchwardens on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church of the Parish and the vicarage and other buildings of the Parish;
   a. A report by the Incumbent on the entries in the registers of the Parish for the financial year, including numbers of baptisms, persons received into communicant membership, confirmations, marriages, funerals, Sunday services, acts of communion and other such statistics from the registers as Archbishop in Council determines;
   b. A report by the churchwardens and confirmed by the auditors on Parish assessment for the current financial year as calculated in accordance with the requirements of the Archbishop in Council.
9. The election and appointment of churchwardens and members of the Vestry;
10. The election of auditors;
11. The election of two lay representatives of the Parish Incumbency Committee;
12. Presentation of list of Lay Assistant at Holy Communion.
13. Any other matters of parochial or general church interest.
MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING

St John’s Anglican Church, Toorak
Minutes of the Parish Meeting held in the Church
Sunday 29 November 2009

OPENING PRAYER
Meeting opened in prayer led by Vicar Brad Billings at 11.30 am.

PRESENT
Brad Billings, (Chair), Wardens: Keith Beecher, Brenda Mouritz, John Horan, Vestry Members, Jane Coupland (Secretary to Vestry) and approximately 50 parishioners.

APOLOGIES
Ian Field, Janet Field, Cam Johnston

MINUTES
Approval of minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 23 November 2008 was moved by Brenda Mouritz and seconded by John Horan.

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
Nil

ELECTORAL ROLL
The electoral Roll had been reviewed and had been on display in the church, was checked and confirmed as correct.

REPORTS
The following reports were tabled: Vicar’s report; Finance report.

VICAR’S REPORT
The Vicar’s report was tabled and Brad invited questions and / or comments.

A vote of thanks was given to Brad by Hayden for the Introduction to the Bible course which Brad had recently run in the parish.

FINANCE REPORT
Keith Beecher spoke to the Finance report commencing with a comparison of the accounts for this year compared to previous years. There was a deficit in 2008 and 2009 years owing to the Restoration Appeal shortfall where the Church met the additional costs.

Investment revenue was lower this year due to the global financial crisis. Offerings were the same level as the previous year. Surplus fees were higher this year mainly because in the previous year, the church had been closed for a period of time for the restoration work.

Rental income increased this year and the hall was now being seen as an attractive venue for hire.
Expense items of interest include the power supply to the hall, storm water drains and office costs – mainly printing costs resulting from the Induction booklets.

Keith commented that we rely too heavily on investment income and that the shortfall of capital has to be met from income.

Keith gave thanks to Milton for his time attending to financial matters. This was met with applause from the congregation.

In the questions which followed, Michael asked what the parish was doing to preserve our investments from which we derive income. Keith said that future income will be used to replenish investments and build up our capital. Stella asked who decided on how and where our funds are invested. Keith responded to the question with a discussion of past practice.

Brad acknowledged the work of our Accountant, Milton and gave a vote of thanks to Keith for his report.

Motion that the Finance report be accepted:
Moved by Keith Beecher
Seconded by Hamish Nye

CARRIED

Auditors
Keith moved that Jeffrey Lukin be elected as auditor saying that Jeffrey had attended the audit in an honorary capacity and is willing to do so again. Seconded by Elizabeth.

CARRIED

WARDENS REPORT
Brad spoke to the report.

Motion that the Warden’s report be accepted:
Moved by Brenda Mouritz
Seconded by Hamish Nye

CARRIED

ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Brad advised that there would be a vote for the election of Church Wardens and Members of the Vestry. Brad gave instructions to the congregation on how to complete the ballot paper, namely to mark 2 names and place the ballot paper into the box.

A question was asked regarding the attendance record of Vestry members. This information was not available on the day. Mary moved a motion that the Church Wardens give an estimate of attendance, this was seconded by Charles. Brad called for all in favour, the motion was lost. Carol said that she had attended on all but three occasions.

Nominees were asked to stand so Parishioners could identify them. This was moved by Joyce and seconded by Barbara.

CARRIED

Milton and Sally handed out and collected ballot papers, they were then tallied. John Griffiths scrutinised the ballot papers.

Brad announced his appointment of Hamish Nye as Vicar’s warden.
Church Wardens
The following were elected as Church Wardens:

- Mr Keith Beecher
- Mrs Brenda Mouritz
- Mr Hamish Nye (Vicar’s Warden)

Vestry Members
Brad announced his appointment of two Vestry members:

- Mrs Carmen Papageorge and Ms Vivienne Randall.

The following were elected as Members of Vestry:

- Ms Jane Anderson
- Mr John Horan
- Mrs Gillian Horwood
- Mr Ron Moore
- Mr John Morgan
- Mrs Mary Ogilvy
- Mrs Carmen Papageorge
- Mr Peter Phillips
- Ms Vivienne Randall
- Dr Michael Sedgley
- Mr Rex Williams

Incumbency Committee
The parish requires two lay representatives to the Incumbency Committee. There are two nominations, John Horan and Peter Phillips. They are duly elected. The Church Wardens also elect one of their own to that committee; this will be done in due course.

GENERAL BUSINESS
1. Diana said she had two children doing the pre marriage course and said that her children commented on how wonderful the marriage preparation was. As a parent, Diana continued saying she was very grateful. Many other participants have provided similar feedback. Brad gave a vote of thanks to Gay for her work running the Marriage Preparation course at St John’s.
2. Barbara asked if we could all use our name tags and could we have a regular combined service at St John’s.
3. Keith mentioned that the Parish Assessment, which is a tax on the parish raising funds for the Diocese. This is based on accounts received today. This will increase this year as last year we had a deduction for having an Assistant Priest.
4. Vote of Thanks - Brenda Mouritz, as the outgoing Vicars warden, gave a vote of thanks to Brad praising his leadership and congratulating him on his accomplishments since becoming our vicar earlier this year. Brenda said it had been an honour and a pleasure to watch our Vicar grow and develop in his ministry. We continue to receive positive feedback for his ministry among us. He has coped magnificently with the demands of large scale ceremonies and events at St John’s and we give thanks to him and Karen for such wonderful servants of God. A standing ovation followed. Brad replied thanking Brenda for such generous words; the greatest affirmation received.
5. Ted Mouritz moved a motion asking incoming Wardens and Vestry members to pay attention to cash inflows and examine closely the expense of staff costs. Seconded by Charles.

CARRIED
6. Hayden congratulated Vestry on the new St John’s website, a great job.
7. Dorothy gave a vote of thanks to John Griffiths for the great job he has done in the parish in particular his wisdom, direction and guidance.
8. Joyce gave a vote of thanks for the Restoration Appeal, for the Memorial Gardens and the service last Sunday celebrating our 150th anniversary. The motion was seconded by Keith.

   CARRIED

9. Brad thanked Trevor for his work on the Memorial Gardens.
10. Barbara noted in our Sunday service, we do not always pray for the Ecumenical movement e.g. in intercession prayers. Barbara moved a motion that we pray for the ecumenical movement, seconded by John Horan.

   CARRIED

CLOSED
Meeting closed in prayer.
Conscious that this report will be rather lengthy, and apologizing for this in advance, I’ve sought to highlight some of the really important and significant things by using shaded text. This should help those who perhaps want to get to the weighty matters quickly or skim through looking for the ‘highlights’, although I do hope that all parishioners will take the time to read this report and indeed all of the reports in their entirety, as each represents a very significant investment of time, energy, and resources in service of the parish and its mission on the part of the person or group providing the report.

First, some food for thought from American church consultant Bill Easum:

*Churches grow when they intentionally reach out to people instead of concentrating on their institutional needs. Churches die when they concentrate on their own needs. This is the basic law of congregational life.*

1. Worship

The heart and soul of a parish community is its worship. It is also still the case that the “worship door” is the most important point of entry into our parish, in that most of those who are new to the parish begin by attending a Sunday service. A large and important part of our mission, and a primary goal for us, is then to provide services of worship that are the very best they can be and which are at the same time inclusive and affirming of both the long time worshipper and the first time visitor.

(a) Sunday & midweek services

The 8am Sunday service continues to be well attended, with an average of 20-25 very loyal attenders, although the number often exceeds this. The 10am service continues as a Sung Eucharist with a high degree of input from the parish choir. Attendances have been stable, somewhere between 75 and 100 most Sundays. The 11am service on Thursday continues in the Angel Chapel using the Book of Common Prayer. The service is attended by a small congregation, but continues to provide a place for those who do not or cannot attend on a Sunday morning to continue to worship and receive the sacrament.

In terms of the numbers we report to the Diocese the key figure is the average number who attend each Sunday. Only those attending advertised services (i.e. 8am and 10am worship) are included in this number, not baptisms and marriages etc. that happen to be on a Sunday at other times. The average Sunday attendance, therefore, gives us the most authentic and best indicator of parish health in regards to numbers. Last year the Sunday average was 115. I’m very pleased that this has increased to 128 average attenders throughout the course of this current church year, although I must acknowledge that one very large ‘one off’ Sunday, in the 150th anniversary service in November last year, contributed to this overall increase.

(b) Emmaus: the way of faith

In October the Sunday evening service re-commenced after a long hiatus at 5pm in the Angel Chapel. The form of worship used varies from Evening Prayer, Prayer Praise and Proclamation, and Holy Communion, using resources from the Australian Prayer Book. An important part of the service is the presentation of the Emmaus material. Emmaus provides a gentle introduction to the main tenets, beliefs and practices of the Christian church. I hope the service and the provision of the Emmaus course within it, will provide an ongoing means of Christian formation and discipleship for those within the parish and those beyond it, for those interested in hearing more about the Christian faith and receiving some instruction in it, and as a means of preparation for those presenting a child for Baptism, preparing for Confirmation, or being married in the church.
From next year I believe it will be necessary for us to dedicate one Sunday each month as a “Family Service” or “All Age service”. This will take place on the first Sunday of the month to coincide with the parish barbecue. The purpose will be to draw on our extensive contacts to families with children (baptisms, marriages, schools, kindergarten, Sunday school) with a view to providing something relevant to this age group in the context of a 10am service of worship. I am of the view that we need to do this for several reasons - we don’t currently offer much to attract families and children into the life of the parish, our Sunday school is very small in number recently, we are not retaining many of those who do come to us, and this demographic is well under-represented at St John’s and important to our future. I don’t propose to change the nature of the service as it is (Sung Eucharist) nor the existing choral input and involvement, or to use instruments other than the organ. What I will be suggesting is that these Sundays take on a theme that will hopefully be attractive to the people we are trying to reach. When we have done this in the past (for example the recent Blessing of the Pets), we have indeed attracted significant numbers in this demographic, by giving them a reason and a purpose to come to church. On these Sundays I would anticipate a shorter liturgy and shorter sermon (to accommodate a children’s talk or address), hymns that are well known and easy to sing, and perhaps bringing an altar out to the chancel step so the Eucharist is celebrated in the midst of, or at least close to, the congregation. Children will remain in the service for the duration of the service with the adult/s who brought them to church. A printed order of service would be produced for each service. The first such service will be the Advent family service on December 5th. This will be a ‘pilot’ service and give us a taste of what is intended for first Sunday’s of the month in 2011.

A tentative outline of possible themes for 2011:

Sunday 6th February – “candlemas”
Sunday 6th March – Lent or Transfiguration
Sunday 3rd April – Confirmation
Sunday 1st May – Resurrection and new life
Sunday 5th June – tbc (perhaps a series on three parables)
Sunday 3rd July – tbc
Sunday 7th August – tbc
Sunday 4th September – Spring / Harvest
Sunday 2nd October – Blessing of the pets
Sunday 6th November – All Saints
Sunday 4th December – Advent

2. Pastoral Services

St John’s still has a very significant number of pastoral services and the provision of these services continues to be a large and important part of our mission and ministry. During the course of the year we have sought to implement some strategies for following up and hopefully retaining at least some of this very considerable mission field.

(a) Baptism

Vestry agreed during the year to re-implement the baptism follow up program using a set of cards which are sent on the anniversary of the child’s baptism for five consecutive years. The year four and five cards will include details of the parish children’s ministry program. The cost of the program is approximately $1,000 annually. We receive most year’s between $4000 and $6000 in donations from those bringing a child for baptism, although it is worth noting that donations have begun to increase since we included an envelope marked for this purpose in the information mailed out to parents presenting a child for baptism. Those who
have brought a child for Baptism will also make up a large and important part of the ‘target group’ for the All Age worship services (above).

(b) Marriage

The marriage ministry at St John’s is considerable and the number of couples with which we are in contact is substantial. Keeping in touch with this group is problematic as people at this age tend to be highly transient. A follow up program whereby a card and congratulatory letter is sent on the first anniversary of the marriage has now commenced. In 2011 I will be proposing we again attend the Bride Expo at the Melbourne Exhibition centre, and also consider regular advertising in print publications in addition to our ongoing Google Adwords campaign (online advertising). An annual focus on marriage and relationships will take place on the Sunday nearest St Valentine’s day (14th February) in the context of the 10am service that day. All of those married in St John’s will be invited back to the church on this occasion.

(c) Funerals

Continuing to keep in touch with, and to offer pastoral care to, those with whom we are in contact through the provision of funeral ministry is more complex than for those coming for marriage and baptism. Generally, follow up, if any occurs, is conducted by the clergy, with some being referred to the pastoral care team as may be appropriate. The difficulties here are the highly emotive nature of the ministry, the professional skills needed (lacking even among clergy who are by no means trained bereavement counselors), the reality that a majority of the recipients of the ministry do not live in the parish, and the demand for such services. As a way of meeting this area of need and of inviting in those to whom funeral ministry has been offered, the Sunday nearest to All Souls Day (November 2nd) is to have a focus on the remembrance of the departed. The first such service was on October 31st this year. Those who have passed through a bereavement will be specifically invited to this service. This will enable us to keep in touch at least annually and to remind bereaved families that the church is here for them.

(d) Emmaus: the way of faith

As noted above, the Emmaus course and will be a natural point of entry for those who come across the life of our parish through the provision of one of the pastoral ministries of the church. Part of the pastoral planning and follow up for every such service will include an invitation to Emmaus: the way of faith.

3. Pastoral Care

During the course of the year a pastoral care team has been assembled, comprising the clergy together with Student Minister Janet Winfield and a number of lay people who together are together engaged in a ministry of care to those unable to attend church and to those experiencing particular difficulties. The team has been placed under the leadership of the Assistant Curate, the Revd Samuel Morton and his report contains details of the ministry of this team throughout the course of the year. Pastoral Care is, of course, integral to everything we do as a parish church for we are called to be a caring community, a place and a people of love, compassion, and welcome, and to see others and their needs through the eyes of Christ. As vicar, and pastor, of this community, I have sought to respond to any need of which I become aware, and to make a particular priority of offering care to those in special need, or who are facing especially difficult circumstances, or find themselves housebound, in a nursing home, or hospital. I can only, however, extend this ministry of care and respond to these needs if I know about them – so please do let me know! Furthermore, all parishioners should know that I am always willing to speak to any parishioner on the phone or in person at any time about any matter – my door is always open to the people of St John’s and the invitation to contact me seeking a chat, a visit, or to discuss anything of concern etc. is a standing one. If it is the case I haven’t yet got to visit you in your home, or perhaps not for a long time, I am happy to be reminded of this and to accept an invitation to do so.
4. Staff

There were two very significant farewell’s during the course of the year as Rosemary Jones completed her time in the office after over twenty years of service to St John’s, and David Brown concluded his tenure as Director of Music & Organist after more than ten years in the role. We welcomed a new Assistant Curate, in Samuel Morton, and a Student Minister in Janet Winfield, at the beginning of the year. In August Mel Waters took up the position of Director of Music & Organist. Sally Robertson took on the role of office administrator and vicar’s PA full time, and each of Gay Djumas (marriage ministry), John Walker (verger), and Milton Robinson (accountant) continued in their existing roles. The staff are working together as a team, with meetings of the ministry team weekly at 9am Tuesdays, and of the whole staff team over lunch monthly on the first Tuesday. The parish operation is made all the smoother by the generous contribution of time given by Brenda Mouritz counting the offertory each Monday, Brian Canning who does the banking each Wednesday, Rona Hatfield who administers the baptism follow up card program, and the faithful Ruth Doig who spends each Friday in the office assisting Sally compile the pew slip and any other printing, collating and stapling that needs to be done. We are grateful to the each.

In early October, as I first prepared this report, I wrote this:

For how long we can continue with our present staffing is now a matter of great concern as we have reached the position whereby, in the light of the large deficit budget and consequent financial loss sustained in the last church year together with the reduced number of marriages in particular, the churchwardens and vestry must re-examine the current staffing arrangements with a view to determining what positions can be sustained at their present level.

You now, of course, know the answer. Vestry meeting on October 28th resolved that the parish could not continue to fund deficit budgets of the size projected for the forthcoming year ($80,000) from our capital base, and so made the difficult decision to make the Verger’s position redundant as of 1st February 2011. In the light of our Assistant Curate Sam’s decision to accept an appointment to a neighbouring parish, Vestry further resolved to reduce the Curate’s position to part time up to a maximum of 4 days per week. The Verger’s position will not be replaced and we will now be relying on a team of sessional verger’s to set up for weddings, and on volunteers to ensure the grounds and buildings are kept in a neat and orderly condition. Vestry are working on these arrangements. Commercial cleaners will be engaged to clean the church, hall and offices.

5. Beyond the parish

As you will know, I continue to place a very high priority on being a visible and active presence in the local community, and to ensuring that St John’s continues to be a prominent and active part of the Toorak community. This does mean considerable time and effort expended beyond the parish, however I am of the view that this is both crucial to our mission now and will be in the years to come. In very simple terms, the Christian church at this time of its development and at this stage in its mission has two clear choices – (i) to engage with and become fully involved in the surrounding community or (ii) to withdraw into a sort of monastic enclave preserved for the “true believers”. I am strongly of the view that the first option is our only option for the future and, therefore, our presence in the community and our standing and reputation in the community will be increasingly important in the years to come. This informs my approach to the pastoral services (above) and my willingness to be actively involved in the community in the ways described below:

- St John’s Kindergarten: I act as President of the kindergarten and attend the meetings of the committee, host the information night for new parents, and attend functions and events throughout the year.
- Honorary chaplain to the Heroes Club and RSL sub-branch Toorak: this mainly involves attending Anzac Day and Remembrance Day functions and of course the Remembrance Sunday service in November, it also confers membership of the Heroes Club.
Geelong Grammar School Toorak Campus: the very good relationship between the school and parish continues, I usually attend the frequent services on Monday mornings at St John’s and have a good rapport with the Head of Campus and Chaplains.

St Catherine’s School: I continue on the school council representing St John’s, and am also a member of the Buildings & Properties sub committee; I also attend school celebrations (such as graduation and awards night), and take part in school church services throughout the year.

In addition to this are my commitments to the ecumenical movement in our community and to regular meetings of the local clergy. Ecumenical cooperation is, of course a ministry shared with many others in the parish who serve on the ecumenical council, the opp shop committee and in other ways.

As you know, during the course of the year I was appointed Archdeacon of Stonnington & Glen Eira, and this has resulted in considerable new areas of responsibility. Beyond the usual meetings of the Stonnington clergy deanery, I now also attend meetings of the Glen Eira clergy deanery from time to time, and have numerous occasional responsibilities for the parishes in my area, in particular where problems might arise, where a vacancy occurs, and when a parish is engaged in the development of a new building work or capital program, lease, or property sale or acquisition. I have also represented the regional bishop at services and functions in the archdeaconry. The appointment also meant that I became a member of four new committees (below), each of which meet on a monthly basis, as well as the incumbency committee of any parishes vacant or becoming vacant in my archdeaconry (of which there are two presently):

- Archbishop’s Senior Staff (or “gaiters”)
- Diocesan building committee
- Southern Region Council
- Southern Region staff team

6. Christmas 2010

Looking forward to the busy Christmas season, the pattern of services will be same as in previous years, with the Christmas Nativity that was so successful last year taking place again on Christmas Eve. The details will be widely advertised and made known well in advance.

7. Lent 2011

An exciting new initiative is being planned for Lent 2011 following a meeting between myself and three of my colleagues from neighbouring parishes in the Whitney King room recently. Each of us are keen to provide some opportunities for people in our parishes and beyond to be exposed to, and instructed in, modern methods of reading and understanding the Bible in an interactive way. Four sessions on four consecutive Sundays in Lent 2011 are being planned with St John’s being one venue (the others are Christ Church South Yarra, St George’s Malvern, and St Anselm & St Silas Albert Park). The instructors will include myself together with several Trinity College theologians and scholars including the warden Revd Dr Andrew McGowan. Trinity will also be a partner in this with the four parishes. In each case, the session will culminate with an evening service of worship.

I am delighted also to be welcoming to the parish during the course of 2011, at my invitation and as our guests, both our regional bishop the Rt Revd Paul White, for a Confirmation service on Sunday 3rd April, and our Archbishop the Most Revd Dr Philip Freier, most likely in early November, possibly coinciding with the annual RSL service.

8. The “Mission Action Plan”

During the course of the year Vestry have been examining the various components of a parish Mission Action Plan (or MAP). This is a document that all parishes are being asked to produce as a guide to strategic planning and directions in the future. As part of this process, a survey inviting feedback and responses from
all parishioners will be distributed on the day of the Annual Meeting. The responses to this will be fed into the MAP as it develops.

9. Vale

Since the date of the last Annual Meeting the parish has been saddened by the loss of former and current parishioners in Philippa Bannister, Mervyn Davies, Tina Freeman, Gwyneth Higgerson, Colin Laing, Peg McComas, Arthur Moorshead, Doreen Perkins, Russell Boughton and the Revd Jim Winter. Each made their own contribution to this parish and to our common life and are greatly missed and fondly remembered by those who knew and loved them in life – *may they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

10. On a personal note…

Karen and I and family continue to enjoy living in the vicarage and taking part in parish life, and continue to be very grateful for the ongoing encouragement we receive from you. Karen’s position at Chapelgate medical clinic has become very full time this year. She has been given new responsibilities and is an important member of the staff team there. This has meant she has not been as visible and involved in the parish as she would like. One of our son’s Aaron continues to live in Sunbury and works as a roof tiler, visiting on the weekends. We are about to farewell another from the family home when Scott leaves in January for London to live and work in the UK for a while.

The Venerable Dr Bradly S Billings
Vicar
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AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF VESTRY AND ON FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE PARISH BY VESTRY

Vestry Annual Report for 2009/10

The Vestry has been energetically engaged in the work of the Parish, showing their commitment to their position.

150th anniversary of the church included dedication of significant donor’s plaque and blessing of the refurbished Garden of Remembrance.

During the year, approval has been given for garden improvements under the supervision of Michael Sedgley. This has included major tree works, new plantings and an improved watering system following a comprehensive report from a consulting arborist. A lawn mowing roster of volunteer parishioners is now in place to give the gardener more time to concentrate on actual garden care.

David Brown, our Music Director resigned in June after several years of dedicated service. This included six years as Director of Music plus time as assistant to Thomas Heywood. Advertising and interview process resulted in Professor Mel Waters’s appointment.

Finally a hand rail to the lectern was installed. This was generously donated by two parishioners for whom we are thankful.

Following the resignation of Rosemary Jones after 29 years of service, an office restructure was instigated. After applications for position of Personal Assistant to the Vicar, Sally Robertson was appointed to the full time position.

Gillian Horwood was appointed Recorder to the Planned Giving. There is to be monthly reporting in On Track.

The Kindergarten sought approval from Vestry for application for a Government grant for the playground. The grant was given and the playground refurbishment has happened.

Invited presenters to Vestry included Live Event Streaming and Narcotics Anonymous. Live Event Streaming has been given approval to mount a camera in the church for videoing weddings, baptisms and funerals live to sites nominated and paid for by the families involved. Narcotics Anonymous have been meeting at St John’s for 19 years.

Vestry approved money for a booth at Bridal Expo. This has resulted in 4 confirmed bookings and further interest for other couples.

The Ladies Guild has generously provided all the soft upholstery in the sanctuary and the Angel Chapel for which we are thankful. Pew cushions in the church are gradually being made as donations from parishioners are received. We thank the Ladies Guild for their example for others to donate a cushion. The cost of each cushion is $500.

Approval given for the re introduction of anniversary cards for baptism families.

Vicarage kitchen deposits paid and appliances purchased.
Vestry has been very aware throughout the year of the increasing debt and is taking steps to address the problem.

Vestry member’s attendance until September 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Dec-09</th>
<th>Feb-10</th>
<th>Mar-10</th>
<th>Apr-10</th>
<th>May-10</th>
<th>Jun-10</th>
<th>Jul-10</th>
<th>Aug-10</th>
<th>Sep-10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>Present</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Present</td>
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<td>Present</td>
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<td>Present</td>
<td>Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamish Nye</td>
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<td>Present</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>no meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keith Beecher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brenda Mouritz</td>
<td>Present</td>
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<td>no meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Horan</td>
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<td>Apology</td>
<td>Present</td>
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<td>no meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Ogilvy</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Present</td>
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<td>Present</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>no meeting</td>
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<td>Apology</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Vivianne Randall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rex Williams</td>
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<td>Present</td>
<td>no meeting</td>
<td>Apology</td>
<td>Present</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Brenda Mouritz
Secretary to Vestry 2010
ASSISTANT CURATE

Introduction
My first day of work at St John’s Anglican Church Toorak was Saturday 6th February 2010. Coinciding, it was also my ordination at St Paul’s Cathedral. Looking back on the day, I am very grateful to the parishioners of St John’s for coming to ordination service and for hosting the celebration at Buxton Hall. It was both a memorable day and a great start to the year of ministry.

What I aim to do in this report is to summarise the past year of ministry at St John’s. It will hopefully categorically show the growth of me as a newly ordained clergyman, but also the opportunities to lead certain ministries within the church.

Pastoral Care
At the commencement of the year I was entrusted with oversight of pastoral care. This meant meeting with the pastoral care team, leading the monthly Darnlee nursing home service, organizing the prayer chain and visiting parishioners.

Pastoral Care Team
I was very grateful beginning the year with an established team who was already meeting with parishioners. This year we have met three times; allowing opportunity for sharing, prayer and encouragement. I have been particularly encouraged by the willingness of those in the pastoral care team to serve those under their care. This has not been without sadness and loss, and I am pleased by love shown even at the late stages of life. Thank you to the members of the team: Brad, Gaynor Gould, Barbara Lees, Brenda Mouritz and Carol Simons.

Visitation
A goal at the start of the year was visit the entire parish role. Although I have not completed this task, I am pleased over seventy parishioners, and will continue working towards this goal. Thank you for all those who opened their houses to me so generously. I have enjoyed many cups of tea, biscuits, lunches, breakfasts, dinners and the opportunity to share stories and pray together.

Throughout the year I have regularly visited hospitals, nursing homes and residences for those in particular need. These visits have often included reading of scriptures, prayer, and sometimes Holy Communion.

Darnlee
A joyful part of my month was my opportunity to lead the Darnlee nursing home service on the second Monday of each month. What started out to be a small gathering has now grown into a solid congregation of 15, alongside with some I visit afterwards who are unable to attend the service.

During our services this year we have been studying the gospel of Mark. Since the start of the year I have learnt to speak slower and give simpler and shorter talks. I sense this has improved the time as group and hope to continue in a similar style.

Special thanks to Carol Simons, for her assistance in coordinating the service, Sally Robinson who attended regularly until fulltime employment at St John’s, Janet Winfield for assisting and sharing at the services, and Helen Brown, who faithfully has played piano.

Prayer
Part of the pastoral care portfolio I adopted was the prayer chain. Firstly, thank you to Annette Wilson for previously coordinating this ministry, making it very easy take on board. The prayer chain has continued to operate well this year. It has been disappointing that the chain has grown bigger; nevertheless, I have been encouraged by those who have faithfully prayed throughout the year.
A new initiative started in 2010 was the monthly prayer meeting on a Monday night. The idea was birthed out of an observation that there was a lack of a culture of prayer in the church. Commenced on Monday 8th November, the prayer meeting aim is to re-curb a noticed lack of prayer in the parish. The target of the monthly prayer meeting is foremost parishioners; however, it is my hope that it might offer those on the fringe to be invited into deeper community.

**Preaching**

A great passion of mine is preaching. This year I have had opportunities to preach at least monthly at Sunday services. Before this year, I had never had the opportunity to preach from the lectionary, and having done so for the past 9 months, I feel much more able. I have taken pleasure in getting parishioners to open up the Bible’s during my sermons. I hope this has led to Bibles being opened at home, and deeper learning about God.

I have enjoyed thoroughly the occasions to preach at weddings and funerals. It has been encouraging to hear of people, who came into the church, maybe for the first time, learning something new about God, the Church, or about themselves through my preaching.

A particular privilege during my year was being invited as speaker at the CASYC (Combined Anglican Southern region Youth Camp) in September. At the camp I spoke to about 50 youth and young adults on the topic of “Savouring Jesus.” It was a fun project, and a joy to sow into the next generation of Christians in our region.

**Pastoral Service**

Whenever I mention to colleagues that I am assistant curate at St John’s, Toorak I find most people respond the following, “Isn’t there lots of weddings there?” Or “St John’s; the hatch, match, and dispatch church.” Although we do much more than just pastoral services at St John’s, considerable ministry and learning has occurred in the area of baptisms, weddings and funerals. Notable thanks to Brad who took me through the liturgy in detail and trained me well in leading these services.

**Baptisms**

This year I have had the chance to assist with multiple baptisms, and preside over four baptisms solo. Although I was apprehensive about holding fragile and one month old babies, with time I have become much more comfortable and confident with this service.

**Weddings**

The first half of the year involved many opportunities to participate and learn the elements of a wedding service. This included discussion about the liturgy, attending rehearsals and preaching at a number of weddings. With this experience, I have been able to officiate in four weddings unattended. I now feel very confident in all elements of the weddings; from first interview through to the marriage service.

Particular mention must go to Gay Dumas who allowed me to attend her marriage preparation course. Her expertise and encouragement this year has been highly valued.

**Funerals**

This year I have assisted in numerous funerals, and led five funerals by myself. I have also had the opportunity to participate in a burial and a internment of ashes. It has been a privilege to be able to serve people in their time of grieving. Furthermore, I have had the chance to share the final rites with a parishioner. Although these have been difficult moments, it has grown my competence as cleric.

**Field-Committee**

As a newly ordained minister there are a number of intentional learning strategies that have been put in place for my benefit. On top of formal supervision under Brad, I have been significantly blessed by the field-committee who has met regularly throughout the year for my benefit. Thank you to Carmen Papageorge, Bob Hurst, Liz Weeks, Stella Jongebreur, John Wall and Mary Ogilvy. They have offered much support, encouragement, feedback and wisdom during this year. Special thanks to Carmen who chaired the committee and for her organisation and hospitality.
Conclusion
As I reflect on the year that has been, I am encouraged by the opportunities and growth given by God. Of course there are disappointments; things I would have wished I had done, and things I wished I had done better. But I am nevertheless grateful for the welcome and willingness of the parish to participate in my calling and ministry in this first year.

Sam Morton
Assistant Curate

STUDENT MINISTER
The year has been rich and varied providing many opportunities for participation in the liturgical and pastoral life of the parish, including assisting in numerous baptisms, several funerals and weddings. St John’s has been very welcoming and supportive offering support, prayerful understanding and friendship. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brad for his insightful supervision bringing me patiently and gently into the fabric of Parish life, his negotiation of the pathway ahead at each new turn and also of his careful selection of my field committee. The field committee under the leadership of Sue Lyn Arnold has proven to be a strength and a bolster as the year unfolded where deepening friendships were formed, clarity of insight forthcoming and a helping hand at times of need. I would like to thank Su-lyn Arnold, Joyce Woodroffe, Betty Britten, Jane Anderson and Ted Mouritz for their wisdom and friendship throughout the year as members of this committee.

On going commitments have included: weekly staff meetings, Sunday services, monthly Darnlee services and participation in the wider liturgical and pastoral life of the Parish. This has included, the ministry of the word, several sermons, weekly serving at the Eucharist, presiding over and assisting at the monthly Darnlee service, home visits, fellowship within the parish and the wider ecumenical life of the Toorak churches. The opportunity also arose in the middle of the year to organise an event celebrating the Feast of St Mary as part of the larger outreach program of the Parish. The planning and implementation of this event was also designed to meet the educational requirements as laid down by the Diocese for a 48 hour intensive project. The celebration of the Feast of St Mary would not have been the success it was without the encouragement of Brad, the enthusiastic and practical support of my field committee and other members of the congregation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish of St Johns for their hospitality and friendship during the year and the many opportunities for learning this has provided. I would also like to thank them for their prayerful support and kindnesses following the recent passing of my husband, Edward Murray.

Janet Winfield
MARRIAGE MINISTRY

Pre-Marriage Programs:
I ran 12 Marriage Education and Relationships Skills group courses during this church year, 10 over a weekend, the remaining 2 each over 5 weeknights. In total 99 couples attended a course, 5 more than last year. Approximately one third of all couples attending a group course were being married elsewhere. In addition, 2 couples completed the “prepare-enrich” inventory.

Other

<table>
<thead>
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<th>No:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'09 October</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>'09 November</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>'10 January</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>'10 February</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday Evening: Feb/March</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>'10 April</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>'10 May</td>
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<td>'10 June</td>
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<td>'10 July</td>
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<tr>
<td>'10 Thursday Evening: Aug/Sept</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>'10 August</td>
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<td>'10 September</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare / Enrich</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Professional and Spiritual Development
I attended a number of professional development conferences, seminars and workshops in my capacity as an ASLM and a professional relationships educator.
I continue to be involved with the Marriage and Relationships Educators Association of Australia (MAREAA) on the National Committee with special responsibility for “The Educator” magazine.

Presentations / Talks / Outreach:
- Ordinands, AMS, Mission Groups, Deaneries, MOPS, Mothers’ Union
  - The challenge for the coming year is to further develop this outreach/ministry

Of Special Interest
- this year was the Melbourne Bride Wedding Expo, held 19 & 20 June, 2010 at the Melbourne Convention Centre. It was with real pleasure that Karen and I designed the stall’s layout and although this was a course weekend for me, I was able to attend on Sunday morning. I have made sure that there is no course this coming year.

In conclusion:
This has been another wonderful year. My primary responsibility: to ensure the delivery of a professional standard of marriage education to all couples being married here at St John’s or elsewhere, remains at the heart of my ministry.
I wish to thank Brad for his support. His leadership, vision and energy have been great. I enjoy working with him and I value his encouragement and guidance in the important work of marrying couples. As always, I am grateful to Brenda for her continued support of this ministry and truly appreciate all those little things she does in the background. I am encouraged by the warmth and support of all St John’s people and of the couples themselves. I feel blessed every day as I work in the area of pre-marriage ministry.

Gay Djumas

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
The past year has been one of considerable change for St John’s Music Ministry. At the end of May 2010, David Brown departed after several years’ outstanding service as Director of Music and Organist, to concentrate on his new appointment as Year 12 Co-ordinator at Scotch College.

I took up this position in mid-August. Special thanks to all members of the St John’s Parish Choir, EA Nixon, John Mallinson, Janet Gibbs and Christopher Cook for maintaining the music ministry of our parish through several months of transition.

In the interim, we have farewelled tenor choral scholar Matthew Toogood, and welcomed new tenor William Lennie, alto Anne Vercoe and bass Jeremy Bottomley.

The music ministry at St John’s exists to offer and present the highest standards of musical excellence, to the praise and glory of God. Current musical priorities are to maximise congregational participation in worship and to rebuild the St John’s Parish Choir from a maximum cohort of 12 to a core strength of 16 singers.

The arrival of the aforementioned choral scholars, and ongoing recruitment of experienced additional deputies and augmenting singers, and a range of other strategies will underpin these priorities over the next twelve months.

Professor Mel Waters
Director of Music & Organist

ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICE REPORT
In May this year we farewelled Rosemary Jones after 27 years of hard work and dedication to the St John’s Parish Office. I would like to thank Rosemary for her support and encouragement during the time I have been here; she was a great colleague and still a good friend.

Soon after Rosemary’s departure I was appointed full-time parish administrator/p.a, of which I was very honoured and grateful. Since then, the odd tweaking and minor adjustments (e.g moving desks) have been made to the office, to accommodate a single office-operator.

Of note, this year we have:

- Continued to use the Publisher program, to a large extent, to create flyers, orders of service, invitations and the like, adding a professional touch to what we produce.

- Given thanks to the efforts and hard work of webdesigner Tom O’Dea, as we welcomed a new website for St John’s at the beginning of the year. This web-site is regularly updated and patronised by many, obviously serving its purpose.

- Recently purchased Celebrant Assist software for completing marriage documentation and certificates on-line as opposed to typing them up on the typewriter. A great time-saver and advancement.
Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues; in particular to Gay Djamus for providing office and IT support, to Ruth Doig for her voluntary work on Fridays, and finally to Brad for his leadership, support and encouragement.

Sally Robertson

ST JOHN’S KINDERGARTEN

St John’s kindergarten continues to be a sought after provider of early childhood education with strong enrolments, a lengthy waiting list, and sound financial position.

The kindergarten continues to be led by excellent staff in Baiba and Karen, and by two new extended hours teachers in Alison and Karen. Over the past year the Vicar of the parish has continued as President of the kindergarten and Jane Anderson was appointed as Vestry representative to the committee.

A very strong relationship continues between parish and kindergarten. The vicar attended several functions, hosting a new parents information evening and the annual meeting, as well as family days and art exhibitions. The kindergarten community supported the parish by occupying a table at the trivia night. The kindergarten staff and vicar also attended together a training day organised by the Anglican early childhood network during the course of the year. A major upgrade of the outdoor playground area was undertaken during the course of the year, thanks to a successful application for funding from the federal government scheme.

The kindergarten are always willing to invite the clergy of the parish onto the grounds and to put notices of forthcoming services or events in their newsletter and communication to parents. As Easter and Christmas near the children come into the church for an appropriate story and some teaching on the meaning of the events.

Brad Billings

LADIES GUILD

This year has been very productive and enjoyable for all members. During the year all meetings have been held on Thursday mornings during which we have been preparing items to be sold.

On previous years we have mainly been selling our crafts at the annual fete which was not held this year. Due to this we decided to try holding smaller stalls between church services twice during the year. One during winter to sell mainly knitted woollies and another in December selling Christmas items and small gifts etc. The stall during winter was a great success and we hope we will do as well in December.

The Guild continues to support the charities Dixon House, Anglicare Victoria, AnglicCORD, Prahran Mission and also restoration of the church interior. This support continues to be made possible by the ongoing bequest to Saint John’s Parish Guild left by Ariel Payne

Danny Camp

M&MS

An informal group of women who get together to encourage one another in faith.

We commenced the year with a delightful lunch in Toorak village and held a couple of events during the year including an Enjo Product Demonstration. We had a moving and rewarding afternoon discussing our experiences of our own faith journey over a cup of tea in the Vicarage.

Any woman in the parish who would like to be involved in this group or who has suggestions for future events is warmly invited to contact us or the office – we would love to hear from you!

Jane Coupland and Jane Anderson
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP
The group started in June 2010, meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Fiorini's restaurant in Toorak Village. The two convenors have been Greg Robb and Greg Woodford. The intention is for the group to meet 11 months of the year, omitting January because of the holiday season.

We have had consistent attendance of about 10 men at each meeting with some regular attendees and a group of other men who have come when they have been able. From conversations, there seems to be a desire and willingness to support the group and it seems to fill a hole in the church community. It certainly seems that those men who have come have come out of a desire to enjoy the experience and get to know the other male parishioners better, which, after all, is what a men's fellowship group is about. It's early days for the group, having only met 5 times so far, and collectively we wait to see how the group evolves.

Greg Robb and Greg Woodford

MEDICAL MISSION AUXILIARY
The membership remains the same as in the last two years with Mrs Betty Britten, Miss Millicent Crosby, Mrs Beth Hiscock and myself. With our bequests, stamp collecting and chutney and jam making we were able to present $3,500.00 to the Medical Missions Central Fund this year.

This was a year of great celebration as the Medical Missions CMS Auxiliary was started 90 years ago. Its aim was to share God's love in practical ways and empower missionaries and national colleges. To this end goods were made and packed and sent to various countries where medical equipment and supplies were not available.

However in 2002 a new era began when funding projects replaced sending goods. Now the M.M.A is funding projects in Nepal, Tanzania and Kenya. These cover empowering people with disabilities, providing care for people affected by H.I.V/A.I.D.S, providing scholarships for nurses, medical health care workers, supplying drugs and equipment to hospitals, clinics and Bible Schools and renovating and refurbishing hospitals and clinics as well.

You will be interested to know that the money received last year rebuilt the hall for the nursing students and in our last newsletter included a photograph of the 19 scholarship students all in their pink uniform dresses or pink shirts for the three men.

E M Pyper

St John’s Medical Mission Auxiliary
Year Ending 30 September 2010

Receipts:

Bank Balance as at 1 October 2009 187.72
Harold & Ariel Payne Charitable Trust 1738.28
Sale of marmalade, jams & chutney etc 1590.00
Sale of used stamps 15.00
Bank Interest 3.48 3346.76

3534.48
Less –

**Expenditure:**

To MMA Central Fund -
Harold & Ariel Payne Charitable Trust & Fund Raising 3500.00

Balance at Bank 30 September 2010 $34.48

**M.V Crosby**
Hon.Treasurer

**MORNING TEA**

Our thanks to the volunteers who arranged morning tea/coffee throughout the year in the Guild Room where parishioners and visitors met weekly following the 10.00am Sunday service. This has given us a further opportunity to welcome newcomers and visitors to our parish.

If you would care to attend this very informal gathering at any time you would be most welcome.

Parishioners who wish to assist in this ministry should advise clergy or the parish office and they will be contacted re joining a roster convenient to them.

**Ruth Doig**

**SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING**

This year, the St. John’s Scottish Country Dance Group continued to support the Church with financial donations totalling 2,900.00. $2,000.00 was the annual donation which this year will go towards pew cushions, with an additional $400.00 to the same cause. Another $500.00 was allocated for the new amplification system for the hall.

The Group continues to provide fellowship and exercise for a number of the congregation’s parishioners as well as friends through its two weekly classes. One class meets on a Monday morning at 10.00 am, the other on a Wednesday evening at 8.00 pm.

The year started well for our Wednesday evening class and our Monday morning class, with both classes recording good attendances.

In place of our usual Bring-A-Friend night, we held a Scottish Ceilidh, but owing to bad weather on the night, the attendance was well below our expectations.

As well as attending other Groups’ Socials, the St. John’s Group holds regular exchange nights with the dancers from the neighbouring Ewing Group.

Those who are hooked on Scottish Country Dancing claim there are six GREAT things about it:

1. It is GREAT physical exercise. And if we are to look after our bodies, we need regular physical exercise.
2. It’s GREAT mental exercise. Exercise for the brain is reported to help stave off Alzheimer’s decease.
3. It is GREAT social exercise where everyone mixes in through our dancing.
4. It’s done to GREAT Scottish music.
5. It’s GREAT value for money at only $10 a year membership fee and a $4.00 per week class fee.
6. And finally, it’s GREAT fun.
The Group is indebted to and indeed grateful for the ongoing support it receives from the Vicar, Archdeacon Dr Brad Billings, the Verger, John Walker, Office Administrator, Sally Robertson and the congregation.

Parishioners who would like to be part of the fun that is Scottish Country Dancing are welcome to join either the Monday morning class or the Wednesday evening class, or both classes.

For more information about Scottish Country Dancing, telephone Graham Stanley on 9592 9441.

Graham Stanley

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sally Robertson, Clive Wright and Jane Anderson have run Sunday School in pairs during 2010. We have had a great year and the children have given some great responses to our questions and have grown in God’s Knowledge. It is great when you hear them say that they know that story. Whether they heard it at school or their parents read it to them. We also have well-known songs playing in the background, with the children responding to them by singing or tapping their feet

The children vary from three years to 11 years; some weeks we have had only two attending, other weeks up to nine which is very encouraging. The material we use follows the church lectionary, which we feel is important as the parents and children can follow the service together.

Jane Anderson, Clive Wright and Sally Robertson

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
This year we covered most of the grades in some shape or form with Gay Djumas and myself representing St Johns together with Lei Nie Tan and Margaret Oduhlani from The Assembly of God. After many years of faithful service Jenny Stewardson [TUC] was farewelled from our ranks. Next year Sam Morton should be able to join our ranks however more teachers are always needed for this rewarding witness to our youth. The Easter service was held at TUC and the Christmas service will be held at St Peters on Wednesday December 1 at 9.30.

Clive Wright

BELL RINGERS
This year, we have been pleased to have Luke Billings, who passed his bell ringing exam in May, added to our ranks. Sophie Carter has had to spend the year in the country completing her medical studies so our team of Antony Kung, Hamish Morgan, Jenny Stokes and myself has been kept very busy. We have rung for the 10am services throughout the year and for 54 weddings. We would be very pleased and encouraged to have some more recruits for the team. Knowledge of music is not a necessity.

Our thanks go to our verger John Walker who replaces the light bulbs on our corridor stair and who helped cope with the flood caused by a violent storm and for ably replacing our stair rope which broke unexpectedly one wedding afternoon.

We also thank Sally Robertson for organising our roster, which is no easy task, so calmly and efficiently.

E M Pyper
Tower Captain.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE COURSE
The Introduction to the Bible course was offered again this year, following the great success of last year’s course which was attended by between 20 and 30 each week. This year’s course was more modest, being held on a Thursday evening, and began well with around 12 participants. By the time we reached the New
Testament part of the course the numbers had thinned out into single figures. Those who attended found the course very worthwhile and (hopefully) learned much. It is pleasing that around 50 parishioners have now participated in this initiative and in doing so gained instruction in the origins, composition, and nature of the Old and New Testaments.

Brad Billings

EMMAUS: THE WAY OF FAITH

The Christian formation program *Emmaus: the way of faith* was introduced into parish life late in the year in the context of the restored Sunday evening service of worship at 5pm. The Emmaus program is a user friendly and gentle introduction to Christian beliefs and practices, suitable for those who know nothing and for those who have attended church for many years. The program introduces a theme progressively, week by week, and invites discussion on it form those present. A take away sheet reminds participants of the content of the instruction and invites further reflection on it. Participants may enter the program at any time and come and go as suits their needs, schedule and wishes. Emmaus has been introduced into parish life to provide an ongoing place for Christian formation for our own parishioners, for those beyond the parish who may be interested in exploring and knowing more about Christian faith, and to provide formal instruction in the faith for those coming to us for baptism, confirmation, and marriage.

Brad Billings

ST JOHN’S CULTURAL PROGRAM

Our Vision - to have St John’s known as a vibrant community and a centre for music and cultural events.

St John’s has a reputation for music making of the highest standard and for many years we have hosted a variety of musical and cultural events. This year saw the introduction of a formal Cultural Program consisting of public lectures, a museum visit, an afternoon tour, recitals and an end of year gala concert. In all, some 400 people participated and we raised in excess of $500 for St John’s (at the time of writing the final proceeds from the concert are not known and so may be higher). We have made new friends who we hope will return to St John’s and have forged new relationships with presenters that we hope to nurture over the coming years.

We commenced the program in February with an organ recital by Thomas Heywood – a much loved and admired member of the St John’s community. Our Vicar, Brad Billings gave an interesting and informative talk on Life and Death in Ancient Rome where we learned about how people lived at the time of the early Church. Brad returned to the podium later in the year to talk on the writings and life of the poet and priest John Donne.

In the Young Performers spot this year were several talented university students – a violinist, pianist and two emerging opera singers. Thank you to Brenda Mouritz for showing us the musicians of the future. Professor Frank Sear returned to talk on the fortifications of crusader castles while Dr Andrew Jamieson reported on his excavations in the Upper Euphrates and gave a guided tour of the Potter Museum at Melbourne University. Professor Miles Lewis talked on the great mansions of Toorak and led us on a merry afternoon visiting five properties in Toorak including two private residences.

Merlyn Quaife gave a delightful recital inspired by her pilgrimage along the Santiago de Compostela trail, thank you to Michael Sedgley for this moving and reflective experience. We brought the year to an end with a gala concert of Gilbert & Sullivan songs by the Savoy Opera Company.

Most events included refreshments giving people time to discover our beautiful church and enjoy fellowship within our St John’s community. The program for 2011 will be available shortly. Anyone who would like to present or be involved in running the events is warmly invited to contact the committee – we would love to hear from you!

The St John’s Cultural Program Committee - Jane Coupland, Brenda Mouritz and Mel Waters
MISSION AWARENESS
In mid-January of this year, the annual summer conference of C.M.S. Victoria (“Summer under the Son”), was held at Phillip Island.

As Mission Secretary I attended. The Keynote Speaker this year was Sri Lankan born Rev. Kanishka Raffel. His insightful exposition of the amazing stories of Christian transformation in Acts 9-15 challenged us all to be more passionate about telling the unreached peoples of the world the Good News of God’s love for us in Jesus. It also challenges us to be more passionate about reaching out to people here right on our doorstep.

Our C.M.S. Link Missionaries, Andrew and Helen, and their two daughters, are well and busy. They are very appreciative of our prayers and other support for them. They pray regularly for the people of St. John’s. Helen has been doing some teaching at a local school.

As most will be aware, I have recently returned from almost six months in Africa, much of that time being in Zambia. From the middle of next year I have been accepted to start a new three year term as a C.M.S. Affiliate (formerly known as Associate). I shall be leaving again at the end of March next year for another six months in Africa. This past year was most exciting and rewarding, with many accepting Jesus as their Lord and Saviour after the showing of the Jesus Film in remote villages. There were many new congregations in villages where we had shown the film last year and those to whom bibles were given were very grateful.

I have been most encouraged by those who are supportive by prayer and finance of this ministry in Africa among the poorest and often forgotten rural village people. The Zambians are very aware that the gift of individual bibles, the showing of the Jesus Film and the gift of soccer balls to village churches come to them from individual Christians in far-off Melbourne, Australia. They are faithful in praying for the donors of the bibles, and grateful that other Christians from far away want to share with them the good news of God’s love for them in Jesus.

At the recent Trivia Night over $8,000 was raised which will be distributed among Mission Organizations. They are National Home Mission Fund, Bush Church Aid, Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, Anglicord, Australian Board of Mission, Church Missionary Society and Anglicare.

It is pleasing that people have been responsive and interested in mission outside the parish, as well as reaching out to those nearby.

Liz Hawthorne
Mission Secretary.

STEWARDSHIP
Vestry decided to re-institute recording of Planned Giving. This commenced after the Stewardship campaign in May, 2010.

Parishioners and visitors contribute in a variety of ways. Some Parishioners pledge a given amount per week/month/year and some give regularly without pledging. The advantage of pledging for the Parish is that there is a more reliable figure for the Annual Budget and expenditure. The number of envelope users has declined to around 40, and there has been a corresponding increase in giving via ADF and direct transfer (both of which are fee-free for the donor and St John’s).

Sadly, our Planned Giving total so far since May has not reached its target which, of course, has a negative effect on Parish expenditure. We hope this will balance out in the remaining months.

Gillian Horwood
Recorder
CATERING GUILD
This year has been fairly quiet for the Catering Guild. We catered for two funerals including Philippa Bannister’s who was a former member. Shirley Goldsworthy invited us to cater for her book launch in Buxton Hall. The Southern Regional Council visited in March for which we provided a three course meal in the kindergarten. My thanks to Betty Britten, Gillian Horwood, Jenny Williams and Rona Hatfield who are always willing hands.
Brenda Mouritz

TOORAK ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT
St John’s representatives on the Toorak Ecumenical Council are the Vicar, Milton Robinson – treasurer, Gillian Horwood and Brenda Mouritz – secretary.

The activities of the Council include regular clergy meetings, the Op Shop, Food for Friends, Lenten Studies, Christian Education at Toorak primary, World Day of Prayer and Prayers for Christian Unity. These are actively supported by the four churches, St Peter’s, the Swedish church, and Toorak Uniting.

- The Op Shop is an amazing place in that it is run entirely by volunteers and last year distributed $55,000.00 to charities nominated by St John’s.
- The World Day of Prayer was held this year at St John’s. Elizabeth Hawthorne was guest speaker.
- Food for Friends continues to be a yearly focus in our supermarkets at Christmas. $50,000 worth of grocery items were sent to agencies across Melbourne. This happens due to those who volunteer a couple of hours of their time to hand out flyers at the supermarkets.
- The Lenten Studies are preceded by a shared meal. The Revd. Dr Andrew McGowan was greatly enjoyed by all.
- RE in schools – Clive Wright and Gay Djumas – needs more to volunteer to teach. Church services are held at Easter and Christmas.
- Prayers for Christian Unity are held on the last Thursday of each month on a church rotation.
- Combined church services are held during the year, Advent, Lent and Pentecost

We thank all who support this vital ecumenical movement and give thanks for the prayers that are offered weekly in the four churches.
Brenda Mouritz

SYNOD
During the course of the year elections were called for parish representatives to the 50th Synod of the Diocese of Melbourne. The Synod, a bit like a ‘church parliament’, continues for three years. The clergy are members of Synod, and in addition are parish representatives made up or 2 or 3 lay members from every parish in the Diocese. St John’s representatives are Milton Robinson, Hamish Nye, and John Morgan. Synod met this year from October 6th – 9th. One of the most important decisions taken was an enthusiastic backing of the Archbishop’s vision and directions statement, and the establishment of a pilot program for parish growth. The November issue of TMA and the Diocesan web site (www.melbourne.anglican.com.au) have full details of the proceedings of this year’s Synod.
Brad Billings
RESTORATION APPEAL
The Restoration Appeal remains open at the National Trust. Any donations made via the National Trust are tax-deductible for the donor. The Parish is able to claim these donations to reimburse the payments made by the Parish to complete the works whose total exceeded the sum raised via the National Trust. In the twelve months from 1 July, 2009 to 30 June, 2010, the National Trust received just over $30,000 of donations and has received $1200 since then. The Parish has claimed the bulk of this amount, with our current balance at the National Trust of nearly $4500.

Gillian Horwood
Acting Treasurer, Restoration Appeal

FLORAL GUILD
The Floral Guild has only two people, Jenny Ricketson and myself. The flowers are looked after weekly with loving care. We do try to keep fresh flowers in the Angel Chapel, when possible. The flowers are changed weekly and colours are matched to different weeks. If anyone would like to offer to water the flowers from time to time during the week, it would be very helpful. Maybe they could be called a Flower Fairy. We plan to have a soiree next March, to raise money for Anglicare. We change florists from time to time to give opportunity to local shops.

The Song of the Holly Fairy

O, I am green in Winter-time
When other trees are brown;
Of all the trees (So saith the rhyme)
    The holly bears the crown.
December days are drawing near
When I shall come to town,
And carol-boys go singing clear
Of all the trees (O hush and hear!)
    The holly bears the crown!

For who so well-beloved and merry
    As the scarlet Holly Berry?

From: Flower Fairies of the Winter
By Cicely Mary Barker
Clare Beecher

SACRISTAN
The chalices and napery are laundered weekly, washed, starched and ironed. The chalices are washed thoroughly and polished weekly. Communion wafers are prepared and counted to assist the vicar with his administration of Communion.

Clare Beecher
A REPORT BY THE CHURCHWARDENS ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF
THE CHURCH, VICARAGE, OTHER PARISH BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.

An Inspection of the Church property and grounds was conducted by wardens Hamish Nye, Brenda Mouritz and Keith Beecher on 22nd September 2010.

The last inspection was conducted in September 2009.

Vicarage

Notes:

• The vicarage underwent general maintenance during the interregnum including painting, general cleaning and steam cleaning of carpets. The land to the rear of the vicarage received a layer of crushed stone to suppress weeds in the area beneath the large gum tree. Gutters were cleaned July 2010.
• The vicarage kitchen is currently being refurbished as was therefore not considered in the annual inspection.
• Vicar reported no areas of concern.

Areas of concern:

• Some small markings to the walls in the hall are present.
• Carpet is dirty in places but does not appear permanent. Otherwise is in good condition.
• The central bathroom is dated but serviceable and might be considered for future renovation.

Hall complex

Notes:

• In the last year the wheelchair ramp at the South entrance (outside the Guild room) was replaced.
• Wardens were restricted in their ability to assess gutters and plumbing.

Areas of concern:

• Door handle loose on West facing door (main door). New handles are required
• West entrance (main entrance) steps require non slip tape to be reapplied.
• Light fittings (chandeliers) are dirty and in need of a clean.
• Ceiling curtains need to be cleaned (debris has collected at the bottom of the curtains)
• Kitchen light is missing light cover
• Kitchen is in need of silicon sealant where the bench top meets the wall tiles.
• Guild room is in need of painting notably below the chair rail.
• Guild room kitchenette requires silicon sealant to be applied where bench surface meets the wall tiles.
• There is a gutter leak on the North side of the Hall complex outside the Vicar’s office. (evidenced by deteriorated eaves)
• A new seat is required for the Men’s restroom.

Church Building

Notes:

• A restoration of the church was undertaken in 2007-09.

Areas of concern:

• Wall clocks in the choir room and the vestry do not work and need replacing. This have apparently be non-functional for 10 years.
• Brass Lectern requires polishing.
• Light bulb in the narthex is blown and needs replacing.
• Heaters do not work
• The library is currently being used for storage and should be tidied.
• The room occupied by the Hill Organ (Organ Room) is in need of a paint. There is also significant evidence of moisture possibly as a result of rising damp. It appears as though the restoration overlooked this section of the building.
• There is a fire extinguisher housed within the Organ room that has been overlooked for inspection since 1996.
• Pointing above the Allan Spowersan window has deteriorated (possibly due to movement?)
• There is evidence of a small leak below the Rose window in the Angle Chapel on the parquetry floor.

Church Grounds, paths and roads

Notes:

• The refurbishment of the kindergarten playground is currently under construction by virtue of state grant and due for completion shortly.
• In the last year the vestry acted upon the recommendation of an arborist report commissioned by the vestry to remove a tree (Pohutukawa) and certain branches or the elms within the grounds of the church.
• In the last year repainting of the parking bays and driveway was undertaken
• The refurbishment of the memorial garden on the north side of the church was completed in the same period.
• General garden planting was undertaken under the direction of Michael Sedgley (vestryman in charge of garden and gardener liaison). This included planting out of Camilla Sasanqua along the Clendon Rd boundary; the replacement of two diosma with box hedge at the West Porch; planting of gardenias in the planters aside the Hall entrance.
• Drains were serviced on 27/9/2010 (see diagram attached)

Areas of concern:

• Parking space is restricted and regular kindergarten traffic presents a hazard.
• Grease trap latches have rusted.
• General large tree health with particular note of the pine in front of the vicarage and elms. Suggestion that mulching around the base of such trees should be undertaken.
• Poor health of azalea bushes at rear of church has been noted.

Other notes / comments

• Wardens have noted the need to catalogue and photograph communion vessels and collection plates. This might also be extended to artwork and other significant items
• The privacy of the Vicar’s residence is compromised from the church driveway. A suggestion is that this might be solved by construction of a fence.

INSPECTION REPORT VERGERS RESIDENCE AUGUST 2010

An Inspection of the Vergers Flat was conducted by Hamish Nye and Ron Moore and accompanied by John Walker on 29th August 2010. The last inspection was conducted in 2005 by Debra Moore. As you will see there are a number of items throughout this report that require immediate attention. Report is to be read with reference to photographs attached

• Outside
  o Rear timber gate is rotten, has previously been braced and is no longer operational
• Laundry
  Light fitting has melted, switch and wiring is suspect and could be fire hazard
• Kitchen
  o Kitchen is old and dated and requires attention
  o Vinyl is lifting - minor
  o Does not have exhaust fan
  o Insufficient power points – piggy back fridge/ microwave/toaster, extension leads runs from kitchen to Yvonnes work room.
  o Laminate is chipped and lifting off the bench top
  o No fire extinguisher / fire blanket………weren’t visible
  o Requires painting
  o Knobs missing off draws and cupboards
  o Tiles splash back/ needs attention
• Entry Stair Case
  o Carpet worn badly worn and is threadbare in certain areas, appears carpet beetle may be partial cause as this is clearly apparent in the corners.
  o Structural Cracking – requires filling prior to painting but not a significant issue.
  o Plaster chipped on door jamb
• Main Living Room
  o Structural cracking - requires filling prior to painting but not a significant issue.
  o Carpet thread bare and in sections coming apart on the seam
  o Wall paper peeling off
  o Unable to open windows (x2)
  o Requires painting and plaster work (with wallpaper to be removed in order to paint)
• Bathroom
- Vanity Basin needs repairs
- Vinyl is lifting on the edges - floor
- Laminate bench top affected by water – needs silicone
- Mould on ceiling, John has previously sanded the ceiling and repainted but it reoccurs, has also treated it
- Insufficient ventilation – fan into ceiling / not external exhaust

• Spare Room /Yvonne’s work room
  o Carpet thread bare in sections
  o One power point (currently using an extension lead from the kitchen for additional power requirements)
  o Requires painting
  o Structural cracking

• Scot’s Bedroom
  o Carpet is thread bare and needs replacing.
  o Has fine structural cracking - minor
  o Paint is peeling from walls and ceiling and is in need of plaster filling and painting

• Master Bedroom
  o carpet needs replacing
  o Dampness in corner of ceiling, mould obvious
  o Requires painting
  o Curtain track has pulled out from the wall and requires remounting or replacement.

• In general
  o Each bedroom only has one power point
  o No fly screens are fitted
  o Windows cannot be opened - some
  o Cooling in summer - no air-conditioning
  o Smoke alarms fitted
  o Plumbing appears to be O.K
  o Verger is concerned if fire broke out they have no escape, as only escape is from stair well. The question raised if the fire came from the hall they would be trapped! – Has the church documented evacuation plan for the verger and his family. He was advised to climb out onto the kinder roof in case this happened…what then?

Hamish Nye /Ron Moore

Hamish Nye  Keith Beecher  Brenda Mouritz
Vicar’s Warden  Peoples Warden  Peoples Warden
Treasurer