

# <sup>T</sup>S. JAMES'

Bicentenary 2019-2024



As Sydney's oldest church, St James' is a place of soul-stirring worship, challenging preaching and fine music. We are a progressive community that welcomes all people regardless of age, race, sexual orientation or religion.

St James' Anglican Church  
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Sydney  
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## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021 PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20 MARCH 2022**

**S.<sup>T</sup>JAMES'**  
Bicentenary 2019-2024

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## RECTOR'S REPORT TO THE 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### Reflection

On Sunday 27 February, I announced to the Parish that I intend retiring later this year. It is planned that my last Sunday will be 24 July (the Patronal Festival) and I will then go on leave until my 'official' retirement date. This is therefore my last Annual Report to the Parish.

I have found ministry at St James' both a challenging and rewarding experience. The Parish is complex in many ways, including the social diversity of its worshippers, the varied expectations and attitudes held by those associated with the church, the wide spread of locations in which parishioners live, the broad range of activities offered, and St James' place within the Anglican Church of Australia. This church also has a prophetic role in proclaiming the gospel and its implications to the community around it.

It has been a joy and privilege to serve Christ in this place, and I thank those who entrusted to me the responsibility of being Rector. Being fallible, I have not always got it right—I have occasionally upset people, and sometimes let people down, for which I apologise. Yet, one thing that my experience in the Army taught me is that the only way to avoid these failings is to do nothing.

The Parish Strategic Plan provides a vision, structure, and set of goals that shape and prioritise the ministry that is undertaken here. We are well resourced but there are always limitations on what can be done. Nevertheless, the vision of exercising an 'incarnational ministry' is important in our context, combining what is an inward desire for God to be present in what we do so that there might be an outward blessing to those around us. There are, however, many difficulties around us.

Unfortunately, the Anglican Church in Australia appears to have taken a self-destructive trajectory. The combined effects of the findings of the Royal Commission on Child Abuse; the negative attitudes in some parts of the church toward LGBTQI+ people, divorcees, and those of different denominations and faiths; the desire of some to be exclusive and discriminate against people who do not conform to institutions' expectations; and a self-focussed attitude that is defensive, combined with a concern for control of church institutions and the people within them, will inhibit the church's mission and its capacity to be regarded with any sense of affection in the community.

While the view of the church from the outside has become less than positive, the internal life of the church is also being challenged by schism and belligerence. What is emerging is an inability to live at peace with those with whom there is disagreement. Traditionally, Anglicanism has been a 'broad church', but it is becoming less so, reverting to tribalism, legalism, and deviousness in its internal politics.

Sadly, the way a few church leaders and their minions have behaved and debated their disagreements in the public domain has been less than edifying, causing faithful people to leave the church in search of something more irenic. Moreover, the creation of a schismatic church structure by the GAFCON organisation has revealed to the wider community that the church is in a parlous state, and therefore unfit to be the body of Christ in all its diversity and complexity.

Finally, a new factor in the church environment in Australia has been the COVID-19 pandemic, which has changed the way we 'do' church. Livestreaming has meant that many more people can engage with churches across the boundaries of distance and time. This includes housebound people, those who live in remote locations, the ecclesiastically disaffected, and those who are concerned about the risks of catching the virus when travelling on public transport or through direct contact with other people during services. To be sure, I am aware that there are more people watching our services than are present in the church. In this way, we have suddenly become an online church.

Connected with this is an obvious fall in face-to-face church attendance. Diocesan statistics indicate that there has been a fall of around 50% in physical church attendance in the past two years. This is supported by research from Duke University in the United States regarding the state of post-COVID church attendance in that country. The general view is that while numbers will increase over time, they will not return to pre-pandemic levels in the medium term.

This is a challenge for our parish, especially given our demographic and location, yet it is not a reason for gloom. What is required will be some revisioning of what church might be in our new situation and the development of new ways of being a gathered church. The great success of online Morning and Evening Prayer, livestreaming of services, and the St James' Institute webinars, has given us an idea of what can be done. I suspect a return to a range of social activities will also have a positive effect.

I am also aware that I write this report during the Russian invasion of Ukraine, with all the ambiguities that this situation brings. The world has not only become less secure with respect to health issues, but also because of a shift in global politics, economic uncertainty, environmental problems arising from climate change, and a loss of faith in our political and social institutions.

Yet, I remain hopeful for the future. This is a time that cries out for a new way of understanding ourselves, our relationships, and the spiritual glue that binds us together as a community. It is not so much a time to go back to what we think was a glorious past, but rather to proceed forward to renewal with a spirit of creativity, justice, and faith in a God who desires goodness for all people.

To this end, I believe that St James' Church provides a distinctive and valued expression of the Christian faith in Sydney that can be a sign of hope. There is goodwill in the broad community for what we do and an appreciation of the need for a church that is inclusive, diverse, and engaged with the community around it. At this juncture we need to be prayerful and faithful as we contemplate the future in a rapidly changing world.

## **Governance**

### Parish Council

The role of Parish Council is to set policy, allocate resources for ministry, and create a structure by which the Parish's ministry can be facilitated. The Council is made up of the Rector, three Wardens, and eight elected or appointed members. The following staff members also attend Parish Council but are not members of it: The Associate Rector, the Director of the St James' Institute, the Head of Music, and the Parish Secretary.

### Parish Executive

The Parish Executive consists of the Rector, Wardens and Parish Treasurer. Its responsibility is to oversee the use of property, finances, and parish staff. The Director of the St James' Institute, Head of Music, Facilities Manager and Parish Administrator also attend meetings of the Executive.

I thank the Wardens and members of Parish Council for their hard work and dedication to the welfare of the Parish. In 2021, the Parish Council was made up as follows:

Rector's Warden & Treasurer:	Chris Lock
People's Wardens:	Holly Raiche and Sid Blairs
Education Coordinator:	Roger Pitcher
Mission & Outreach Coordinator:	Holly Raiche
Pastoral Care Coordinator:	Christine Cheetham
Worship Coordinator:	Steven Samild
Other members of Parish Council:	Liz Barton, Alan Melrose, Catherine McClellan, Carol Webster, and Richard Willgoss.

### St James' Hall Board of Management

In addition to the Council and Executive, the Parish has a Board of Management to advise on the oversight of the St James' Hall. Members of the Board are appointed by Parish Council and are Stuart Westgarth (Chair), Chris Breach, Tim Edwards, Robert Koch, Ian Williams, and Graham Millett, who was appointed in May 2021. Non-voting attendees are the Rector, Wardens, the Parish Treasurer, a representative from the ACPT, and James Balfour (who is Secretary of the Board). The Parish is very appreciative of the service given by members of the Board of Management.

### St James' Trustees

As a feature of its unique history, St James' Church has its own trustees for the oversight of the building. Much of what the Trustees might do have been devolved to the Wardens, but they remain in place as a backstop to the good management of the church building. The current trustees are Geoffrey Bray, Timothy Edwards, Robert Marriott, John Wotton, and Fiona Balfour.

### Staff and Organisational Structure

The parish programme seeks to address several ministries, which are overseen by both staff and Parish Council coordinators. They are reflected in the Strategic Plan as follows:

1. Proclamation (The Rector & Worship Coordinator)
2. Teaching (The Director of the St James' Institute & Education Coordinator)

3. Worship & Music (The Associate Rector, Head of Music & Organist)
4. Service (The Rector & Outreach Coordinator)
5. Community (The Associate Rector & Pastoral Care Coordinator)
6. Organisational Health (Wardens & Administrative Staff)
7. Marketing, Media & Communications (Wardens & Communications Manager)

The 2021 Parish Directory is at Annex A.

### **COVID-19 and Parish Life**

Two years of the COVID pandemic has taken a toll on us all. Just when we thought we were coming out of the Delta phase, omicron then hit, and we returned to a quasi-lockdown with the usual restrictions placed on worship and other gatherings. As I mentioned in my reflection above, it has had a major effect on churches and their activities.

In some respects, our parish has come through this experience quite well, with our finances remaining intact and many of our activities having adapted to the changed circumstances. We are still in a healthy situation management-wise; however, I have highlighted the matter of worship; and both the music programme and Bicentenary celebrations have also been considerably interrupted.

### **Dobson Pipe Organ Project**

In June last year, we heard the shocking news of the fire at the Dobson Organ factory. The company was working on our instrument at the time and all of what had been done at that stage was lost. Fortunately, Dobsons were fully insured, and the insurers have covered the costs of rebuilding the factory and what had been lost of our instrument.

Dobsons are now back working on the production of our pipe organ, and it is anticipated that its installation will take place in the middle of 2023. I am especially thankful for the hard work of Warden, Chris Lock, and Chair of the Appeal Committee, Robert Marriot, in keeping this project going in what has been a testing time. Around \$1.8M has been raised so far, and we look forward to being able to recommence fundraising soon to add to that sum.

### **Academy of St James'**

For many years the Parish has been contemplating the establishment of an educational institution for the purpose of teaching liturgical music on the one hand and theology and spirituality on the other. This is principally the teaching ministries of Music at St James' and the St James' Institute.

With the anticipated completion of the Dobson Organ Project in sight, it is a good time for the parish to begin planning for its next major project, the Academy of St James'. This project is included in the 2021 Strategic Plan and now is the opportunity for the Parish to consider the matter and expand its vision into its third century.

- There are several preliminary matters that will need to be investigated, which include:
- The legal and organisational basis for its establishment, governance, and administration;
- Sources of funding for the Academy;
- The establishment of functional premises for the location of the Academy;
- Staffing of the Academy; and,
- Production of a business plan, including timeline, goals, and objectives for the project.

Work has already been carried out on some of these matters (including seeking legal advice on its incorporation, the need for premises in St James' Hall, and staffing). Parish Council has given approval-in-principle for this preliminary work to be done and for a concrete proposal to be brought back for its consideration.

### **Bicentenary Celebrations**

We have continued to be hamstrung by COVID-19 in the celebration of the Church Bicentenary. In the past year we had to cancel our Patronal Festival in July 2021 and the Bicentenary of the First Service in January 2022; however in February 2022, we were able to commemorate Bishop Broughton and have our new Archbishop Kanishka Raffel preside and preach.

At this stage, the following activities are planned:

1. The St James' Orchestral Mass by Gabriel Jackson. The *Mass of St James'*, written by Gabriel Jackson for our Bicentenary, was first sung at our Patronal Festival on 26 July 2020, but not with orchestra. It is, however, planned to perform it with orchestra at the Patronal Festival this year.
2. 2022 Parish Gala Dinner. A Gala Dinner is planned for Friday 7 October 2022 at the Fullerton Hotel in Martin Place.
3. Dobson Pipe Organ Dedication. It is hoped that the new Dobson Pipe Organ will be installed in time for its dedication at the Patronal Festival in 2023.
4. Bicentenary of the Church Consecration. A major celebration of the Bicentenary will be the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of the church on 11 February 2024.
5. St James' Church History Project. Professor Mark Hutchinson continues to work on the production of a book on the history of St James Church, which should be published in 2024.

### **Strategic Plan**

At last year's Annual Meeting, the Parish adopted a new five-year Strategic Plan. Parish activities are now being driven by this plan and we are seeing the fruit of these labours. The Plan provides an overview of the culture of St James' and its place within the wider Anglican Church as an expression of Classical Anglicanism. It includes reference to the Five Marks of Mission, a global statement of shared mission within the Anglican Communion. This statement encourages Anglicans to live out the work of Christ in the world by:

1. Proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom;
  2. Teaching, baptising, and nurturing new believers;
  3. Responding to human need by loving service;
  4. Transforming unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation; and,
  5. Striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.
- In the light of these activities the Strategic Plan seeks to localise and make tangible what we do. To this end the following key points were adopted.

Vision:

*St James' Church brings God's presence, activity and blessing to the people of Sydney and beyond.*

Mission:

*Our mission is to transform lives with the love of God.*

We transform lives with the love of God through the five ministries of the New Testament church:

- Proclamation (*kerygma*): we proclaim the Gospel message of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection to believers and seekers;
- Teaching (*didache*): we teach, and learn together, the implications of the Lordship of Jesus in our lives;
- Worship (*leiturgia*): we worship God through our ministries of music and prayer;
- Service (*diakonia*): we bring God's love to the world through ministries of service; and,
- Community (*koinonia*): our ministries of fellowship create a community of God's love.

The work of the Parish is divided into seven key focus areas that have associated goals and objectives. These areas need to be resourced and staffed, and are therefore reflected in the Parish Budget, and have designated senior staff members responsible for their operation.

## PARISH OPERATIONS

1. Proclamation – Ministry of the Word: *Proclaiming and teaching the implications of the Gospel message to believers and seekers.*

(OVERSEEN BY: FR ANDREW SEMPELL)

- Proclaim redemption through Christ for all people, regardless of age, race, sexual orientation, or religion;
- Seek out and engage with those who are on the margins of the church;
- Promote the Christian ideal of the 'common good' - materially, culturally, and institutionally;
- Provide a progressive theological voice to the community of Sydney;
- Encourage people to have an informed, reasoned, and grounded understanding of the Christian faith; and,

- Connect with political and economic institutions on social and environmental policy.

#### Cooperation between St James Institute and Trinity Theological School

The Director of the St James' Institute and the Dean of Trinity Theological School, Melbourne have developed of a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate further cooperation between the two institutions.

#### Papers

In the past year I have written two papers on current issues that are relevant to the church and the wider community:

- The Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill – which remains under review in the NSW Parliament with a report expected soon.
- The Religious Discrimination Bill – which was introduced into the Federal Parliament and then withdrawn after amendments were proposed to it and the Anti-Discrimination legislation were foreshadowed.

#### Roundtable Discussions

The St James' Institute has commenced facilitating several 'roundtable discussions' that include expert panels to discuss matters of public policy, ethics and faith. A recent Roundtable investigated the matter of the treatment of refugees in Australia.

## 2. Teaching – The St James' Institute: *Promoting the intellectual engagement of faith and spirituality with culture and society.*

(OVERSEEN BY: DR AARON GHILONI)

- To provide classical Anglican theological education within Sydney;
- To generate educated discussion of the relevance of religion to pressing cultural issues in Sydney;
- To promote curiosity, peace, and shared learning between people of different religious and cultural worldviews in Sydney; and,
- To nurture a learning culture that is accessible to new believers and enriching to parishioners.

Dr Aaron Ghiloni has settled will into the position of Director and has achieved some astounding things in the current situation. In the past year the Institute has achieved the following:

- Formalised a relationship with Trinity College Theological School (Melbourne);
- Delivered an annual programme on socially relevant topics;
- Develop a relationship with the Islamic Sciences and Research Academy; and;

- Conducted a 'roundtable discussion' on the topic of refugees.

#### Ordinand - Alison Dutton

I am pleased to note that Alison Dutton has commenced theological studies at St Barnabas' College, Adelaide with a view to seeking ordination in the Diocese of The Murray. Parish Council made a grant of \$1,000 from the Kathleen England Scholarship Fund to support Alison in her studies.

### 3. Worship – Including Ministries of Music and Prayer: *Providing services of worship, prayer, contemplation, and music events.*

(OVERSEEN BY: FR JOHN STEWART & WARREN TREVELYAN-JONES)

- Maintain the richness and diversity of music;
- Sustainable finances for the music ministry;
- Facilitate the training of church musicians through the Academy of St James';
- Further enhance the national and international reputation of St James' music, through livestream, online content, recordings, and tours; and,
- Integration of the new pipe organ into the music ministry to enrich the above goals.

#### Future Worship Patterns

As mentioned above, COVID-19 has had a significant effect on the worship programme at St James'. COVID regulations necessitated the restructuring of Sunday services and daily offices. At this stage the Parish has settled into a new worship format that has resulted in two Sunday morning services and online Morning and Evening Prayer. A question remains as to whether there should be a reversion to the former situation of three Sunday morning services and Morning and Evening Prayer being held in the Chapel.

At this stage there appears to be little demand for three services on a Sunday morning because of the number of people worshipping face-to-face. The coordinators of Readers, Lay Assistants, Sidespersons and Servers have also indicated that there are insufficient numbers of volunteers to sustain staffing of three services. It is a dilemma, because given the number of people currently worshipping face-to-face it is likely that we would result in three small congregations if we were to revert to the old pattern; probably resulting in the following attendance numbers:

- 7:45am – 35;
- 9:00 am – 30; and,
- 11:00 am – 80.

It is a matter that will be reviewed further as we continue to come out of the COVID situation, but at this stage there seems to be little warrant to go back to what was done previously.

#### Music

I am very grateful to the members of our Choir who have continued singing throughout the periods of lockdown and restrictions so that we could provide a continuation of our Choral Eucharist services. I also thank Warren Trevelyan-Jones for his oversight of Music at St James' in difficult times, and for Alistair Nelson as Organist and Callum Knox as Organ Scholar.

Unfortunately, the St James' Singers were not able to continue in their usual way over the past two years, but we look forward to a more active participation from them in the future. Likewise, the periods of lockdown and COVID restrictions have prevented the holding of orchestral masses and concert series, which has been a blow to the music programme. We all look forward to better times.

#### 4. Service – Ministries of Service: *Helping others through Sister Freda, St Lawrence House, Refugee Support, Reconciliation.*

(OVERSEEN BY: FR ANDREW SEMPELL)

- Expand the ministry of the Sister Freda Mission;
- Develop the refugee support programme;
- Engage in dialogue with the Local Aboriginal Land Council regarding practical reconciliation activities;
- Grow parishioner support for St Lawrence House;
- Support struggling parishes in the Anglican church; and,
- Support joint activities between the Parish and the Anglican Board of Mission.

##### Sister Freda Mission

The Sister Freda Mission is operating again after a couple of times in recess during the COVID lockdown periods.

##### Refugee Support

Support has been given to several refugee families including for release from detention, relocation to Australia, or 'in country' support while in the process of relocation. The process has been frustrating because of government inaction.

##### St Lawrence House

The Parish continues to support St Lawrence House, despite the problems of conducting fundraising during the pandemic. There are several parishioners on the St Lawrence House Board, including its Chair, Alan Soutar.

Indigenous Reconciliation

The Who is My Neighbour? group is exploring the creation of a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) through Reconciliation NSW. They have set up a working group to explore this possibility.

Support to the Wider Church

The Outreach Committee continues to distribute funds (equivalent to 10% of offertories) to parishes and other church organisations.

5. Community – Ministries of Fellowship: *Providing pastoral care, Networkers, Hospital Chaplaincy, children and youth, and hospitality.*

(OVERSEEN BY: FR JOHN STEWART)

- Employ a third clergy person to assist with pastoral visiting;
- Integrate and grow the Healing Ministry between Guild of St Raphael, Sydney Hospital Visitors and Network Teams,;
- Expand the St James' Eats programme as a means of connecting with new parishioners;
- Develop a chaplaincy programme with church musicians; and,
- Develop the Kids @ Church ministry to focus on emerging youth.

The continuation of the COVID pandemic, with its associated lockdowns and restrictions has hindered much of the Parish's pastoral programme, and certainly limited the implementation of new initiatives. Home and hospital visits have had to be curtailed on several occasions in response to rising infection numbers, and some activities (such as St James Eats) have not been able to take place at all over the past year.

Kids @ Church

Except for a short period of time Kids @ Church has operated online over the past year. Charlotte Wiltshire has done an amazing job in keeping the group active, including an online Children's Christmas Pageant.

Oversight of Parish Volunteers

The Parish is currently looking at a structure for management and support of volunteers, including their selection, training, and pastoral care. This would include lay assistants, servers, sidespersons, readers, intercessors, flower arrangers and bell ringers.

Recognition of Long and Exemplary Service

During the year, Marylon & Alan Coates were awarded a Parish Commendation in recognition of their long and devoted service to bell ringing at St James'.

6. Organisational Health: *Ensuring sustainability of our key assets including property, finance, and people.*

(OVERSEEN BY THE WARDENS, PROPERTY MANAGER, AND ACCOUNTANT)

Property:

- Maintain the historic church building, preserving its heritage value, and increasing its utilisation;
- Maintain the Paddington and Chatswood residences, preserving value and providing up to date and suitable accommodation;
- Upgrade St James' Hall to contemporary standards whilst maintaining tenant wellbeing and income; and,
- Invest in adjoining properties (should the opportunity arise).

Finance:

- Achieve a balanced budget, year on year, to deliver the Parish strategy; and,
- Reduce the reliance of the Parish on the income distribution from St James' Hall.

People:

- Ensure employees are well trained, the workplace is safe and wellbeing is continually improving;
- Ensure employment practices are 'fit for purpose'; and,
- Ensure the non-clerical organisational structure is 'fit for purpose'.

These matters are addressed in the Wardens' reports, but I take the opportunity to thank the administrative staff; Tony Papadopoulos, Michelle Chan, Dianne Ward, Jonathan Elcock, Gilbert Santayana, and James Farrow for all their hard work.

Maltby Bequest

A bequest of \$50,000 was received from the estate of Mary Elizabeth Maltby of Double Bay. The Executive Committee resolved that it be apportioned as follows:

- \$30,000 to the Organ Appeal, with a rank named after George and Mary Maltby,
- \$20,000 to the Orchestral Masses Reserve to fund future masses.

7. Marketing, Media, and Communications – telling our story: *Developing our ability to communicate clearly and widely.*

(Overseen by The Wardens and Communications Manager)

- To extend the breadth and width of understanding in the community of the narrative of why and what we do at St James';
- To use technology to its fullest to support the St James' narrative; and,

- To connect and form deeper relationships with parishioners, new parishioners, the wider Sydney community, and the worldwide Anglican community.

#### St James' Connections

Our Parish magazine remains the prime means of providing engagement and distributing information to the community around us. Around 2,000 copies are distributed each edition, not to mention those who read it online. Brooke Shelley is commended on her great work in producing it.

#### Livestreaming

We have been fortunate to be able to install the livestreaming equipment in the church and I am appreciative of all the people who contributed to its purchase. According to Facebook, over the course of a week there are many views of the Sunday Choral Eucharist (av. 500 per service) and Wednesday Choral Evensong (av. 300 per service).

#### Social Media

Work is being done on standardising and coordinating the Parish social media presence.

### **Diocese**

#### New Archbishop

An electoral synod was held in May to elect a new Archbishop. From a field of four candidates, the former Dean of Sydney Kanishka Raffel was elected Archbishop. It was good to conduct a liturgical welcome to St James' for him recently. The occasion was a commemoration of Bishop William Grant Broughton, and the Archbishop was the preacher.

#### St James Hall Ordinance

A new Hall Ordinance was passed by the Diocesan Standing Committee in July 2021. It maintained the Parish borrowing arrangements through the Hall but changed the split of distributions to Parish 70% and Diocese 30%.

### **Staff**

On behalf of the Parish, I thank our clergy and staff for their dedication to the Parish, especially during the time of the COVID pandemic. We have a dedicated team that often give more than is expected of them.

#### Warren Trevelyan-Jones

Warren had an accident during the year while riding his pushbike. He spent several months in hospital and at home recovering after surgery and is now back at work full-time. We are pleased to see him improved and leading the music team again.

Aaron Ghiloni

Dr Aaron Ghiloni recently announced to the Parish that he has been accepted into the discernment process for possible ordination in the Diocese of Melbourne. Fortunately, at this stage he can remain in his current position, which is seen as helpful to the process. It is good to see St James continuing to encourage people into ordained ministry.

**Personal**

Over the next five months Rosemary and I will be preparing for our retirement. It will involve Rosemary retiring from her work at the NSW Parliament and our undertaking a removal from the Rectory to our property at Black Springs.

It is our intention to invite parishioners to come to an 'open home' at our country house on Easter Monday (18 April 2022), from 10am. It is a three-hour drive from Sydney, but if you like a nice drive in the country you would be most welcome to visit.

I appreciate that the Parish Nominators, which have already been appointed by the Archbishop, will be busy producing profiles on the Parish and conducting their investigations on the possibilities of a new Rector. Likewise, the Wardens will be looking at undertaking work on the Rectory in preparation for a new incumbent.

There are many people to thank from my time here, and that will take place over the next several months. It includes staff, Wardens and Parish Councillors, those on committees and boards, and those coordinating ministries and our many volunteers. Being the Annual Report, however, I take this opportunity to mention two who has been invaluable. First is Fr John Stewart, who as Associate Rector has had oversight over most of the pastoral life of the Parish since I arrived. Second is Chris Lock, who as Rector's Warden has provided solid support while navigating the labyrinth of Parish management and administration in recent years.

St James' exercises what is principally an incarnational ministry, which I like to sum up with the phrase 'we seek God's blessing upon us who serve, so that we may be a blessing to others'. Indeed, God has not disappointed us in this regard. It has therefore been a privilege to serve Christ in this place.

The Reverend Andrew Sempell

*Rector of St James'*

2 Mar 22

**Annexures:**

A. Parish Directory 2021

**Attachment:**

2.1 2021 Attendance Statistics

**Parish Directory 2021****Clergy**

Rector:	The Reverend Andrew Sempell
Associate Rector:	The Reverend John Stewart
Honorary Associate Priests:	The Reverends Dr John Deane, Ron Henderson OGS & Glenn Maytum

**Director, St James Institute:**

Dr Aaron Ghiloni

**Music Staff**

Head of Music:	Warren Trevelyan-Jones
Organist:	Alistair Nelson
Organ Scholar:	Callum Knox

**Administrative Staff**

Facilities Manager:	Tony Papadopoulos
Communications Manager:	Brooke Shelley
Accountant:	Michelle Chan
Parish Administrator:	Dianne Ward
Assistant Parish Administrator:	Jonathan Elcock
Vergers:	Gilbert Santayana & James Farrow
Hon Archivist:	Gordon Cooper
Archives Assistant:	Colin Middleton

**Worship Assistants/Coordinators**

Parish Readers:	Christine Cheetham, Dr Aaron Ghiloni Associate Professor Michael Horsburgh AM Alan Melrose
Sacristans:	Jackie Dettmann, Peter Douglas, Ross Douglas, Leigh Hess & Ian McDonald
Head Server:	Stephen Samild
Head Sidesperson:	Peter Blunden
Pastoral Coord:	Christine Cheetham
Lay Assistants Coord:	Vivien Whitfield
Readers/Intercessors Coord:	Martha McRae
Flower Coord:	Pippa Naivasha
Bell Tower Captain:	Jackie Dettmann

**Other Ministries**

Kids @ Church Coord:	John Wiltshire
Safe Ministry Representative:	Christine Bishop
Meditation Coordinator:	Richard Cogswell
Sister Freda Mission Coordinators:	David and Robyn Carver
Parish Library Coordinator:	Vacant
Hospitality Coordinators:	Sue Mackenzie & Dr Christopher Telford

**2021 ANNUAL ATTENDANCE STATISTICS**

		2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
<b>REGULAR SERVICES</b>		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Average attendance per service</b>			
7.45 am Sunday Eucharist (pre lockdown)	weekly		36	37	36	38
9.00 am Sunday Eucharist * (pre lockdown)	weekly		100	89	92	95
11.00 am Sunday Eucharist * (pre lockdown)	weekly		133	125	126	121
8.00 am Sunday Eucharist (post lockdown)	weekly	32	24			
10.00 am Sunday Eucharist (post lockdown)	weekly	89	66			
4.00 pm Sunday Evensong	monthly	44	52	86	88	93
9:00 am Sunday Children's Eucharist	monthly			10	10	13
6:15 pm Wednesday Choral Evensong	weekly	28	22	32	33	35
12.30 pm Weekday Eucharists	daily (Mon-Fri)	2	3	5	7	6
8:30 am Weekday Morning Prayer	daily (Mon-Fri)	30	31	4	4	
5:00 pm Weekday Evening Prayer	daily (Mon-Fri)	18				
6.15 pm Tuesday Healing Service	monthly			6	8	7
6:30pm Tuesday Resting Space	bi-weekly	14	13	13		
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Average weekly attendance</b>			
Meditation groups	3 per week			15	13	12
Outreach Program (Sister Freda Mission)	weekly			42	43	45
Kids @ Church	weekly			7	7	8
Midweek Concerts	1 per week			90	87	85
Subscription Concerts	6 per year			251	245	240
Men's Group	quarterly			12	13	12
St James' Eats	quarterly			28	30	32
<b>PASTORAL SERVICES</b>			<b>Number performed</b>			
Baptisms		9	10	11	15	21
Confirmations		0	0	3	4	10
Weddings		3	0	4	3	9
Marriage Blessings		0	0	0	0	0
Funerals		10	4	7	15	14
Memorial Services		2	3	5	5	5
<b>SEASONAL SERVICES</b>			<b>Total Attendance</b>			
Ash Wednesday		86	135	122	160	141
Holy Week		336		716	642	607
Easter Day		388		537	697	644
Ascension		41		38	53	56
Patronal Evensong			68	159	178	108
All Souls		56	75	63	71	88
Christmas (includes carol services)		797	724	2143	2033	2146
Orchestral Masses		127	1963	1313	1199	1236
Civic Services		48	172	432	456	855
<b>ST JAMES INSTITUTE PROGRAMS</b>			<b>Attendance</b>			
Number of events		18	16	29	21	18
Average Attendance at each event				40	35	30

Note: \* Where a 10 am Sunday service occurs, the numbers attending are divided between 9 and 11 am for this report.

## WARDENS' NON-FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2021

The Parish Administration Ordinance 2008 (church law) sets out the responsibilities of wardens in any parish within the Diocese of Sydney. These responsibilities generally fit into one of two categories:

Financial, including:

- the proper management, security and financial administration of all money and other property
- keeping proper accounting records of all money received and expended by the wardens
- preparing financial reports, statements, accounts and arranging audits.

Property, including:

- keeping order in the historic church building and its grounds
- ensuring proper care is taken of the church and other things relating to the conduct of services of public worship
- arranging repairs to the church and the 2 church residences in Paddington and Chatswood
- managing St James' Hall in accordance with its own Ordinance (including repairs, leasing to tenants and future use strategy)
- granting licences to permit outside persons and groups to use church or parish property

Wardens also have responsibility for:

- paying stipends and other amounts to clergy
- appointment and payment of paid workers and removal if necessary

The Rector is responsible for the spiritual welfare of the parish, the wardens for the finance and property. Together they form the Parish Executive. The Executive met formally 11 times in 2021 and many more times informally. The wardens are also members of Parish Council.

The present wardens choose to 'spread the load' by each of them leading certain aspects of the wardens' responsibilities and checking with the others prior to decisions or commitments being made by all three together. This isn't a formal part of church rules but has worked very successfully in this parish over the last few years. Neither is the allocation of responsibility set in stone, wardens bring different skills and experience, the division of responsibility changes to best suit the skills of the wardens. Individual wardens will also take the lead on special projects as required.

The wardens have delegated the performance of some of their responsibilities to others, we are blessed by having an accountant (Michelle Chan) and a facilities manager (Tony Papadopoulos) on staff and we are very grateful for their contributions.

<b>Finance &amp; Admin Warden and Treasurer</b>	<b>Property Warden</b>	<b>Pastoral Warden</b>
<b>Chris Lock</b>	<b>Sid Blairs</b>	<b>Holly Raiche</b>
Finance, accounts, budgets, reports	Historic church building	Staff
Ordinances	St James' Hall	Policies and procedures
Leases (St James' Hall)	Paddington residence	Pastoral well being of the parish
Licences (historic church building)	Chatswood residence	
Legal/contractual agreements		

Managing this workload on a voluntary basis would not be possible without the strong day-to-day support that we continually receive from Fr Andrew Sempell and Fr John Stewart. We are greatly blessed at St James' with two very hard working, gifted and long-serving stipendiary clergy.

The parish is blessed with committed staff and volunteers who enable the parish to deliver its extensive schedule of worship and related activities – the wardens acknowledge and greatly appreciate their dedication and commitment.

### **Finance**

See separate 'Wardens Financial Documentation' report for the parish finances.

### **Historic church building**

Day to day management of the historic church building rests with our facilities manager, Tony Papadopoulos, supported by part time and casual vergers Gilbert Santayana, James Farrow and Jesse Taylor (who commenced late in 2021). The wardens are very thankful for the work of these 'behind the scenes' folk, without whose efforts the building and the various liturgical services would be so much the poorer. Particular thanks are given to Tony, Gilbert and James who were all 'locked down' during the height of the pandemic.

Regular maintenance has continued, with the addition of many instances of deep cleaning due to the COVID pandemic.

A number of matters have arisen and projects started or finished that are worthy of note:

#### Crypt Toilets

The renovation of the crypt toilets was completed in early 2021. The wardens received a Project Completion report in April 2021 and were pleased to note that the final project cost was \$226,240.86, well less than the budget of \$249,970 approved by Parish Council at its meeting of 27 October 2020.

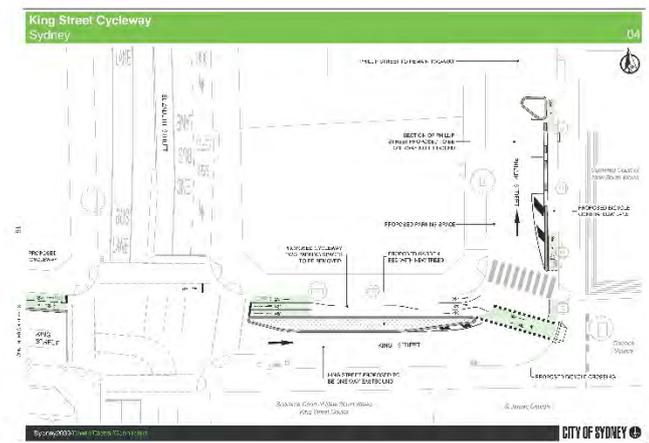
Computer Theft

The new computer used for livestreaming was stolen from the church on 27 May 2021. Diocesan insurance responded (after a deduction) and the alleged offender was apprehended by evidence from the church security CCTV footage. The wardens have been working within the judicial system to attempt a restorative justice program rather than a significant custodial sentence.

King Street Cycleway

The wardens responded to a proposal by the City of Sydney to install a cycleway in King Street, outside the church. As part of this project, King Street is to be made one way (eastbound, from Elizabeth Street to Phillip Street). The wardens were concerned that the proposal had the possibility of removing the car parking area outside the church, used by parishioners and VIP guests for drop-off and for wedding and funeral cars.

The City of Sydney has approved the project, noting that:



43. Key dates for the project are:

	<i>Milestone Target dates</i>
Construction commences	<i>March 2022</i>
Construction complete	<i>June 2022</i>

51. A submission was received from the Church of St James' King Street requesting that on-street parking be retained on the southern side of King Street, between Elizabeth Street and Phillip Street. The proposal retains these parking spaces without changes to the existing restrictions.

Church Bells

The wardens received a formal complaint through an officer from the Environmental Health Surveyor, Health & Building department of the City of Sydney regarding the noise of the bells. Constructive discussions have been ongoing since June 2021 with the complainant, the City of Sydney, Jackie Dettmann (Tower Captain) and the wardens.

The wardens sought fee proposals from teams of architects/sound engineers and entered into a contract with one team in December 2021. We had a site visit, took photos and had a scheduling meeting. The original City of Sydney approvals and sound requirements from when the bells were installed were recovered.

The project team agreed that we needed background sound data (without the bells) as a baseline from which the increased sound of the bells can be measured. We also agreed that we needed to

wait until the CBD had returned to 'normal' and that February (now) was the earliest opportunity.

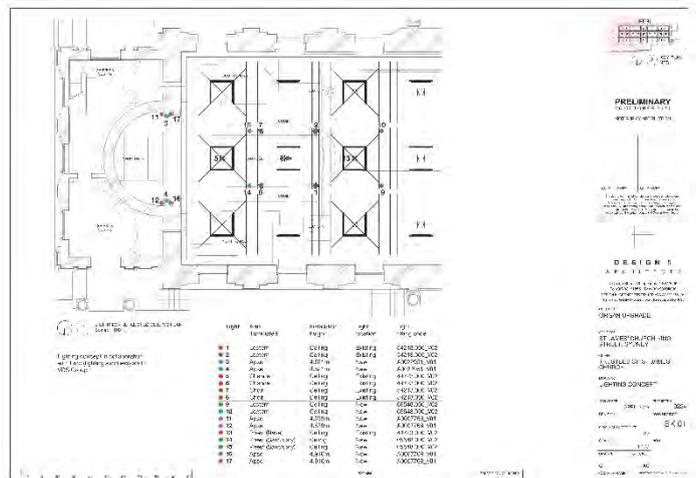
Church Lighting

It was always part of the new pipe organ project to review the lighting in the chancel and sanctuary areas, to allow the instrument to be shown to its best effect and to allow musicians sufficient light to read music and perform. However, with the extensive use of livestreaming due to COVID, it became apparent that a lighting upgrade was more urgent.



The wardens are conscious of a number of issues regarding lighting inside the church:

- lighting for the livestream cameras is very poor, causing silhouettes and 'flares'
- upgraded lighting shouldn't look like a 'stage show'
- the Choir and Singers need more light
- it is helpful for the organist to have the choir well lit, the organ console lights are lower than ideal, so that the contrast isn't too great when looking to the conductor
- there are events in St James' – such as concerts – where some sort of 'stageyness' is fitting
- some services (e.g., 9 Lessons and Carols) require incremental lighting
- the lighting must be easy and simple to use



The wardens entered into a contract with architects Design 5. Two on site visits have occurred and various light units tested. The electrical consultant regularly used by the church is considering various options.

**Paddington Residence**

Other than day to day repairs and maintenance, the dishwasher was replaced as the failed item was beyond economic repair

**Chatswood Residence**

Other than day to day repairs and maintenance, the oven was replaced as the failed item was beyond economic repair.

**St James' Hall**

See separate 'Wardens Financial Documentation' report for the St James' Hall finances.

Monthly meetings of the Building Management Committee took place with the Hall Managing agents, Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL).

### Long-Term Use

The representative of the Trustee of the Hall (Anglican Church Property Trust – ‘ACPT’) and the Board of Management – ‘BoM’ (comprising 6 independent members, the Trustee, the Rector and three wardens) continued throughout 2021 with the work started in 2020 on the program for the long-term use of the land and building. The reason behind this work was to ensure that the asset value of the building was at least maintained and preferably increased, whilst continuing to provide financial distributions to the parish and Diocese at the current and forecast levels for the foreseeable future. Parishioners may recall that the BoM was considering various options, including:

- Minimum compliance upgrading of the building whilst tenants remain in place;
- A partial demolition of the building back to the structural frame and replacement;
- A complete demolition and replacement of the building; or,
- A consolidation of the building with an adjoining building and the construction of a new, much larger building.

The BoM finally concluded that there was little if any benefit from undertaking any major works, especially as the tenants are mostly believed to prefer continuing quiet enjoyment of their space; they may even consider renegotiation of their lease to give them greater security of tenure. The BoM recommended that the wardens continue with minimum compliance upgrading of the building whilst tenants remain in place and be alert to opportunities for consolidation of the site with an adjoining site into the future.

### Purchase of adjoining units

An opportunity arose for the potential purchase of 2 floors in the adjoining building 82 Elizabeth Street. After consideration, the BoM advised the wardens not to proceed and no further action was taken.

### Board of Management

For the early part of 2021, only 5 of the permitted 6 independent members of the BoM had been appointed.

At its meeting on 25th May 2021, the Parish Council agreed that Graham Millett be appointed to the St James' Hall Board of Management for a term of three years.

The Board of Management met in person only twice in 2021, due to the COVID pandemic. The other two scheduled meetings were postponed, and matters dealt with by circular resolution.

### Leasing Strategy

The BoM also turned its mind to the leasing strategy for St James' Hall. Following a period of stability with the Barrister tenants in St James' Hall, several tenancies expire in the short term and will require renegotiation.

Market conditions for legal/barrister tenants changed considerably over 2021, due to the COVID pandemic, the prevalence of working from home, the change in Court face-to-face working and the fact that several new buildings in the immediate vicinity are coming to market in the near term.

The quality of the St James' Hall has been slowly deteriorating relative to new buildings, such that experts now classify it as C-Grade.

Acknowledging the above, and the needs of both the parish and the Diocese to secure future distributions from the Hall, the BoM and wardens agreed a leasing strategy with the Managing Agent to 'meet the market' – a manageable reduction in net rent, but with the security of new lease income.

Level 4 vacated the building, Levels 5 and 8/9 are in the final stages of renegotiation and the wardens are confident that new 8-year leases will shortly be signed.

The commercial tenants on the ground floor (the café and convenience store) have struggled through COVID, with minimal trading. The wardens have provided financial relief to both in line with the NSW Government's COVID arrangements, in the belief that it is better to have the spaces active than to be closed (as has happened to several other businesses in the precinct).

#### Managing Agent Agreement

The Managing Agent Agreement with Jones Lang Lasalle was renewed for a further 3 years.

#### Ordinance

The section of the Principal Ordinance which authorises the payment of income distributions to the Diocese and the parish expired on 30 June 2020. Due to the COVID pandemic, Standing Committee agreed to an extension to the Ordinance to 30 June 2021. However, the wardens were advised at the time of the extension that there is still some ill feeling within Standing Committee as to the proportional split of distributions to parish (80%) and Diocese (20%) and that this would be hard fought at the time of the next update.

At its meeting on 27 April 2021, Parish Council agreed on a strategy for negotiation of an amendment Ordinance and at its meeting on 25 May 2021 consented to the wardens' proposed Ordinance. Two novel ideas were included, the establishment of a St James' Historic Buildings Program and a St James' Education Fund.

There followed significant negotiation between the wardens, Parish Council, and various Diocesan committees.

The Parish submitted the updated documents to the Diocese on 28 May 2021 and they were distributed to the Diocesan Ordinance Review Panel (DORP), the Diocesan Resources Committee (DRC) and the Standing Committee (SC).

In subsequent conversations with the Diocesan Head of Legal Services, Steve Lucas, an issue was raised concerning the fact that the St James' Hall was and remains for the sole benefit of the parish. This was resolved in favour of the parish and revised drafting of the amendment Ordinance was provided by the Diocese and accepted on 15 June.

The Diocesan Ordinance Review Panel thought the idea of a St James' Education Fund was excellent, but that the parish should fund it from its portion of the distributions, was divided on the concept of the St James' Historic Buildings Program (as it considered that distribution of funds should be centralised and not done by parishes) and it further noted that a member of DORP proposed that the 70% parish, 30% Diocese be replaced by the Property Receipts Levy. This would have been a disaster for the Parish. The parish argued against all positions but withdrew the St James' Education Fund concept.

Standing Committee ('SC') met on 12 July. The parish rejection of the Property Receipts Levy alternative to percentage distributions was accepted by SC, the parish rejection of the centralisation of the use of funds outside the parish was lost.

Parish Council met on 27 July and, after extensive discussion and giving consideration to the then current social and financial circumstances, unanimously consented to the amendment Ordinance. The Archbishop assented to the amendment Ordinance on 5 August 2021.

What does this mean? Distributions have been authorised for 5 years, commencing 1 July 2021, and the split of distributions between parish and Diocese has been varied to 70% Parish and 30% Diocese (formerly 80%/20%). The Trustee remains authorised to mortgage the Land for an amount up to \$17<sup>m</sup> (unchanged) for specifically defined purposes, the amount applied to carry out repairs and maintenance to the church building and the replacement of the pipe organ has been increased to \$3<sup>m</sup> (previously \$2<sup>m</sup>) – this will support the new pipe organ project given the catastrophic fire.

The results of the new Ordinance have been included in both parish and Hall budgets for 2022.

#### Westpac Loan

An updated Westpac loan facility was put in place by the Diocese at the request of the wardens, following approval by Parish Council at its meeting on 24 August 2021, for a maximum amount of \$3<sup>m</sup>.

The wardens, with the consent of ACPT, have drawn down on the Westpac facility for use by the parish for the new pipe organ project. A formal mechanism has been agreed between the Diocese, ACPT and the wardens and put in place to comply with the Ordinance and the necessary accounting treatment.

Monthly interest costs are charged by Westpac to the St James' Hall Trust Account, the wardens reimburse that account from the parish account as required by the Ordinance.

#### **St James' Foundations**

The wardens gratefully acknowledge the philanthropy of donors to the St James' Music Foundation for the major contribution this makes to the ongoing funding of music in the parish. We are blessed with a beautiful heritage building in which to worship and the best of choral music.

The wardens also gratefully acknowledge the philanthropy of donors to the St James' Building Foundation for the major contribution this makes to the ongoing funding of maintenance work to the church building.

The wardens also acknowledge work of the Trustee in managing the two Trusts and the St James' Organ Appeal Committee.

### New Pipe Organ

Despite the travel restrictions due to the COVID pandemic, in the first half of 2021 work progressed to schedule on the new pipe organ project. Our expectation was that the old organ would be decommissioned following All Souls services in November 2021 and the new organ would be commissioned at the St James' day service in July 2022.

We were greatly saddened to hear that a fire destroyed the factory of Dobson Organ Builders at Lake City, Iowa, USA, on 16 June 2021. As we later found out, the organ intended for St James' was completely destroyed.

Once the initial shock passed, it was quickly established that Dobson is fully insured and that it intended to continue in business. Likewise, the wardens intended to complete this major Bicentenary project even though its completion date will be delayed.

Whilst very sad for the parish, the impact of the fire has been devastating for Dobson. Jobs (and skills) had to be retained, an income generated to pay wages, a new factory acquired, specialist tools sourced and parts, equipment, pipes etc. for the St James' organ replaced. The contract between the wardens and Dobson is under a 'force majeure' regime and payments have been suspended with the agreement of both parties. Regular emails and Zoom meetings between the Rector, the warden's representative and Dobson have continued, along with the provision of legal advice to the parish. Whilst we are still not able to set revised dates for installation, we are hopeful of doing so in the near future. On a more positive note, the easing of COVID immigration and travel restrictions by the Federal Government have made installation more certain.

Parishioners will be interested in the following extract from the most recent Dobson progress report:

*"Two weeks ago, the pipes made by the Dutch firm of Jacques Stinkens finally arrived in Lake City.*

*The ocean freight part of the shipment was straightforward enough, but interestingly there was a delay in organising the transport of the container from the rail terminal. In the end, it took twelve weeks rather than the typical five for the container to travel from Rotterdam to Lake City.*

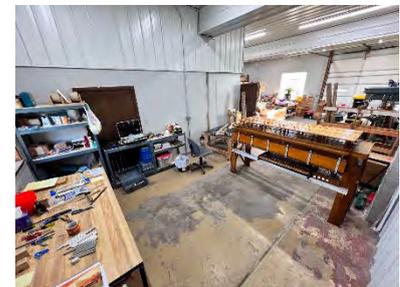
*These pipes have been unpacked and placed in specialised wooden boxes called 'pipe trays'.*



*They will be unwrapped, measured for setting on soundboards, eventually pre-voiced, wrapped once again, and carefully packed in the same pipe trays for shipment to Australia.*



*The photo right shows a space that will be used for voicing. On the right you can see a 'voicing machine' or 'voicing jack', a small organ on which to play pipes that are being voiced. This one has a pallet and slider soundboard. Tomorrow, we take delivery of a voicing machine with an electro-pneumatic soundboard. After its installation, we'll build a wall to close off this room from the rest of the workshop for sound isolation reasons.*



*Construction of some parts of the SJKS organ is underway. The organ console is coming along; we just received the custom shaper knives to make the moulding profile for the brackets under the keydesk. To the right you can see Randy shaping one of the two brackets, after which the profile will be cut on the shaper. Two new shapers arrived last week (the second one is still in its box, and will be put into storage until we have the room for it in our new workshop).*



*You may recall that the new organ's blowers were destroyed in the fire. Sadly, their manufacturer, Aug. Laukhuff of Weikersheim, Germany, closed at the end of June 2021 a casualty of COVID, so they are not available to make replacements. We elected to order similar blowers from the English firm of B.O.B. Stevenson Ltd; we received notice just before Christmas that they are completed and will soon be shipped.*

*This past week I signed a lease for an additional building of about 225 m2 across the street from one of the workshops, which we will use for storage. It is a dry and climate-controlled building, as convenient to our other buildings as we could hope. Naturally, all of the SJKS organ parts are properly covered by insurance, regardless of their location in our various buildings.*

*COVID is having an impact and causing supply chain problems. Tools that could previously be delivered in weeks are now available only after months of waiting. (We lost two German Altendorf sliding table saws in the fire; we were told it would take seven months for replacements, so we have purchased a similar used saw*

*instead, which arrives in a couple weeks.) Construction of the organ is frustrated by delayed delivery of even the most routine items, like wood screws and glue. And it really is a supply chain: Harris Precision Products, the maker of the drawstop units for the new console, is unable to complete these components in a timely way because they are waiting on electronic parts currently in a container ship offshore of Los Angeles.*

*This year now closed has been a traumatic one—first the pandemic, then the fire—but, seven months on, I am proud of our progress and the state of our business. We are transitioning from fire recovery to normal operation; additionally, we are planning our new workshop, which is an exciting thing. Through all the challenges, I am deeply grateful for the support of the St James' Church parish generally and you gentlemen specifically. It truly means everything to us."*

We pray for all at Dobson, that they may continue to recover from the fire.

### **Jardin St James**

Trading for Jardin St James' (the café in the crypt under the church) has been greatly reduced due to COVID, being closed for long periods of 2021. The wardens have provided financial relief in line with the NSW Government's COVID arrangements, in the belief (as with the Hall) that it is better to have the space active than to be closed.

### **Office**

The office has been impacted by COVID, whilst generally remaining open it was for most of 2021 a skeleton staff, with most working from home.

A project is underway to upgrade various life-expired IT systems and assets and to establish IT policies.

### **Music**

The wardens are thankful for the continued leadership of Warren Trevelyan-Jones as Head of Music, supported by our organist, Alistair Nelson, and our Organ Scholar, Callum Knox.

2021 was particularly difficult for music at St James', with the restrictions brought on by the COVID pandemic and Warren suffering a very serious accident, special thanks to Alistair for stepping up.

The wardens agreed to continue to support the Choir by payments to regular, core members despite not being able to sing. The St James' Singers hardly sang at all but continued to meet via Zoom.

See separate music report.

### **St James' Institute**

The wardens are greatly encouraged that Aaron Ghiloni successfully completed his first full year as Director of the St James' Institute. Circumstances in 2021 could not have been more challenging, with COVID lockdowns and restrictions continuing throughout the year. Particularly challenging for Aaron as his family is resident in Queensland, leading to prolonged periods of separation. The Institute is providing a growing range of informative and interesting programmes and the recent association with Trinity College Theological School, Melbourne is exciting.

See separate St James' Institute report.

**Clergy**

There were no changes to the clergy team in 2021.

The wardens feel particularly blessed to be able to work alongside gifted and faithful servants. We believe that together they will lead the parish to greater things for the glory of the Kingdom.

**Staffing**

There were no changes to the staff team in 2021.

**Questions?**

The wardens feel privileged to serve the parish and are happy to answer any questions related to their role and this report.

Sidney Blairs, Holly Raiche, Chris Lock

March 2022

## ST JAMES' INSTITUTE

### Seminars

The St James' Institute delivered eighteen events in 2021. During the year's two lockdowns, the Institute pivoted to delivering its seminars exclusively online. The move to webinars allowed the Institute to remain engaged with its audience during an otherwise down period; indeed, new topical seminars were added\* in response to the pandemic.

The following events took place in 2021:

- Twenty Minute Talk on the Michael Haydn orchestral mass with *Robert Forgács*
- Trinity College Gospel of Mark intensive with *Bob Derrenbacker*
- What's the Purpose of a Creed in a Pluralistic World? with *Ben Myers*
- Robin Sharwood Lecture in Church Law (The Future for the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia) with *Debra Mullins*
- In Conversation: Preparing for Holy Week and Easter with *Michael Horsburgh* and interviewer *Andrew Sempell*
- Pastoral and Spiritual Issues in Dementia Care with *Rosalie Hudson*
- Wall Memorials Tour with *Michael Horsburgh*
- Same Sex relationships and Church Conflict with *Joyce Ann Mercer*
- A Muslim's View of the Gospel and A Christian's View of the Qur'an with *Mehmet Ozalp* and *Aaron Ghiloni*
- NAIDOC Week (Heal Country!) with *Brooke Prentis*
- St James' Day Talk (The Melanesian Mission) with *Raymond Nobbs* and respondent *John Deane*
- Gender and The Dynamics of Doctrine with *Geoff Thompson* and respondent *Nicola Lock*
- Politicising the Bible with *Meredith Lake* and respondent *Philip Ruddock*
- Vaccine Hesitancy and Religion with *Tom Aechtner\**
- Pastoring in a Pandemic with the *Duke University Clergy Health Initiative* and respondent *Murray Harvey\**
- Is Church Unity Possible? with *Ed Loane* and respondent *Jocelyn Kellam*
- What's in a Name? with *Alanna Nobbs*
- Advent Quiet Day with *Robyn Wrigley-Carr*

**Book Studies**

- Lent: *The Apostles Creed* by Ben Myers
- *The Reckless Way of Love* by Dorothy Day
- Midyear: *Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Mark* by Marcus Borg
- Advent: *Being Christian* by Rowan Williams

**Trinity In Sydney**

The Institute entered a partnership with Trinity College Theological School (Melbourne). The partnership provides for tertiary courses in theology to be delivered in Sydney beginning in 2022. Courses are accredited through the University of Divinity. See [sjks.org.au/st-james-institute/trinity-in-sydney](https://sjks.org.au/st-james-institute/trinity-in-sydney).

**Board of Management**

Following a 2020 governance review, three-year terms were adopted for members on the Institute's Board of Management. To transition to these terms, staggered retirements were adopted for various members. Kumar Rasiah retired from the Board in 2021. Robert Whittle was appointed (by Parish Council) to the Board in 2021 for a three-year term.

**Advisory Committee**

The Institute's Advisory Committee was formally dissolved by Parish Council in April 2021, having been inactive for some time.

Dr Aaron Ghiloni

*Director of the St James' Institute*

## HOSPITALITY

The hospitality teams have had a mixed year with morning tea resuming only to be cancelled again during the Delta and Omicron waves of COVID-19.

Chris Cheetham  
*Pastoral Care Coordinator*

### Post-8am Morning Tea

During 2021, morning tea after the 8am service on the first Sunday of the month, like so much else, was disrupted by COVID-19. Only half the months of the year featured a morning tea. When we were able to meet, necessary adjustments were made: morning tea was served in the open air of Queen's Square, disposable cups were used, extra care was taken with sanitising, and on some occasions, food provided was individually wrapped.

Nonetheless, fellowship was still enjoyed, and the breaks that did occur made everyone all the more pleased to share some time together once we returned. Between 15 and 25 people attended. We were also able to celebrate once again the birthday of our youngest 8am parishioner, Louis, with a cake.

It is worth noting that every Sunday other than when a morning tea is scheduled, a dozen or so regular 8am parishioners walk down to Sydney Arcade where they enjoy each other's company over breakfast at the Chrysler café.

Jackie Dettmann  
*8am Parishioners*

### Post-9am Morning Tea

Throughout 2021, Sunday morning services were held at 8am and 10am because of COVID-19 restrictions. This meant that the way we offered hospitality to parishioners and visitors had to change. The plan we devised was for the former 9am teams to prepare and serve Morning Tea after the 10am service during one month, and during the next month, the former 11am teams would provide refreshments after this service.

Because formerly the nature of our refreshments had been different, this difference was maintained. This meant that the former 9am teams served tea and coffee, whereas the former 11am served wine, with both groups also providing light refreshments such as sandwiches, sausage rolls, mini-quiches, cakes, etc.

Most often refreshments after the 10am service were served in the Covered Courtyard where social distancing could take place. Food was spread out on tables and tongs provided to encourage hygiene.

We thank the Wardens and Parish Council for the renovations to the Hospitality Room in the Crypt. This now contains hot and cold running water, sinks, air fryers, a fridge and much of the equipment used for the serving of refreshments. This has been invaluable because of the pressure on the main kitchen in the Crypt by us and by the Sister Freda teams needing to use the space at

the same time. It has also reduced the distance between where the food is prepared and the Covered Courtyard, where it is served. However, there is not sufficient hot water in the Hospitality Room for the preparation of tea and coffee, so they have to be made in the main kitchen. As well, there is no dishwasher, so the dishwasher in the main kitchen still has to be used.

As the former 11am teams contained fewer people than the former 9am teams, often they could not provide as much food. Also, because numbers who would attend were difficult to predict, sometimes we would have too much food. This was usually not a problem as once the Sister Freda teams resumed serving lunch to the homeless, they would package up our leftovers so their guests could take them with them after lunch. This was particularly necessary when Oz Harvest, who supplies the food for the Sister Freda ministry these days, was not operating at full strength or at all due to COVID-19.

Since the beginning of 2022 and at times during 2021, however, we have cancelled the serving of refreshments after morning services because of the particularly infectious nature of the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus or because of government regulations. The Rector made this decision in 2022, but many of our volunteers were unwilling to continue anyway due to the risks involved and the fact that very often people had to isolate due to their being in contact with those who had the virus.

We look forward to the time when things can get back to some degree of normality. I do thank the volunteers on our refreshment teams for their willingness to help and to adapt to a difficult and often trying situation. And for the wonderful food they provide!

Sue Mackenzie

*9am Refreshments Coordinator*

## **WEDNESDAY MEDITATION GROUP**

We had another year meeting by Zoom at 7:45 on Wednesday mornings. My wife Anne joins me in leading the group.

Our form of meditation is mantra based in the tradition of Father John Main OSB.

We have a mailing group of over a dozen. Those who are available that Wednesday join in. Some are from St James and others from the wider community, a couple from regional Australia and one from overseas.

We listen to an online talk about Christian Meditation then we meditate for 25 minutes followed by reading the gospel for the day from the Lectionary. The those of us who can, stay on for a short chat.

Anyone is welcome to join, even just to try it out. Send me an email ([richardcogswell@hotmail.com](mailto:richardcogswell@hotmail.com)) and I will put you on the list to receive the link.

Richard and Anne Cogswell

*Wednesday Meditation Group*

## RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN (RAP)

A small group of parishioners is meeting regularly to develop a Reconciliation Action Plan for the St James' Bicentenary. The members of the group are Anna Green, Catherine McClellan, Lesley Barclay, Libby Hindmarsh and Robert Whittle who together are looking at ways of implementing a Reconciliation Action Plan for the parish.

The group's agenda is:

- A. Work through the World Vision Walk Alongside Church Reconciliation Toolkit and use this as a template for discussion towards setting up a plan for St James'.  
[https://www.worldvision.com.au/docs/default-source/publications/australia-and-the-pacific/7757\\_rap\\_plan\\_2016\\_18.pdf?sfvrsn=2](https://www.worldvision.com.au/docs/default-source/publications/australia-and-the-pacific/7757_rap_plan_2016_18.pdf?sfvrsn=2)
- B. Provide a regular article in *St James' Connections* on aspects of Reconciliation.
- C. Compile a reading and resources list.
- D. Set up a page on the SJKS website:  
<https://www.sjks.org.au/church/history-and-architecture/reconciliation-plaque/>
- E. Set up dialogue with First Nations people.

We welcome any members of the congregation who would like to contribute to this important work.

Catherine McClellan

*RAP member*

## MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

St James' 'tithes' one tenth of the year's offertories, distributing the money to a range of charitable purposes. The task of distributing the 'tithe' funds for this year (\$34,000) was undertaken by the Mission and Outreach Committee, with Parish Council approval.

The Committee (Robert Marriott, Christopher Day, and Holly Raiche) based its allocations on themes of the 2021-2025 Parish Strategic Plan: Classical Anglican tradition, and the aspirations of social justice and pastoral care for the needy. We also seek to balance allocations between local, national, and international.

The six recipients are as follows:

### *Social Justice*

Institute for Faith and Gender Empowerment (IFAGE) – support for project training men from the Kenyan Anglican Men Association in factors that contribute to and shape gender-based violence

### *Pastoral Care*

Bill Crews Foundation – feeding Sydney's homeless

UNICEF – Emergency Appeal for children in Afghanistan

Act For Peace – Support for the COVID-19 International Emergency Fund

*Classically Anglican*

St Laurence House

Diocese of Willochra

The Committee also retained \$4,000, looking at either assistance to fire services or projects to address land management in the coming year, as needed.

***Mission and Outreach Committee***

## **THE SISTER FREDA MISSION**

The Mission continues to thrive much as it has always done since 1895 when it was begun by the Community of the Sisters of the Church, an English Religious Order that started the Collegiate School in Paddington in 1893. Sister Freda, who was a member of the Order, took over the organisation of the Mission in 1899. When she died in 1936 her name was given to the Mission and St James' took over responsibility for its operation.

The need for a basic meal in safe surrounds is as important now as it was in 1895. The number of guests averages at around 40/50 for lunch and continues to be served every Sunday.

COVID-19 regulations have of course affected our operations which have been tailored to ensure we comply with those regulations. For example, lunch is now served as a 'take away' from the Quiet Garden Area with guests entering through the eastern gate, but they are not permitted to stay. Whilst not ideal from a community point of view we are managing but are looking forward to the time when restrictions can be lifted

We have been fortunate to be able to continue to link in with the rescue food organisation OzHarvest which collects quality excess food from a large number of commercial outlets and delivers it direct and free of charge to many charities including the Sister Freda Mission. The quantity varies but it is all excellent food within use by dates & our guests enjoy the variety, often being able to take extra food home for another meal or share with a friend.

Streets Ice Creams have continued to support the Mission and continue to regularly donate ice creams which is very much appreciated

Disappointingly our annual Christmas Lunch could not be held again last year because of the COVID-19 restrictions. However, our guests were able to enjoy special takeaway packages which were provided.

The annual donation of socks, beanies and gloves during winter time was again well supported by many parishioners. A practical gift and very well received. Thank you all.

We would like to thank all our volunteers who have provided their time through the year and also a big thank you to those who have so generously donated funds to help this important Ministry. Donations (which are tax deductible) are of course always welcome. Cheques should be made out to the Sister Freda Mission and can be sent directly to the parish office or of course funds can be transferred electronically if preferred.

We always need more volunteers. If you would like to join or simply come along one Sunday to see what is involved please contact us.

David & Robyn Carver

*Sister Freda Mission Coordinators*

## **ST LAURENCE HOUSE REPORT**

Despite the challenges of the past year, I am pleased to report that St Laurence House continues to go from strength to strength. The dedicated team that runs our service has continued, despite COVID-19, to focus on the needs of the children and young people in our care. Our supporters' generous contributions have once again enabled us to provide 24/7 support to 'at risk' children in need across five bedrooms in our House, as well as the semi-supported units for young adults through our STAY (Supported Transitional Accommodation for Youth) Program.

With the need of our clients at heart, St Laurence House is now engaged in a major programme to review and improve all aspects of its operations. The aim is to achieve a robust and healthy organisation that provides best-in-class service, capable of meeting any challenge. As well as a focus on Governance, we are making key appointments to lift the professionalism of our staff for the longer-term benefit of our clients

Thank you to Nigel Parker, our Executive Officer, and his staff for their excellent work in continuing the teaching of life skills in a supportive environment for children and young people. Thank you also to the members of the Committee of Management for their untiring work this year. Thank you, too, to the many stakeholders that we work with in the Homelessness sector and who also strive to get our clients back on track

Alan Soutar

*Chair of SLH Management Committee*

## **WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?**

The group known as Who is my neighbour? came together in 2013 in response to several challenging sermons at St James' and the policy decisions being made by Australian Governments around the treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (Uluru Statement), refugees and asylum seekers.

The group has continued to function during the COVID-19 pandemic and this has been done via email and now includes a Zoom meeting every couple of months.

Emails have been sent about every six weeks to inform the group about activities and to update the group about current issues.

Who is my neighbour? has several aims:

1. To inform people about issues through emails, articles and information meetings.
2. To propose a Refugee Family to come to Australia.

Several years ago, the current Government asked community organisations to look to propose refugee families to come to Australia. St James' responded and proposed a Syrian family in Jordan. We completed all the papers and sent them to the Australian Embassy. The Embassy acknowledged the proposal and we received nothing more and could find out no further information.

Following this disappointment, St James' attempted through Anglican Aid to propose an Iraqi refugee family living in Lebanon to come to Australia. This became impossible with closed borders due to COVID-19 and after discussions with Anglican Aid we decided to support the family by sending \$100 US and later \$200 US per month to help them as there was rampant inflation in Lebanon.

The family applied themselves to the Australian Government for a visa but when they heard nothing after many months, they applied to Canada and were accepted. We are waiting to hear when they will be able to go to Canada and continue to support them.

So although we have been unsuccessful with these two applications St James' was still wanting to support refugees to come to Australia. When the Taliban took power in Afghanistan in late 2021, an Afghani friend Sabera, herself a refugee now an Australian citizen, applied for a Humanitarian Visa for her brother and his wife and two children who were at risk. St James' has also applied as a community organisation for a Humanitarian Visa application for the family. Unfortunately, the Government has failed to process any of these applications. We will continue to advocate for this to happen.

3. To advocate for asylum seekers and refugees.

This is being achieved by writing to politicians both individually and as a group. We continue to be concerned about detention of people who have come to Australia by boat being held in detention in Australia.

New Zealand has also offered to take 150 of these people but so far our Government has not taken up this offer. We need to continue to advocate on their behalf. St James' is a member of The Refugee Council of Australia which is an umbrella organisation for the many groups working in this area.

4. To support asylum seekers and refugees already in Australia.

The parish has continued to support the Asylum Seekers' Centre in Newtown. During the COVID-19 pandemic there were very few services delivered at the centre, and the staff ran a food distribution to people at home and continued to have contact and to help with housing, medical care and other issues. This group received no support from the Commonwealth and the NSW government has given some funding. We have continued to encourage people to donate directly to the Asylum Seekers Centre or to continue to send food vouchers to the Asylum Seekers Centre.

<https://asylumseekerscentre.org.au/contact-us/>

5. To support our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters

In 2021 during NAIDOC week, we worked with the St James' Institute, which held a webinar and the CEO of Common Grace, Ms Brooke Prentis spoke very passionately

about the need for reconciliation and us all working together as outlined in the Uluru Statement from the Heart which speaks of Voice, Treaty and Truth.

As part of the St James' Bicentenary celebrations, members of Who is my neighbour? are working to develop a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for St James'. It is a work in progress and there have been articles in *St James' Connections* to inform the Parish about how the RAP is progressing (see separate RAP report).

6. To support our LGBTQIA+ brothers and sisters.

The group has been concerned about the treatment of LGBTQIA+ people in our community and especially those who have been excluded by some churches. We have had contact with Equal Voices, Sarah Dillon wrote an article for *St James' Connections* which included two stories.

The groups meet every two months on a Monday night by Zoom to discuss current issues. A regular email is sent to the group to update the members about current issues. Articles have been written for *St James' Connections*.

To enquire about the group or join the email group please contact Elizabeth (Libby) Hindmarsh email [elizabeth@hindmarshsydney.com.au](mailto:elizabeth@hindmarshsydney.com.au) or mobile 0404 492 444.

Elizabeth (Libby) Hindmarsh

*'Who is my Neighbour?' Coordinator*

## HEAD OF MUSIC

The COVID-19 pandemic has had enormous impact on the music ministry at St James' over the past 12 months. We were unable to offer choral services from late June to mid-October, and the year as a whole saw a major restriction of the musical activities normally offered. Evening concerts, lunchtime concerts, orchestral masses and many special services were cancelled or postponed.

For the periods when the Choir and Singers were not permitted, the music in our Sunday worship was often performed by one or two cantors and organ. This presented the unique opportunity to explore new repertoire and placed a greater emphasis and responsibility on the role these musicians play in these services. A limited choral programme was offered when choirs were allowed. Limits were placed on the numbers of choristers permitted and strict COVID-safe protocols had to be observed, including regular testing, the wearing of masks and social distancing. Both Choir and Singers are now emerging from this most difficult period. All our musicians have shown enormous resilience over the last two years, and as things now being to emerge, their commitment and passion for what they do is obvious to all who see and hear them.

The livestreaming of Wednesday and Sunday services, plus our Wednesday lunchtime concert series, has ensured that we are still able to engage with both regulars and those further afield who were unable to attend the church in person.

The devastating fire at the Dobson Organ Factory in Iowa, US, has sadly delayed the building and installation of our new pipe organ, but recent reports show that Dobson's are now making excellent progress and new timelines for St James' new pipe organ are imminent.

Alistair Nelson, Organist, and Callum Knox, Organ Scholar, have ensured that St James' wasn't silenced over this period, and I am most grateful to them for their hard work this year, especially over the considerable period when I was away on sick leave in the second half of 2021

Finally, I would like to thank the Parish, the St James' Music Foundation and the Friends of Music for their support of the music ministry at St James'.

Warren Trevelyan-Jones

*Head of Music*

## THE ST JAMES' ORGAN REPLACEMENT AND RESTORATION APPEAL

Work to construct and to raise funds to pay for the new organ for St James' Church faced considerable challenges in 2021.

Despite the Appeal Committee's best intentions, the fundraising programme continued to be disrupted for the second year in succession by the COVID pandemic and its associated public health restrictions. A number of special events and activities scheduled to support the project were cancelled. Then, in June 2021 a disastrous fire totally destroyed the Dobson Pipe Organ Builders, Ltd. workshop in Iowa. All the components of the new organ that had been completed and stored in the workshop at that stage were lost to the flames. Plague *and* fire: who would have thought?

It is really pleasing to report that Dobson wasted little time in establishing new workshop space and in re-commencing the building process, all within a matter of months. The company has used its global network of suppliers to source replacement pipes, some of which have already been built and delivered to the new workshop. Work is advanced on the replacement organ consoles. The fire also raised legal and insurance issues that required attention. The work-in-progress components destroyed in the fire are covered by Dobson's insurers. St James' and the Appeal are not 'out of pocket'.

A revised installation schedule is still under consideration. The original plan to have the instrument in place by July 2022 obviously will be pushed further into the future. Details are to be confirmed.

With the suspension of major fundraising activities, the level of donations received last year declined. Just prior to news of the fire, the Committee began to pivot to online fundraising activities. An amount of just on \$100,000 was raised through such endeavours in the month before the end of the 2020/21 financial year. Taking this figure into account, the Appeal has raised a total of \$1.8 million so far. This amount has covered all work to date. Even so, there is some way to go. The total cost of the instrument is \$3 million, with the addition of transportation and local construction and installation charges.

The Committee has placed an emphasis on communications. Regular updates to donors have been issued. Articles about the project have been included in multiple editions of the parish magazine *Connections*. Depending on the situation with the pandemic, the Committee is hoping to host some events during the course of this coming year. It will also continue to explore further online initiatives. Plans are under review for a series of fund-raising concerts once the instrument is in place.

Notwithstanding these unforeseeable circumstances, there are some 'silver linings'. The shocking news of the fire confirmed the high reputation and selection of Dobson for the St James' project. The company was flooded with support from suppliers, even competitor companies and the general pipe organ community. The company has spared no effort to resume operations. The Appeal Committee was also heartened by the sustained interest and confidence of donors and the St James' community during these tough times. It appreciated the many messages of support that were received following the fire. The Committee acknowledges with gratitude the generosity of those who nonetheless continued to make donations to the Appeal prior to the end of the last financial year.

Of course, tax donations are always welcome and can be made at:

<http://stjameskingstreetmusicfoundation.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/StJamesFoundation-DonationForm-November-2019.pdf> or

<https://www.stjamesfoundationorganappeal.com.au/donate-now>

Your confidence in the Appeal has not been misplaced. It will arrive a little later than planned, but St James' will get its new organ.

Robert Marriott

*Chair, The St James' Music Foundation Organ Replacement and Restoration Committee*

## **THE GUILD OF ST RAPHAEL**

The Guild of St Raphael witnesses to the Healing Ministry within St James' and we are under the patronage of St Raphael the Archangel of Healing. (His story is told in the Book of Tobit, found in the Apocrypha).

We are a group of people committed to personal prayer on behalf of people requesting our support. It is a confidential ministry for people who prefer their requests not be public, so all names are treated in confidence. This year we were again unable to celebrate the regular Healing Eucharist together. Should anyone like to become a part of The Guild membership, please let Fr John know and you will be most welcome.

In 'normal' times a monthly Healing Eucharist is held in The Chapel of The Holy Spirit at 6:15pm on the first Tuesday of each month, excepting January. Fr John floated the idea that we might be able to meet virtually by way of Evening Prayer on Tuesdays, conducted similarly to Morning prayer. The idea was accepted by the Parish and not just Tuesday but every weekday. Evening prayer is attended by around fifteen people and on Tuesdays, lead by Fr John, the intention is for the Healing Ministry.

One day the Eucharists will return when everyone will be welcomed back to the quiet, tranquil service where people are welcome to receive the Laying on of Hands and Anointing for themselves, or on behalf of someone else. The homilies are directed towards deepening our understanding of Christ's Healing Ministry. We pray that that time will come sooner rather than later.

Fr John Stewart is the Chaplain of our branch of the Guild, and we thank him sincerely for his wisdom and ongoing dedication to this ministry.

Nanette Danks  
*Guild of St Raphael*

## **HOSPITAL VISITING TEAM**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions during 2021 hospitals were not allowing volunteers to visit, but hopefully this situation will ease later this year.

If you feel this could be your contribution as a layperson to a vital ministry and outreach of St James' please contact the co-ordinator Mary Sattin.

Chris Cheetham  
*Pastoral Care Coordinator*

## **PARISH NETWORKERS**

The COVID-19 virus has shown how important it is to have a strong group of networkers who are able to keep in touch with parishioners who are unable to attend St James' due to COVID-19 restrictions.

If you would like to become a Networker, please contact Chris Cheetham on 0407 017 377 or email [christine.cheetham@gmail.com](mailto:christine.cheetham@gmail.com).

Chris Cheetham  
*Pastoral Care Coordinator*

### **ST JAMES' EATS**

Again, due to Covid restrictions and hesitancy amongst people to gather in large groups there were no St James' Eats during 2021. Hopefully St James' Eats will be up and running by April this year.

Chris Cheetham  
*Pastoral Care Coordinator*

### **ST JAMES' MENS' GROUP**

The Men's group continued to meet via Zoom throughout 2021, with a Christmas get together in December at the Castlereagh Club.

Dates for 2022 on Saturdays at 12:00 are 12 March, 14 May, 9 July, 10 September and 12 November.

If any men are interested in joining, please contact David Cheetham on 0405 199 189 or email [cheethamdw@yahoo.com.au](mailto:cheethamdw@yahoo.com.au). There is a small charge of \$10 to cover lunch, when it is possible to meet face to face.

Chris Cheetham  
*Pastoral Care Coordinator*

## MORNING PRAYER

Morning Prayer has continued as a strong online group in 2021. We have maintained a steady congregation of 30-40 people with an average attendance of 25 each morning. It is a steadfast group that continues to provide worship, friendship and support for everyone during the ups and downs of COVID-19.

We follow the lectionary psalms and readings, with special services for saints' days and major church festivals and the readings are shared among the members of the group. Everyone still speaks of the importance of gathering to say the morning office, and everyone is welcome to join. The links are on the SJKS website.

My thanks to the leaders: Carolyn Lawes, Libby Hindmarsh, Robert Whittle, Stephen Samild and Sue Mackenzie, and particular thanks to Sue for preparing the Ordo sheets each week.

Catherine McClellan

*Morning Prayer Coordinator*

## ST JAMES' GUILD OF BELLRINGERS

The bells were silenced at different times during 2021 due to COVID-19. When ringing was allowed, ringers wore masks, sanitised at every change of rope and socially distanced while in the tower. We are very fortunate to have a spacious ringing chamber and adjoining areas in the gallery and on the landing adjoining the chamber where ringers are able to spread out. At one stage, however, we had to limit the number of people actually ringing to four to enable greater distancing.

Despite the difficulties, during 2021 we rang for two weddings, eight funerals and two memorial services, as well as Sunday service ringing whenever possible but only before the 10 am service. Our Quarter Peals were greatly interrupted. Generally, ringers were very cautious about ringing for a longer length of time whilst also coping with the challenge of wearing a mask while ringing. Only three QPs were attempted and only one successfully completed. A second in May was well underway when suddenly brought to a halt by the sounding of the fire alarm. The ringers hastily retreated from the building as the fire brigade arrived. No fire was found and the firemen told us that the alarm was probably triggered by dust! (Stirring ringing indeed!) Unfortunately, there was not time to resume ringing.

In June, the Australian and New Zealand Association of Bellringers Annual Festival and AGM was held in Bundaberg, Queensland. At that time, it was possible to travel interstate so four St James' ringers made the journey and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. One of these was Alan Coates who has been a stalwart of St James' band for many years. Unfortunately, ill health has meant that Alan has had to give up ringing. He is still involved in ringing, however, running the Simulator once a week for learners and experienced ringers. We are very grateful to Alan for his contribution over many years and hope we continue to see him in the tower.

There are currently twelve ringers in the regular St James' band. Marylon Coates began teaching a new ringer in May 2021, but lessons were severely disrupted. Happily, the new ringer is now progressing well and will be joining the regular band soon.

Jackie Dettmann

*Tower Captain*

**RESTING SPACE**

At Resting Space we are attempting to engage in Spiritual Formation. This is a traditional process for becoming more Christ-like. It is founded on the belief that the practice of certain spiritual disciplines (like meditating on scripture and practicing silence and solitude) can open us to God's deep healing and transforming power.

Resting Space moved online permanently in 2021 as a result of both the continued uncertainty from COVID-19 and because some group members moved out of Sydney. The group has been meeting fortnightly on Zoom. In response to being online, some group members started to organise monthly face to face dinners in a reasonably priced restaurant in the CBD. These dinners contained a brief time of reflection while still providing time for face-to-face fellowship. The dinners proved very popular.

Between ten and twenty people attended the online sessions each fortnight in 2021 – some people coming most times, others when they could. Just under half of the people who've attended don't go to a Sunday service at St James'. Some of these people have their own churches they meet with on Sundays. But a small minority don't attend church anywhere else and Resting Space seems to be meeting their 'church need'.

September 2022 will see the fifth anniversary of the launch of Resting Space.

Any questions on Resting Space can be directed to Nick Ingram ([nick@clearthinking.co](mailto:nick@clearthinking.co)).

Nick Ingram

*Resting Space*

**ARCHIVES REPORT**

In my report last year, I suggested that the Archive would be ‘up and running’ in 2021. Clearly, I had not factored in another variant! Now that most restrictions have been lifted, I am hoping that we will be back to something resembling ‘normal’ for the remainder of 2022. Perhaps it is just as well that I am not an optimist!

Unfortunately, the Archives were closed for much of 2021 due to COVID-19 concerns, tho’ we have been able to catch-up on some of the back-log since things have started to open-up this year (2022). A little reorganisation of materials in the paper archives has been possible but a great deal more needs to be done.

My thanks are extended to the Rector and Michael Horsburgh for copies of their sermons preached over the last 12 months, and to Colin Middleton for his column in *St James’ Connections* and his assistance in the Archives. Brooke Shelley, together with Stephen Samild, continue to maintain the digital records, particularly important given the importance of the extent of the digital material we now generate.

The number of requests directed to the Archives asking for information from our records has been larger than usual. Some of it decidedly unusual but, most, interesting. The lockdown has led to a delay in responding to all requests but in the last few weeks I have been able to ‘play catch-up’ and all have been attended to in the last few weeks.

Gordon Cooper  
*Acting Honorary Archivist*



## *Appeal for Archives*

Do you have any memorabilia associated with St James' that the Archives could have or borrow, as we move to celebrate the bicentenary of the Church's consecration? If so, please contact the Acting Archivist, Gordon Cooper at [rgc@tsn.cc](mailto:rgc@tsn.cc) Borrowed material will be photographed or digitised and returned to its donor.

## *St James' Lunchtime Concerts*

### *Supporting Sydney's Musicians*

*Wednesdays 1:15pm, \$10*

*Enjoy performances by pianists, organists, singers,  
solo instrumentalists, chamber ensembles & choirs*

*Attend in person or view online for up to a week following the concert*

*All proceeds go to the musicians and livestreaming costs*

**[sjks.org.au/music/lunchtime-concerts/](https://sjks.org.au/music/lunchtime-concerts/)**

**S<sup>T</sup>. JAMES'**  
Music



## Diversity, Resistance, and Global Anglicanisms

Sathianathan Clarke, ThD

Sunday 27 March, 2:00pm | \$25 | St James' Hall & Online

### **The Anglican Way: Balancing Multiple Belonging with Resistant Unbelonging for Blessed Kin[g]dom Becoming**

A public lecture by Sathianathan 'Sathi' Clarke, the Bishop Sundo Kim Chair in World Christianity at Wesley Theological Seminary (Washington DC) and a Presbyterian of the Church of South India. Clarke is co-editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Anglican Studies* (2016). His other books include *Competing Fundamentalisms: Violent Extremism in Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism* (2018) and *Dalits and Christianity: Subaltern Religion and Liberation Theology in India* (1998).

[stjamesinstitute.org.au](http://stjamesinstitute.org.au)



## Domestic Violence in Faith Communities

Thursday 31 March, 11:00am | \$15 | Online

This practical webinar will introduce the current situation concerning domestic violence in Australian churches. The seminar will have a multi-disciplinary approach, featuring a psychologist, social worker, relationship counselor, and cleric. They will provide ideas, tools, and resources to assist in creating safe faith communities. Presented by Lynda Dunstan, Tracy Lauersen, Nicola Lock, and Kylie Maddox Pidgeon.

[stjamesinstitute.org.au](http://stjamesinstitute.org.au)



**S.<sup>T</sup>JAMES'**  
Bicentenary 2019-2024