

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 25th February 2024 at 10:30am
Annual Reports & Financial Statements
for the year ended 31st December 2023

CLERGY

Rector: Rev'd Selina McMahon
Clergy with Permission to Officiate: Rev'd Dianne Leitch, Rev'd Simon Arok,
Rev'd Elizabeth Chol, Rev'd Julie Craig-Leaves
Assistant Priest: Rev'd Lorraine Lynch
Deacon: Rev'd Michele Knight

PARISH COUNCIL

Rector's Warden: Tony Brett
People's Wardens: Christofer Montgomery, Ross Windsor
Parish Nominators: Christofer Montgomery, Ross Windsor, Leanne Ferguson
Synod Representatives: Leanne Ferguson, Desmond Hunt
Councillors: Francis Norku, Malcolm Ferguson, Fionn Griegg
Sue Buchanan, Keith Gibson, Stephen Morris
Treasurer: Kylie Cleeland

PARISH OFFICE

Office Manager: Susan Rea
Administration Assistant: Christine Taylor

PARISH APPOINTMENTS

Parish Auditor:
Choir Director: N/A

ST PAUL'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024 COMPILED REPORTS

REPORTS	PAGE
Rectors Report	1
Wardens Report	2
Deacons/Pastoral Care Report	4
South Sudanese Congregation Report	5
Parish Safety Report	6
St Paul's Op Shop Report	7
Food Ministry Report	7
Anglican Mothers Union Australia Report - St Paul's Ipswich Branch	8
COWS (Coffee on Wednesdays)	9
Three C Group Report (Crafts, Connections, Causes)	10
Historic Records Team Report	11
St Paul's Craft Group Report	12
Little Church Garden Report	12
Christian Religious Instruction Report	13
Music Report	14
Catering Group Report	16
Men's Fellowship Breakfast	16
Saturday Gardening Group	17
Property Report	17
Budget Report	21
Auditors Report (Awaiting Finalisation)	

RECTOR'S REPORT

By Rev'd. Selina McMahon, Rector

As my time here at St. Paul's draws to a close it's good to be able to bring to you a very positive report secure in the knowledge that I leave St. Paul's in good hands, and that it has a very secure future.

It has been good to see a number of new initiatives throughout the year. These have, to a large extent, been driven by the laity who have stepped up to the mark and asked if they might take on roles without the clergy needing to cajole them. I am particularly indebted to Keith Gibson who took the initiative and, with the help of Chris Montgomery, is developing an alternative contemporary service. It's in this willingness of people to try new ideas, supported by the clergy and Church Council, that the future of St. Paul's lies.

Our musical capacity continues to go from strength to strength. The advent lessons and carols was a particular joy this year and we are fortunate that so many talented musicians have found St. Paul's to be a home. The members of the reformed choir and the prolific organists enhance and lift our worship and I thank each one who has contributed.

The clergy have been a source of unwavering support. The Rev'd Shelley Knight keeps operating at her usual speed (flat out) and has been a source of emotional and practical support over the years. In addition, it has been good to welcome The Rev'd Brenda Davis to the team. Looking specifically after the baptism candidates and their families is a major role in this parish where we regularly have 70 baptisms per year. The Rev'd Lorraine Lynch, has stepped up to the mark in making The Rev'd Stephen Monsiegnur's departure as seamless as possible. She brings the same enthusiasm and freshness to St. Thomas' as well as St. Paul's and it is difficult to think that she will make anything other than a success of all that she undertakes.

Now to my regular statement (you know, the one I make every year): the greatest resource that this parish has are its people. Each and every one of you. Without exception. Without you this church would not be a church – it would be an empty historical relic. You are the lifeblood of this church. You drive it.

The visioning day held in July this year was very well attended by members of both churches and it was good to see everyone working together to come up with new and imaginative ways to improve our ministry to everyone. I hope that those visions will be taken forward and will strengthen the two parishes. In addition, it has been good to see the suggestions for the refurbishment of the parish hall. This is an exciting venture and one which, I am sure, will appeal to any aspiring rector to seize eagerly and to support wholeheartedly. Coupled with the movement on bringing our IT up to scratch across the whole site means that St. Paul's is truly moving forward.

This year, the work of the parish council has seen some high-level conversations regarding how best to utilize the generous bequests we have received over the years. We have considered means of realizing true growth from the bequests whilst still making them work for the intention that our benefactors had in mind for us. I commend each and every member of parish council to you for their sterling work in this complex sphere and I also encourage you to consider whether the time has come for you to take a place on this august body. New people lead to new ideas. You may just have the idea that sparks a sea-change in the way we do things for the better, so ask the question, "Is being a member of church council a role that God is calling me to?"

The Office is the engine room of the parish. Without the dedicated efforts of Susan and Chris, the parish would have sunk a long time ago. Whether it be taking hall bookings, liaising with members of the public who want to have a quick look at the church, or simply ensuring that the rector delivers the Bailiwick on time, they are an absolute dream to work with and are a formidable team.

In a parish of this size there is always the danger of omitting a name. Can I assure you that every person who does anything for this parish is valuable, treasured and receives my unending thanks. Whether you fill the oil in the sanctuary lamps, mow the lawns, fold pew sheets, help with the food ministry, help in the op shop or support centre, paint the office, assist with the gardening either here or at Basin Pocket, etc. I offer you my thanks because you keep St. Paul's alive.

The Future

There are big plans for St. Paul's. You've seen some of them in the proposals for the redevelopment of the hall. There are others which, at this present time are nothing more than ideas – but every plan starts with an imaginative idea. Some of those ideas come from the parish council but some come from the person in the pew (the initial inspiration behind the Little Church Garden at Basin Pocket came from a parishioner who watched a program on television). If you have an idea – don't keep it to yourself: share it. And then we make it happen.

Blessings for the future.

Rev'd. Selina McMahon

Rector

WARDENS' REPORT

By Tony Brett (Rectors Warden), Christofer Montgomery and Ross Windsor (Peoples Warden)

As always, it has been an honour and a privilege to serve the parish as wardens during 2023. We say it every year, but as we reflect at the end of every year and prepare for the year ahead, it remains true. And it is equally true that we could not operate nearly as effectively without a dedicated and enthusiastic Parish Council and a highly skilled and dedicated Treasurer. And we were blessed once again this year to have been backed up by a talented and wise team, including a superb Office Manager, **Susan Rea**, very ably assisted by **Christine Taylor**, a supportive Rector, and enthusiastic working groups. We'd also like to remind you as you are likely reading this report ahead of the AGM meeting itself, that all positions are up for re-election. We encourage you to consider carefully and prayerfully whom you like to see fill those positions for the year/s ahead.

Where are we currently at and what has happened over the last year? As always, there's an awful lot going on at St Paul's. You have much more detailed reports about activities and groups over the last twelve months, but here's our overall take on the year that was.

Numbers at our regular services appear to be reasonably stable at about 60-70 on a regular Sunday morning eucharist and it has also been encouraging to see not only new faces in the pews joining us this year, but active involvement from younger members of our congregation. **Keith Gibson** has recently inaugurated an additional fortnightly contemporary service on a Sunday evening, and he reports a steady congregation of about 32 people, that is about half our Sunday morning attendance. Monthly Sunday Evensong attracts about half that number again. It is encouraging to see the support being given to services that are novel and in addition to our usual worship offerings. It is also encouraging to note that **Keith** and **Fionn Greig** are our newest and, as it happens, youngest, **Liturgical Assistants**. Watch out for Keith and Fionn, they are enthusiastic, talented, and experienced. No pressure, just saying.

Of course, all our activities rely heavily on **Volunteers** for their success and to maintain their momentum, and to all of you who volunteer in whatever capacity, whether it be organising morning tea, gardening, the Op Shop, organising and maintaining the alter, playing the organ, the support centre, painting, other odd jobs like collecting the hymn numbers, tidying up, catering, generally making yourselves useful for any matter at all, we say a very big thank you. We trust and hope that you

are gaining as much benefit from your effort as the rest of us do. We appreciate you! And talking of, here's a shoutout to our non-stipendiary Deacons, **Shelley Knight** and **Brenda Davis**. Shelley, especially, has over the years taken a special interest and responsibility for pastoral visitation at St Paul's. We recognise, and want to acknowledge very gratefully with you, the work that Shelley puts in that is additional to her full time paid pastoral care at Villa Maria.

As last year saw the very welcome return of the **Quilt Show**, so it returned this year, and what a show it was, congratulations to all who were involved. and the **Proms** was very much enjoyed as we were able to welcome once again the orchestra, choirs, and soloists. Congratulations to **Verna and Des Hunt** for the Quilt Show and to **Grantley Chaplin and company**, including our estimable **MC, the Rector with the Gavel**, for the Proms, and to all their hardworking volunteers at both events. We very much look forward to seeing much more of the same this year. These events are something of a highlight every year, and provide important, enjoyable, and fun points of contact with the wider community. And hats off to **Tim Cleeland** and his team of willing and talented volunteers for organising **Carols on the Lawn** at Christmas, a fun and enjoyable evening. It's fast becoming a very welcome tradition. As a parish, we are committed to providing a nurturing and developmental environment for our "apprentice adults", including the **Kids Time with God** ministry and opportunities for our teens, who are children no more and rapidly becoming young adults. We will continue to look for opportunities to provide our young adults with meaningful experiences in which they may explore their understanding about, and a relational faith in, a God who is excited about them and wants good things for them.

Des and Verna Hunt have taken up the reins of the **Op Shop**, as well as coordinating the Quilt Show, and it continues to grow from strength to strength, as the reports indicate. These two activities alone have provided much of our income over the year, and that is no mean feat, certainly something to be celebrated, thankful for and certainly **inspired by**. This year also sees improved access at the front door for the Op Shop. Thanks to **Mal Ferguson** for organising and overseeing this project.

The Food Ministry continued on this year, and it is heartening to see the community that is growing around this essential activity and the momentum that has developed. As a community we can be justifiably proud of what is being achieved here and the difference that it continues to make in the wider community.

Many of you will have noticed the produce often available at the main entrance to church. **Greg Thomson** and his colleagues at the **Basin Pocket Community Garden** are going great guns, turning this block and its church hall into an asset that is attracting some local attention and support. Look for their report in this booklet for greater detail about what they are about, their achievements, their plans for the coming year and what opportunities there are for you to become involved.

On matters of **maintenance** and the **Church Hall**, **Greg Thomson, Peter Taylor, Pat Comben, Foley Matthews and Mal Ferguson**, the **Thursday morning Gardening Team** and the **informal gardens maintenance team** have put in many hours, and it has been truly appreciated. On behalf of all of you, we say thank you. On the hall renovations, particularly, most will have seen and voted on the 3 proposals for the redevelopment. Of these, Option 2 appears to be the most popular. Next stage is to gather some costings and consult to plan our next steps, the first of which will be to install solar panels on the roof of the building. And so begins a major project whose time has finally arrived.

Last year we talked about Wi-Fi and this year coming also seems to be the time for its arrival at St Paul's. Site surveys have recently been conducted and quotes have been received for a service that will provide opportunities for increased security and access to Internet connectivity within the main buildings on site. Mature Wi-Fi also provides an opportunity for developing the electronic signage that have been the subject of much discussion.

And on security, we have all noticed an improvement in security around the church grounds generally as we have engaged a local security firm to undertake patrols around the buildings. We plan to maintain that patrol for the foreseeable future, with regular reviews for progress.

Talking of **Clergy**, appreciation goes to the Rev. **Selina McMahon**, who has just left us to take up the position of Rainbow Outreach Coordinator and Canon at St John's Cathedral. Congratulations on your appointment, Selina. Our Assistant Priest, Rev. **Lorraine Lynch**, whom we share with St Thomas's, has taken on much responsibility with Rev. Sel's departure, especially as we enter a period of *inter-regnum* and the appointment of a locum. Lorraine's responsibilities and workload were already formidable and become more so at the present time. As wardens, we encourage you to uphold Rev. Lorraine in prayer as she navigates her part-time role at the church, and her other responsibilities as she continues her studies and supports growth in others. Support, also, the **Parish Nominators** as they begin the work of finding a permanent replacement for Rev. Selina, and especially at this time, **Bishop Cam** as he searches for a locum to temporarily take up the reins. Also, our precious Deacons **Shelly Knight**, and **Brenda Davis**.

Reverend Sel's farewell service saw us join with the congregation of St Thomas' for a very welcome joint service. It was a privilege to share LA responsibilities that morning with Lesley Brigs from St Thomas', and to see readers from St Thomas' join us at the lectern. As we move forward into the period of *inter-regnum*, we recognise that this will be an arrangement that affects both parishes and, as wardens we look forward to the opportunities for greater involvement between the two church communities. Over the last couple of years, the wardens from St Paul's and St Thomas' have met regularly to discuss matters of mutual interest and ways to enrich our experience as local sister Anglican communities. The Visioning Day held this year held great promise for both parishes and it was great to see representative from both discussing ways to progress. These discussions continue and we encourage you all to look for ways to increase our fellowship to our mutual benefit and the advancement of God's Kingdom.

With the departure of our Rector, where are we headed this year? In lots of ways our way forward is intriguingly uncertain, we peer through the veil darkly, as it were. But we have come a long way as a community, and we have so much more to achieve. The possibilities are intriguing, and the outlook is of course eternally bright. Our Parish nominators will have a very busy time ahead of them this year as they represent the interests of our parish in the search for a new local shepherd. Your views will certainly be sought, and we again encourage you to commit the search, and your Nominators, in your prayers.

We welcome new Parish Councillors as we say farewell with gratitude to those who are leaving; and we will welcome at least one new Warden as Tony seeks to spend more time engaged in other priorities. In any case, we say thank you for the year that was and look forward to the year that will be.

DEACON'S/PASTORAL CARE REPORT

By Rev'd Michele Knight

It has been an interesting year, with many highlights and blessings. My role in the Parish has been mainly that of supporting our Priests, liturgically and I hope personally. I also compile a booklet weekly which is used to take Home Communion by Extension to our people who are not able to come to church. However, I see my primary role in the Parish as that of Pastoral Care. I don't do this alone, in fact at the moment, I'm not carrying the greatest burden. This has fallen to Jane Zinn and Rev'd Lorraine Lynch. Their ministry to those in our community who ask for support and care has manifested itself in many ways – pastoral visits, pastoral interventions, taking Communion by extension to their homes, meeting regularly for tea and coffee, support people through personal crises, terminal illnesses and simply walking alongside people in their grief, as well as in their times of joy. I would like to personally thank them both for their amazing ministry of care and concern for all our folk. The numbers are quite staggering. On a conservative count there have been more than 320 pastoral visits/interventions undertaken to support over 84 people. This is a VERY conservative estimate only as even those we try to record our visits/ interventions into a database, I know there are many that get missed and are not documented, as well so many conversations that just 'happen' and are not

recorded. Added to these are the many calls for prayers, anointing and we have responded to from our community, hospitals and the Hospice. Rev'd Lorraine, in particular, has responded faithfully to many of these calls. I also have responded to calls from the hospitals and the Hospice. The role of Pastoral Care does not necessarily end at the close of the working day, and can be, and often is, a 24/7 ministry. I would also like to thank Susan for entering our data in the Pastoral Database. This helps us to be able to see where we are supporting folk and perhaps even where the gaps are.

Additional to the above, Rev'd Lorraine regularly takes Holy Communion to our local Aged Care Facilities, Brassall, Bundaleer and St Mary's, while I look after Villa Maria. Jane also regularly visits Bundaleer, Infin8 and Riverview, taking with her Communion by Extension and providing pastoral care for our parishioners now living in those facilities.

Although Jane, Lorraine and I have the majority of these visits, there have others, such as Mal and Leanne Ferguson, Des and Verna Hunt, Greg and Diane Thompson, as well as members of the MU who have pastorally cared for those who have needed support during the year. I know that many of you support each other and walk beside your church family as well. These we may never hear about, but I take this opportunity to thank you all deeply for all you do and for the care you give so freely.

On a sideways note – I would also like to thank Pam Duncan, and her husband, for their ministry in collecting, sorting and taking our recyclables to the Containers for Change Program. This has earned almost \$500 for the parish this year.

Unfortunately, we often find out about a need for someone after they have been in hospital or after an event in their lives which has been difficult for them. If you know of anyone who might be struggling, or you notice anyone who has not been in church for a while, please let us know (I would rather be told several times, than to not be told at all that one of our folk are going through some issue or concern in their lives). We will always treat any discussion confidentially and will make the appropriate approach to seek out how we can support people.

I pray that the coming year will be a blessed one for all our people, that we will grow in love and service, and I ask that you keep us in your prayers as well,

In Peace always, Shelley

REPORT FOR SOUTH SUDANESE CONGREGATION

By Atem Ajang (Jacob) Nuer, Assistant Lay Minister

On behalf of South Sudanese Congregation Council at St Paul Church Parish in Ipswich, we would like to acknowledge St. Pauls Parish Administration for their support and assistance throughout the year. They have been very open to us since we came to St Pauls eleven years ago. Our council managing would like to express its appreciation of the supervision it has received and give thanks for the generosity support. also extended to us. We take this opportunity to wish all a happy and prosperous New Year 2024. Because of your provisions and collaboration to overcome the challenges of a year, our Council believes it will get well as soon.

Our special thanks go to **Rev Selina McMahon** for your kindly support last year, and **Rev Lorraine Lynch** priest. And **Deacon Michele Knight** and Warden **Leanne Ferguson** all church leaders. We would like to recognise the exceptional service given to us by both Secretaries **Susan Rea** and **Chris Taylor**. Their sympathetic collaboration with all our members to ensure that bookings for hall and church hire all are went well is greatly appreciated. While there is still some way to go, we thank all St Pauls for the way we've been welcomed and look forward to when the two congregations are considered combined. We have greatly appreciated the visits and counsel of Bishop Cameron to both congregations at St. Pauls. And we thank St. Paul Anglican church for great honour to welcoming Bishop **Zechariah Manyok Biar** and Bishop **Daniel Duot Kuer** for their church visiting in Australia. Last year Thank goes to **Selina McMahon** for her support of our prayer meetings during the year 2023.

Equally, we give thanks for the encouragement and leadership of Rev **Simon Goch Arok**, Rev **Elizabeth Adol Chol** and Rev **Racheal Nyanlueth Adut** within the South Sudanese congregation. Our gratitude is extended to all members of the Sudanese Council who have worked tirelessly during this last year.

Apart from the clergy, we would like to thank the church wardens and their spouses for all the great work you have contributed toward our members at St. Pauls Church. We hope this year will be better than last year. Hopefully, this year we will gain back our traditional Christmas march at the end of this year 2024.

We thank St. Paul parish for their support and encouragement last year. As South Sudanese, we have lost one person at our Dinka congregation at St Paul church, due to sickness and accident occur. But in God name, we give our condolences to their family. And we thank St, Paul parish for the service and offer the hall hire to us. thankful to **Mal Ferguson** for maintenance service to us since we come to St. Paul up to Now.

Accomplishments / Happenings for this year for the South Sudan Congregation.

In the South Sudan congregation, there was little activity within the church we did together, church meeting and youth activities. Also, there are 100 peoples took Holy Communion during 2023. Also, there were 13 children been blessed or dedicated during the year but no baptisms for children for last four to five year. The attendance of the South Sudanese congregation was approximately 900 or less than that for the year.

On the other hand, we thank, Bishop **Daniel Deng Abot** is always valued for his listening, wisdom, and advice. Together with **Bishop Cameron** we have a remarkable pair to whom we can turn when there is a need.

In closing, while the efforts of our clergy were recognised earlier in the report, the work of **Peter Ayii Atem** and **Mary Yar Arok Biowei** as council chairman **Peter Mabior Ajang**, mother union leader, **Martha Angeth Dau**, and Thanks to **Paul Deng Monychol** for translating English to Dinka language during the combined church services and operating our system during the church prayer. Your work was well done and made for easy understanding of the message for the Dinka audience. Thank Pau Deng.

Jacob Atem Ajang Nuer

PARISH SAFETY REPORT

By Greg Thomson, Safety Officer

This year every parish volunteer will be required to undergo refresher course of safety training.

Obtained a new safety ramp for accessibility to hall.

The exit door via car park requires to be always accessible and always kept clear. This is constantly having to be cleared.

A new stainless-steel handle was installed on the ladies carpark toilets.

Greg Thomson
Parish Safety Co-Ordinator

ST PAULS OP SHOP REPORT

By Verna Hunt, SPOS Coordinator

On behalf of the Committee and Volunteers of St. Paul's Op Shop I have pleasure in presenting the Op Shop report for 2023.

In lots of ways the Op Shop looks after itself as our volunteers have mostly been with us for many years, which is great for me as I took over as coordinator at the beginning of the year. As coordinator, one of my main tasks is filling spots when a volunteer is unavailable. Fortunately, we have a number of volunteers who are willing to come in with little notice and for this I am very grateful.

I must thank everyone who donate goods for without you we would have nothing to provide to our customers. Ipswich Assist has donated many brand-new clothes. It is amazing at the number of items donated which still have their price tag.

Our customers come from all walks of life, and most are happy to chat with our volunteers. It is pleasing to get to know customers who regularly attend. We do get asked for particular items and if possible, we can find the item in the donated items which are awaiting pricing or have not been put out for display.

Volunteer meetings are held throughout the year, and these help the smooth running of the shop. We are fortunate to have clergy visits and get together celebrating birthdays.

I would like to thank the grounds people for their assistance whenever asked. Some of these are amongst our volunteers. The office staff have always been willing to assist in any way that they can.

Our year finished with a Christmas get together with the grounds volunteers that was held at the Ipswich Country Club. In recognising the efforts of the volunteers in raising over \$88,000, parish council subsidised the cost of each attendee. I thank the council for the subsidy and the recognition given.

The Op Shop is looking forward to 2024 in serving the people of Ipswich and other places as well as the ongoing friendship of the volunteers.

Verna Hunt
Coordinator.

FOOD MINISTRY REPORT

By Annette Isager, Food Ministry Coordinator

The Ipswich Anglican Food Ministry has grown to contain six teams of five or six workers. Each team has a coordinator responsible for coordinating the supply and delivery of food. Meals are usually light and include fruit and drinks. Drinks are provided by Rosies and a book exchange is managed by Red Cross volunteers. Bakery products are delivered and distributed too.

In August the volunteers had a meal to celebrate their fourth anniversary. The volunteers come from many places and have been very reliable and hard working. They are often generous and help provide food. It is always encouraged to have expenses reimbursed.

Our Christmas meal was well attended and went well. We received several donations and the entire cost was covered by donations.

Many thanks to all coordinators, volunteers and supporters. The work we do is known and respected.

Annette Isager.

By Leanne Ferguson, AMUA Branch Vice President

The Branch office bearers, elected at our Oct 2022 AGM were as follows: President: Vacant; Vice Presidents: Wendy McMahon & Leanne Ferguson; Secretary: Leanne Ferguson Treasurer: Rev Selina McMahon; Prayer and Spirituality Co-ordinator: Velda Chaplin; and Overseas Links co-ordinators: Margaret Hertweck (Nova Scotia and St Margaret's Ipswich England) and Diane Thomson (Zimbabwe).

The year's activities commenced with the co-ordination of a collection of items to donate to Zephyr Education Inc to assist the children of women fleeing domestic violence. Branch members were well supported by St Paul's parishioners and many bags of items were again provided for this cause.

Our 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence was observed with a special prayer and candle lighting Service in St Paul's. Members then set up an educational display entitled "The Souls of Our Shoes", which told the individual real-life stories of people who had experienced gender-based violence in their lives. This proved an effective tool. A Christmas Tree of Hope was again erected, featuring prayers for affected families. We then adjourned to Char'd Restaurant at Booval for a pre-Christmas lunch to conclude 2022.

We commenced 2023 in January with an executive planning meeting producing an interesting and diverse program of events, based around the year's theme of "Transformation-Now". It was a joy to welcome two new members to our branch to start the year- Lesley Hingston, from North Ipswich and Coralie Dart from All Saints Booval, both of whom had been MU members in former parishes.

In March, members supported the World Day of Prayer Service hosted by St Thomas's North Ipswich Anglican Church. This was an ecumenical event attended by representatives of the five central Ipswich churches. The service was written by the women of Taiwan to the theme of "I have heard about Your Faith" based on Ephesians 1:15-19. For the Parish Mothering Sunday service on Sunday 19th March, Vice President Wendy led the intercessions and branch members provided Simnel Cake. This year, Prayer Squares were distributed. These had been knitted by branch members and special thanks go to those with very industrious fingers. A retiring collection raised \$390 supporting the AMUA target project of "Disaster and Climate Change Management in the Pacific". We concluded the month with our Wave of Prayer Service on Fri 24th followed by a "Bring a Friend" morning tea, with Vice President Leanne sharing humorous video clips, poems and stories on the theme of families.

Diocesan Lone Member Coordinator Marjory Fieldus joined us on our annual excursion to Laidley for our Lone Members morning tea on Apr 21st and our branch meeting in May commenced with a prayer service, with intentional intercessions for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence.

Our annual Overseas and Northern Outreach Fundraiser lunch on Friday 16th June was supported by members, parishioners and neighbouring churches. During this event, special membership anniversaries were noted with Diane Thomson and Rev Selina McMahon receiving ten-year service scrolls from Diocesan President Jenny Bullock. It had been planned to present Velda Chaplin with her special 50-year membership badge and certificate, but sadly, Velda was unwell and unable to attend. We welcomed Heather Turner from the Mission to Seafarers as our guest speaker for the day. Heather gave a very informative talk about the work of the mission. She was presented with several large bags of scarves, clothes, and other knitted items courtesy of AMUA members, and the Leichhardt Community Centre, who had donated 224 knitted beanies to our cause. The event raised \$979.60 for our ONO projects.

Our July Quiet Morning was led by Rev Selina McMahon, who chose the Samaritan Woman at the Well, as the theme for the morning's reflection. It was a challenging but beautiful morning spent in contemplation of the restorative power and healing grace of our Creator God. Also in July, members supported the students of West Moreton Anglican College's musical theatre production of West Side

Story with an outing for a matinee at the College. All were enthusiastic about the gifts and talents of our younger people.

Mary Sumner Day observations included specific intentions for MU during the preceding Sunday Parish Service, with a retiring collection for Anglicare Chaplaincy raising \$350. On Wed 9th Aug, Mary Sumner Day, Rev Lorraine Lynch, assistant minister of St Paul's, led a moving Holy Communion service to commemorate the life of our MU founder. Branch members, parishioners and guests from neighbouring churches worshipped together and following morning tea, listened to Rev Lorraine give a very powerful talk, highlighting the transformative power of God's love in her own life and how she moved from a troubled teen with an addiction to becoming an Anglican Priest. All then adjourned to the hall for a light two course lunch, to celebrate our 116th Branch Birthday. A great deal of fellowship and joy was generated with much positive feedback about the day.

We concluded Aug activities on Fri 18th, with a service "The World around Us", with the creation story of Genesis as the reading for reflection. Following the service members were challenged by an activity involving origami which focused the group on prayers for relationships in our lives that needed changing.

September was a quieter month. An AMUA display was set up for our St Paul's Open Day during Ipswich's Galvanized Festival of Heritage. On our meeting day, Diane led a service, on Christian Discipleship, before engaging members in showing and talking about a family heirloom as a catalyst for a discussion as to how we share the value of our faith with our family members.

The branch was represented at all Diocesan AMUA meetings and events including the Annual General Meeting hosted by St Barnabas church Sunnybank, the May Country Council at Biggera Waters, Gold Coast, the August Country Council Meeting in Maryborough and the Lady Day Service at St John's Cathedral. We were also represented at the Provincial Conference held in Mackay.

The collation of Fresh Start Baskets for the Anglicare Homelessness Service was continued, and we extend grateful thanks to Diane and Greg Thomson for undertaking this task. Thanks, are also extended, to Rev Selina for her encouragement and spiritual input, to Grantley Chaplin for kindly playing for our services, to parish friends who regularly turn up to events and generously support our projects and most importantly to our members for their generosity in supporting all that we have done throughout the year and for being brave enough to take on new and different ways to be "Mothers Union" in our local branch.

Leanne Ferguson (Vice President)

COWS (COFFEE ON WEDNESDAYS)

By Jane Caldwell

Each First Wednesday of the month we extended the hospitality of Ipswich Anglican Parish to the community by providing a free morning tea.

Whilst our number of volunteers and regular guests has declined in the past 12 months our mission to draw parishioners and newcomers into the church has been successful. Anne Maria Falvey, well known to many for her work with Rosie's and volunteering, has assisted and encouraged me to keep going despite low numbers.

We believe that if only one person in need of a cup of tea and a friendly face walks into the church unexpectedly, then it's been worthwhile. Each month we are pleased to welcome someone who just wandered in when they have seen the church open.

COWs (Coffee on Wednesdays) is simply Jesus in action. We have referred people to other services as required and have gently invited them to make contact with our Clergy or attend a St Paul's Church Service for fellowship and worship if that is what they are seeking.

There is only a small cost to St Paul's for coffee and tea making. The cakes and biscuits are donated.

We welcome anyone interested in volunteering or just attending to help us showcase St. Paul's hospitality and history.

Best wishes
Jane Caldwell

THREE C GROUP REPORT (CARDS, CONNECTIONS, CAUSES)

By Leanne Ferguson, Coordinator

Our little group has continued to meet for yet another year in the Support Centre. In addition to creating and sending all of our usual cards to baptism families (first anniversary and Christmas), the bereaved (sympathy, first anniversary and Christmas) and our home based parishioners (Easter and Christmas) we produced two newsletters to keep our home based members informed of the life of their parish. We include lots of photos in these and receive positive feedback from recipients. If you know of parishioners whom you believe would appreciate this form of contact, please let us know. Currently we send them to parishioners on the home communion list as well as those people we know to be in care homes.

We introduced three new groups to the card ministry by creating a Christmas card and small gift for the Food Ministry clients, a Christmas Card for all the Kids Time with God attendees and a small thank you card to attach to a small gift for all the Food ministry volunteers including the Red Cross and Rosies volunteers with whom we work.

In these small ways we try to maintain connections with those not currently involved in regular parish life or with whom we have had contact throughout the year.

In conjunction with the Historic record group we also co-ordinated the white cross display for ANZAC day. Although a very simple display, it has a very powerful impact. People stopped and expressed their appreciation when the crosses were being erected, others made contact with the parish to express their thanks, particularly those who found the names of family members on display. We hope to continue with this display and build upon it in the future.

In talking of the future, we are proposing a change in this next year. It will be 20 years in April 2024 since we formally opened the refurbished building with the name of "The Support Centre". Across that time the activities conducted have changed significantly. Currently three different groups meet in the centre- our little card making group, the Archival/Historic records group and an AMUA activity group. Consequently we feel the name of the building and the connotations of the name do not accurately reflect the work done by the volunteers that meet in the building. We also believe that others could be encouraged to meet in the space on different days, thereby making better use of this Parish resource.

We shall be submitting a proposal to Parish Council that we formally close "The Support Centre" and following an internal reorganisation of two rooms and some external maintenance, that we rebrand the building. We will be proposing the name of "The Annexe". We feel that this name simply defines it as a space rather than reflecting the activities conducted in the building. Watch this space, God is leading us into an exciting future. May His blessings be upon all that we do.

Leanne Ferguson on behalf of the Cards, Connections and Causes group.

HISTORICAL RECORDS TEAM REPORT

By Historic Records Team

The Archival and Historical Records Team has two main responsibilities. Firstly, we catalogue and preserve official Parish records, required under the Canons to be kept for various time limits. Secondly, we receive, catalogue and store items pertaining to the Historical Collection. These include all works that are part of, or closely associated with, parish life (e.g. special service booklet, newsletters) as well as items given by parishioners and others (such as photographs of Church events) which enrich our understanding of the history of the Church. Managing and caring for all of this material – much of which is unique and irreplaceable – is a permanent responsibility for the Parish.

We would like to start this report, by paying tribute to Margaret Cameron, a parishioner and original member of the Archival and Historical Records team, who died during the year. Prior to, and following our 150th Anniversary, Margaret co-ordinated a team that began the process of documenting our collection. She personally gave considerable time to sifting through the collection, notating and recording the items and enthused others to take ownership of the process of maintaining the collection for posterity. We are greatly indebted to her for her passion and efforts. Vale Margaret.

During the year the team has:

- Researched our records for various people and provided information to queries. One of the queries related to a person in England asking if we had information on her grandfather – an assistant priest from 1898 to 1900.
- Provided research and assistance for a book being written on St Pauls.
- Provided items for a display to accompany a talk on “Chasing Our Past – Revealing the History of St Paul’s Ipswich” hosted by the Ipswich City Council Library and held in the Ipswich City Council Administrative building on 24 October 2023.
- Provided handouts about the church for visitors during the Spark festival mid-year .
- Provided items and prepared information boards for a display for the Church open day on Saturday 9th September.
- Visited Diocesan Archives and handed over items for their catalogue that had been donated to St Pauls over the years but were about events at St John’s Cathedral and past Diocesan Bishops.
- Organised access to digitalised historic records from St Paul’s Parish held for storage by Diocesan Archives.
- Continued to sort old Financial Records and Correspondence into what needs to be kept or destroyed and prepared the necessary paperwork this entails. This process is conducted in strict accordance with Diocesan Archival instructions for the management of this material. They are gradually decreasing the 30 years backlog of records.
- Scanned and catalogued various Archival and Historical photos and documents.

Our collection continues to grow as we have been offered items from descendants of former parishioners.

If anyone would like to see the current historical collection or become a member of the team that manages the collection, please let us know. New helpers are always welcome.

Archival and Historical Team

ST PAUL'S CRAFT GROUP REPORT

By Verna Hunt, Convenor

Our four-day fair which formed a part of the Galvanised Festival was a wonderful success both socially for our parishioners and visitors as well as financially. It was tremendous to see how our parish family came together with our supporter friends.

Our craft stall was again on the Office veranda, the Quilt Show Café was in the carport and the Op Shop was in the foyer with their books in the conference room. These venues worked perfectly. Layout changes happened inside the church with the Queensland Challenge Quilts moved to the northern wall of the nave. On the southern wall was a Christmas display. The Blessed Sacrament Chapel hosted a display from Lowood Art Textile teacher Kerry Lee Hetherington who also had a display of some of the work from her textile art students from Lowood High School while the New Guinea Martyrs' Chapel hosted the Ipswich Woodworkers display. The Spinners and Weavers had their display on the choir stall risers.

Special thanks to Kylie from Kaela's Patch for all of her help and attending every day as well as the days before setup and for pulldown after. I would like to also thank my friends from Woven Threads who manned our craft stall. Also, a very special thank you to the members of Blended Threads who kindly displayed a number of their wonderful quilts. Our setup team did a wonderful job in hanging the quilts and then afterwards returning the church to its normal appearance. The kitchen was manned by our fantastic parishioners and friends. Visitors were warmly welcomed at the door by our entry and raffle sales team. Our thanks go to all the wonderful people who made the quilts and those visitors from far and wide who came to the church.

The raffle quilt was kindly made by Lorraine Hunter of the Gold Coast and donated by Verna Hunt. The lucky winner was Julie Lee and Lisa Moon won the second prize of 2 bottles of wine donated by Mal and Leanne Ferguson and a gift voucher donated by Kaela's Patch.

Approximately \$10,630 has been raised for parish funds which is remarkable considering the economic climate. This has been a tremendous result, and I must thank all who contributed.

Verna Hunt
Convenor

LITTLE CHURCH GARDEN REPORT

By Pat Comben, Coordinator

The 2023 year saw a continued but slowing development of the garden.

Weather and climate were against us for much of the year. The early dry weather prevented much work being done. Then came the rains!

However, we are now back into production. Pumpkins, lettuce, sweet potatoes and passion fruit vines are growing well. Produce has been given to assist Sunday Food ministry a number of times. Other produce has been placed at the back of the church for the congregation.

The local community continues to show interest and is contributing in various ways to the success of the garden, including the donation of food scraps, garden waste and manure for compost. Two thriving worm farms are now in place.

Max cut down two of the trees which have been shedding their leaves into adjoining gutters. We greatly appreciate his expertise and willingness to assist in this way.

A generous donation of an outdoor table setting, chairs and a barbecue from Lyn and Len Johnson was accepted with great appreciation and have provided a much-needed amenity to the garden. Similarly gifts of a shade shed and garden shed are warmly acknowledged and appreciated. We will shortly need a working bee to reconstruct the garden shed in the Little Church Garden. Could any potential volunteers please see Greg, Foley or Pat.

Our wish list:

- **Water tank,**
- **Watering system**
- **More raised garden beds**
- **More volunteers (even to simply water on a roster)**
- **Some financial assistance to build beds and provide soil.**

Generally, a garden working bee, dependent on the weather, is held on the third Saturday afternoon of the month, at 2:00pm. Of course, much gardening is done between times. If you'd like to join the team, please let us know.

We would like to thank all who have contributed to the garden this year and thank Foley and Greg in particular, for their energy and commitment in taking the garden forward.

Pat Comben

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION REPORT

By Pat Comben

This report may well be fairly sketchy as I have not previously made a parish report on CRI.

The loss from both instructing and co-ordinating roles last year of Jane Zinn who had overseen CRI, with efficiency and aplomb, for two decades was a great loss. Her advice and guidance to me has been greatly appreciated.

As is often the case the amount of Jane's labour was only appreciated with her resignation. I am sure all members of our community will join me in expressing our appreciation for Jane's work and devoted Christian ministry.

In the past two years the number of people from our Ipswich parishes volunteering as CRI instructors seems to have declined. I can only report with certainty on Churchill State School. I took grade five and had a maximum attendance of 30.

Other Anglican registered instructors in Ipswich schools for 2023 were (to the best of my knowledge) were:

Judy Spetch, from All Saints Booval, was a dedicated colleague as an instructor at Churchill State School as well as at Central State School.

Dorothy Prasser (St Thomas) Coordinator and instructor-Tivoli and instructor Brassall State Schools.

I have enjoyed the experience, particularly when students revealed matters of faith which had meaning for themselves.

Sadly I cannot continue to be an instructor at this time because of a number of other pressures on me. I will consider continuing later in the year when some of the burdens (which are not light) are removed.

If you feel moved and are able and willing to assist in this ministry please let me, Jane Zinn or the office know. Good training and resources are provided.

CRI at the school culminated with a concert by Dan Warlow for the whole school and was well received by students and instructors.

Pat Comben

MUSIC REPORT

By Grantley Chaplin, Chairman Organ Committee

Accredited St Paul's Organists

Since last year, there have been new organists attending St Paul's and the number of accredited organists has grown. They are as follows:

- ✚ Dr Ross Windsor – Chief Organist
- ✚ Rev Dr Gemma Dashwood
- ✚ Dr Grantley Chaplin
- ✚ Mrs Glenys Taylor
- ✚ Mr Francis Norku
- ✚ Mr Dan Power
- ✚ Mr Steven Morris
- ✚ Mr Jacob Fowler - Organ Scholar for 2023-2024

The position of "organ scholar" is a very important function for St Paul's Church as church organists are a diminishing "race". Our Chief Organist is to be complimented for making time to tutor Jacob.

2023 Proms at St Paul's

The Fifth Annual St Paul's Proms was held on Saturday, 26th August 2023. This event is now established as a regular music event in Ipswich. The program comprised the following:

- ✚ Brisbane City Pops Orchestra
- ✚ Baritone Soloist Daniel Smerdon
- ✚ Soprano Soloist Katie Stenzel
- ✚ West Moreton Anglican College Chorale
- ✚ Choristers from St Paul's Church Ipswich
- ✚ Choristers from St Thomas' Church Toowong

One special item to start the second half of the program was the 'Fanfare for Ipswich' composed by Michael Wheldon and arranged by Neil Flottmann.

Sponsorship: Valuable sponsorship was received from the Limestone Dental Group, West Moreton Anglican College and Jennifer Howard MP, Shayne Newmann MP and St. Paul's Anglican Church. Letters of request for Sponsorship Support were sent to a large number of Ipswich businesses which all failed to yield positive responses. So clearly, new Sponsorship Targets for 2024 need to be identified!

Mistress of Ceremonies: Selina McMahon

Conductor: Mr Neil Flottman

Catering: St Paul's Catering Group

Program and Liquor: Mr Mal Ferguson

Attendance: There were 145 On-line bookings and 11 Door Ticket sales. The paying patrons just only filled the central two rows of the Nave with the two side sections rows completely empty which was not a good "look" apart from reduced income. The Proms Committee stressed that Attendance needs to be boosted for the 2024 Proms and improved advertising strategies identified.

Planning for Proms 2024 is soon to get underway. Anyone interested in joining the Planning Committee please contact Grantley Chaplin on 0419 678 125.

St Paul's Choir

The St Paul's church choir was re-established in mid-2023 following its demise during the previous three years principally due to COVID. From an initial small start-up group of former choristers, the choir now boasts 26 members comprising:

- ✚ Ten sopranos
- ✚ Four altos
- ✚ Five tenors
- ✚ Seven basses

A major factor in the successful re-establishing of the choir has been the Choir director, Mr Steven Morris who is also the principal of the Springfield Anglican College. Steven has wide national and international experience and is also a very accomplished organist. The choir is also ably accompanied by our Chief organist, Ross Windsor.

The initial program for the re-established choir has seen the reintroduction of a monthly Choral Evensong service now conducted regularly on the 4th Sunday of the month. There is also consideration of having monthly Choral Eucharist services in 2024 but details are yet to be determined.

The choir had a significant involvement in the recent Farewell Service for Rev Selina singing the following:

- ✚ Introit: Choir 'Above all Praise' Op 79, No. 3 - Felix Mendelssohn
- ✚ Psalm 24 - Chant: Joseph Barnby in E major
- ✚ Communion: Choir: 'If ye love me' - Thomas Tallis
- ✚ Nunc Dîmittis from Evening Service in B flat – Stanford

A group of former and current WestMAC musicians was assembled to play 'Fanfare for Ipswich' Gallery to start the Service. They were:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------|
| ✚ Annabelle Cleeland | Trumpet |
| ✚ Ben Fowler | Clarinet |
| ✚ Jacob Fowler | Clarinet |
| ✚ Matilda Brett | Trumpet |
| ✚ Rebecca McMahon | Flute |
| ✚ Remi Jennings | Trombone |
| ✚ Zeplin Jennings | Trombone |

It is hoped that more opportunities can be organised in 2024 for WestMAC musicians to contribute to the music life of St Paul's.

Future possible music events at St Paul's

Organ and Choral Music is integral in the world-wide Anglican Church. It is also integral to St Paul's Church in Ipswich. We have a beautiful church building; a magnificent pipe organ; and talented musicians. We also have a diminishing congregation which must be bolstered and new initiatives to achieve this are needed and invited.

Two ideas for future consideration:

- ✚ A regular 'Hymnfest': Invitations would be sent to all Christian churches in Ipswich inviting their members to participate. They would each nominate hymns they would like to have included. Such an event would expand the music traditions at St Paul's and also enable the different congregations to get to know each other.

- ✚ A Senior Schools Annual Choral Festival: All senior schools in the Ipswich area have strong music components in both vocal and instrumental music. They currently perform for their respective school family events and also competitively in eisteddfods etc. However, there could be an opportunity for St Paul's to initiate an Annual Choral Festival for all senior schools in Ipswich. This would be non-competitive and simply an opportunity to perform music to and with each other and to the wider community. A festival concert would involve presentation of individual choral items of short duration in the first half of the concert and then to join with orchestra for a combined choral item in the second half of the concert.

CATERING GROUP REPORT

By Verna Hunt

During 2023 we catered for a very small number of funerals.

Special thanks must be given to the group of volunteers who make themselves available often at short notice to help with the catering. Without these volunteers we would not be able to provide this much valued service.

We are always seeking new helpers. If you feel you would like to help in this ministry, please let one of the organisers know, through the Parish Office, so that your name can be put on the contact list.

Verna Hunt
For the Catering Group

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

By Greg Thomson

We all met at Glenys & Peter Taylor's house in February last year (2023) for the first time and have been meeting every month after that. We had a lunch at Denmark Hill and Brassall Suncare Village Hall and at various other venues including Basin Pocket Little Church Garden and St Thomas' Church. Also, many and varied guest speakers.

I now have decided to hand over to Tim Cleeland as I think the Men's Breakfast requires some fresh and new ideas.

Greg Thomson

SATURDAY GARDENING GROUP

By Annette Isager

The Saturday gardening group meets at 4pm in the Summer and 3pm when the days are shorter and cooler. We have been working consistently in the gardens around the church and also in the garden along Limestone Street. The team most often consists of Barbara Dickensen, Fionn Griegg, Foley Matthews and Annette Isager. This summer has been particularly hot and wet. It has made most things look lush and colourful but unfortunately the roses are not doing well. Although the roses have been watered, weeded, mulched, sprayed and fertilised many have died and been removed. We would very much appreciate some expert help with the roses. If the problem continues, we may have to replace lost roses with other perfumed and/or native plants.

The idea of creating a gravel meditation space was assessed by a landscaper and deemed unsuitable because of the heat the gravel would generate and because the gravel can be a slip hazard. The idea has stalled since then but may be resurrected during the cooler months. Some seats in the shade and a visual focus point would be particularly nice.

Many thanks and appreciation to the workers who have worked hard and provided most of the materials and plants. Anyone wishing to join the team will be most welcome.

If people have rates notices, we can redeem for plants at the council nursery please give them to one of the group.

Annette Isager

PROPERTY REPORT

By Mal Ferguson

There are many issues facing the parish at this time. Some of those being investigated are:

1. The Wifi, CCTV & Electronic Signboards.

Following the drafting of site wifi requirements and confirmation of those requirements from experienced personnel at WestMac, two suppliers were asked to submit quotes. Managed Solutions from West Ipswich have done their site inspection where they were accompanied by Sel, Chris Montgomery and myself. A further investigation about power supply for various activities which cost \$1,200 was carried out. We await their detailed quote.

The second company, A & B Communications, are still to do another site inspection as they had previously only quoted the wifi installation. They are the suppliers of our phone system.

2. Upgrading the parish hall

A committee, including 2 Sudanese representatives, met with Mark Gibson from Gibson Architects. This resulted in Mark sending 3 proposals to upgrade the upstairs part of the hall plus the toilet facilities for the Op Shop. These 3 proposals have been displayed on church noticeboards with Proposal 2 being the most favoured. The committee will meet in early March to review parishioner feedback and then meet with Mark. This should give a final plan to be shared with all before getting project costings from a quantity surveyor.

At a similar time, the proposed plans have been forward to the Diocesan properties section so steps can be taken to meet the approval process that is set out by the Diocese.

3. Solar Installation at the rectory and proposal for the hall

Following analysis of the electricity accounts for the rectory at Baystone Place and our central location, parish council agreed to instal a solar system at the rectory.

Time Period	Q Energy Monthly	Q Energy Quarterly	Origin	Change
July 2022	\$345			
August 2022	\$625			
September 2022	\$386	\$1,356		
October 2022	\$386			
November 2022	\$477			
December 2022	\$537	\$1,400		
September 2023			\$913	\$443
October 2023				
November 2023				
December 2023			\$658	\$742

- **Savings are a combination of a change of supplier and rate charged plus solar impact.**

Parish council has received a 3 staged proposal, depending on use level, to install solar panels on the church hall. While no decision has been made yet, as the major use on this site is during daylight hours, it would appear logical to put a system in place that gives “free” power rather than pay 28c per kWh from a supplier. There is little use in over producing power as it only earns 6c per kWh when it’s put back into the grid. Such a system should never exceed much more than a 30 kWh because then additional costs of around \$12,000 are incurred. However, increasing the system from Option 2 to Option 3 only requires adding panels to the roof as each panel has its own inverter.

	Proposal 1	Proposal 2	Proposal 3
Aim of proposal	To halve costs	To negate costs	To exceed costs
Size of unit	10.465 kW	20.93 kW	31.395 kW
Upfront costs	\$17,100	\$31,900	\$46,500
Savings	\$5,027	\$8,080	\$8,413
Self-consumption rate (Forecasted).	80%	80%	80%
Forecast payback period	3 – 4 years	4 – 5 years	5 – 6 years

If this project is to go ahead, an Anfin loan over the same time period as the payback period mentioned in the table above should be arranged. Advice has been received that Anfin is sympathetic to loans for solar projects. Loan repayments would be offset against the savings received from the project which would have little or no impact on the current budget but would be a saving once the loan is repaid. This way the bequest funds will be left to earn income from their investments not be consumed by a capital expenditure.

4. New entrance door for the Op Shop.

Following an accident at the Op Shop, it was obvious an ambulance stretcher could not get in through the main door. A new aluminium door has been ordered and delivered with installation in late February. The door and installation will cost around \$4,000.

5. Office (Old Rectory) Painting.

All of the major external walls and ceilings, with exception to the kitchen wall, have been painted. The kitchen wall will require scaffolding. The plan is that the painting crew will decide on a week that best suits them to put in an extended effort so that scaffolding costs are kept to a minimum. Thanks to the painting crew, Pat Comben, Foley Matthews and Peter Taylor, for their long commitment to this task.

All doors, windows and trims, the shutters and the railing are still to be done. Restoration of the front door is a major job and getting quotes for the job should be considered.

6. Air conditioning of the Op Shop

This is not as simple as it may seem although it's a very worthy consideration. The Op Shop construction prevents the installation of ducted air conditioning. The ceiling profile presents obstacles to even air distribution across the area. When previously investigated, some 5 years ago, the cost of split air conditioning and ceiling fans to improve air distribution was around \$17,000. Assurances have been given that new technologies may make the air distribution more efficient, so suppliers have been asked to requote.

Should it be decided that this project goes ahead, and there are many good reasons why it should, as power requirements will increase during the day, greater consideration of solar power on site will need to be investigated.

This is another project where consideration should be given to funding it through an Anfin loan. While it would be hoped that an increase in patronage would help raise funds to make the repayments, the investment of bequeathed funds will create cash in excess of that needed to balance the budget and some of those funds could be used for loan repayments of capital projects.

7. Repairs to 5 stained glass windows in the church

The quote 4 years ago to repair 5 windows on the Brisbane St side of the church and reinstate the two windows in the loft was \$71,000. The man has been asked to requote the work as has a company from Lismore that is currently doing work at St Luke's Toowoomba. Both companies are currently busy and are unlikely to be able to commence work until 2025.

There's no payback to the parish for this work so it would be better funded from any excess to running costs funds raised by the invested bequest funds. As it is unlikely that any contractor doing this work will be unable to commence work this year, and as the work will take significant time, there is the chance that this work could be done without the need to borrow funds from Anfin.

8. Tree removals at St John's

Two trees, a very poor specimen of an Ironbark and an African Tulip tree (these are known to be toxic to bees and are no longer used by councils as street trees), have been removed at St John's. While the owner of the neighbouring property would like us to remove a Chinese Elm and a Leopard Tree, the tenants of the house appreciated the shade these provide to their eastern wall. It's very easy to justify the removal of the Chinese Elm because it is a declared weed but not so easy for the Leopard Tree. One of the justifications for its removal may be ICC requiring off street parking on site. This needs to be further investigated.

9. Cleaning of limestone wall outside the Op Shop

The Op Shop has requested this to be done to make the area more attractive. As our whole site is declared a heritage site and as the limestone wall can not be pressure washed, it has been determined that low pressure steam cleaning, which ICC has used for the same purpose, be done. When approached the potential contractor advised that ICC approval for the job would be required. ICC advised that even though the contractor intended to work in the early hours of the morning and be finished by 9am, hired traffic control would have to be used. The cost of traffic control, which could only be carried out by suppliers on ICC's approved list, was greater than the cleaning cost. Nothing will be done about this until we can negotiate a better situation with ICC.

10. Chandelier maintenance

Most people would have noticed that the central chandelier has only 5 globes lighting up at present. This is because the mechanism that raises and lowers the chandelier is faulty. Efforts to get electricians who know something about these have so far been unsuccessful. Please be patient while this problem is resolved. It is not being ignored, it's simply a case of trying to find the right person who can give a solution to the problem.

11. Main driveway access to Brisbane St.

When Darcy Doyle Place was established, St Pauls lost its access to Brisbane St and any vehicle departing the property via the main entrance was, strictly speaking, breaking the law. Following a police warning to a departing vehicle, ICC was asked how this situation could be avoided and was told that it was the parish's responsibility to arrange traffic control for such occasions. Negotiations are continuing with ICC because 124 Brisbane Street is the official address for the site and council has an obligation to provide access to the carriageway of our official address.

I thank all (and there are many people) who have assisted me in my role as convenor of this parish council subcommittee and look forward to continuing to bring about change into the future.

Mal Ferguson