



St Stephen's
The Anglican Parish of Whangaparaoa Peninsula

Annual Reports



Annual General Meeting 22 March 2020

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Agenda

1. Welcome and Prayer
2. Apologies
3. Receive the Parish Roll
4. Minutes of 2019 AGM
5. Vicar's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
6. **Other Reports:**

Wardens'
Children and Families
mainly music
Op Shop
Pastoral Care and Rest

Home Ministry
Missions
Hosting & Reception
Library
Selwyn Centre

Home Groups
Alpha
Everyman

7. Elections

- A. Appoint two Scrutineers
- B. Decide the number of members of Vestry to be elected
(Note Vestry has continuing power to fill vacancies on Vestry until revoked)
- C. Receive the name of the Vicar's Warden
- D. Elect the People's Warden
- E. Elect Vestry members

8. Op-shop Distributions

9. Consideration of Memorial Precinct Proposal

10. Ron McInnes to move: That our Synod representatives present a bill to the next Synod to amend the Statutes to allow for proxy voting
11. Authorise Vestry to confirm AGM minutes
12. Any other business (as notified by 15th March)



Wardens' Report

At the commencement of this elected term of Warden's Office, the wardens Alison and Roy decided to combine their roles as church/vicars' wardens. This decision has proved to be of great value with each of the wardens building on each other's strengths and supporting in each other's weaknesses.

2019/2020 has been an emotional ride for church wardens. With much prayer and faith, many issues were facing St Stephen's during this time. It is wonderful to look back and see just how much healing there has been, as God works His purpose out in his church of St Stephen.

Following the issues arising from the 2019 AGM, the Bishop arranged for a listening process to be undertaken, and this was conducted by Reverend Tim Meadowcroft and Mrs Joyce Carswell. After a weekend of listening to a number of parishioners, they provided a report to the Bishop, and recommendations were made for vestry to consider and work on. It was acknowledged that some of the recommendations would take a considerable amount of time to work through, and Vestry concluded that each recommendation should be worked on sequentially, rather than trying to do too much at one time. Of course this work has to be fitted in to the day to day work and life of the parish, with various festivities needing considerable time and effort to complete. We have reported back to the Bishop and the Archdeacon on progress to date, who were pleased to hear about the work vestry has done. Archdeacon Carole Hughes encouraged us to not to hurry the process but to take time to work through these matters.

1. Opshop Review

It was recommended that the governance of the Op-shop Operation be reviewed and a policy developed on the roles of governance and management. This review has been completed and was reported back to the Parish in November.

2. Theological Diversity

Joyce and Tim perceived that the parish is locked in an attempt to agree together on what it means to be missional in the current environment. They see three broad strands currently at odds with each other. They concluded the answer is not to create a pallid impotent blend of the three, but to allow the three full "in good faith" expression in creative tension with each other. This requires leaders to give space to the other voices. This could include affirming lay leaders, and clergy who hold *Per-mission to Officiate in the Parish and ensuring that they are heard on various issues, and that their best contributions to the parish be discerned.*

They also recommended that to address the theological diversity in the parish, encouragement and resourcing of different study groups in the parish would assist in people finding their voice and in offering wider theological expressions of faith.

Vestry has formed a sub-committee to consider these recommendations. Terms of reference for the group are currently being drawn up, and work will get underway in earnest under the new Vestry. It is anticipated that the committee will invite input from various members of the Parish.

3. “Motion 7” Agenda

Joyce and Tim heard people speak about a lack of broader perspectives offered on issues of sexuality. This particularly related to the passing of what is commonly referred to as Motion 7 at General Synod 2018. They recommended matters around Motion 7 be addressed by holding facilitated respectful conversations to allow for all parishioners to find a voice in the issue. Leadership in such discussions should involve a variety of voices who hold diverse positions on theology and biblical analysis. Discussions on this subject had originally been planned for September 2018 but following careful consideration were deferred in the interests of maintaining unity within the Parish. This work will be addressed following the completion of the work on Theological Diversity.

4. Mission with Kondo, Tanzania

Questions were raised during the listening process regarding the funding of this mission, and whether it was a parish priority. A review of the mission was undertaken during the year and the report made available in October with reporting back to the Parish in November. More detailed comment on this is addressed in the Missions report.

Memorial Wall

This project has advanced greatly under the leadership of Graham Lamont, and we are now at the stage where final approval will be requested at this year’s AGM. Full details are available in the report of the Memorial Wall Committee. Thanks to the committee and especially to Graham Lamont for the persistence and hard work which has brought the project to this stage.

Parish Life

The inaugural Annual Church Picnic was held in January was held at the end of January, an informal tradition which is set to continue. A committee was formed following receipt of Tony Jee’s resignation to determine the future path for Children & Family Ministry. With careful consideration of the needs of the Ministry and the Parish finan-

cial situation it was determined that 30 hours per week for a Children & Families Minister would be sufficient. Vestry was pleased to appoint Wendy Fowler and James Cameron as Joint Children & Families Ministers in April, each working for 15 hours per week. James subsequently resigned for personal reasons in July, and Wendy increased her hours to 20 hours per week. Wendy is to be congratulated on what she has achieved, particularly with the highly successful “We Are Family” events which she has organised. These events are specifically designed to bring the whole Parish community together, but have demanded a huge amount of preparation. There is no doubt that Wendy would benefit from having more volunteers to assist her on Sunday mornings. During the year the Children & Families Ministry benefited from the help of the PAIS interns, and the cooking abilities of Trevor were much appreciated at Family Alpha and Messy Church events. We farewelled Felipe in April and the rest of the team in June, and although it had been great to have their assistance it was felt that we did not have the necessary structures in place to be able to continue this initiative. Thanks are due to Neville Cooper for providing a car for the interns to use during their time with us.



We conclude by saying a heartfelt thanks to all those who volunteer their time to the smooth running of the church, be it up front in Worship Leading or providing music, or behind the scenes with keeping the property maintained and tidy or in the kitchen, and everything in between. You all contribute hugely to the life and health of this church and are very much appreciated.

Alison Vedder (Vicar’s Warden) and **Roy Smith** (People’s Warden)

Family & Children’s Ministries

Sunday Mornings

It’s been so wonderful to see all of the new families who have walked through our doors this year. I sincerely hope all of the children have felt that they are wholeheartedly welcomed into their Sunday Morning classes.

On a typical Sunday morning with the over 5s we’ll often introduce ourselves to the same text the adults are studying but then explore the message in many different ways- lots of crafts, some discussion, some games, and often find a way to incorporate physical food to go along with the spiritual!

A brand new adventure that's come out of our Sunday School was the preliminary mission lunch organized and put on by the children. This was a direct result of their repeated prayer requests for the Australian animals being harmed by the fires, the love many of them have for cooking, and the overwhelming desire they have to help those who are not able to help themselves- in this case the Australian animals. The children baked up some beautiful Australian desserts, and then slaved away over the veggie chopping board to serve up a gorgeous and satisfying lunch featuring minestrone soup and vegemite scrolls. The generosity of everyone who supported their lunch was astounding, and so encouraging to them, as they so strongly desire to help in every way that they can.

Throughout the year the younger children meet in a portion of the hall, with some time for morning tea, a craft or activity, and a bit of play time. Those of you who have volunteered in this area have provided more of a blessing than you will probably ever know. This is the area for next year that I would like to devote more time and resources to, as our littlest children have grown a bit older, and they are more capable of handling a more structured lesson. I am currently looking into Godly Play or a similar resource or program to help our smallest parishioners experience more of God and His love for them.

Messy Church



I have been blessed to see this community grow this year, and in so many different ways. There is wonderful support from a great group of helpers who faithfully come out to put on this event, whether it's chatting to and building relationships with the

parents, getting messy with the kids and the various crafts/ activities, or producing the wonderful meals that come out of the kitchen. I have also been encouraged to see many of our Sunday morning families attending and helping out, and to watch the kids from both areas build friendships with each other. Messy Church has become a congregation in it's own right, with many families strengthening their relationship with us month after month, and some beginning to come along to our Family Night events as they become more comfortable and feel more part of our community. I feel that we are well on our way in achieving the five aims of Messy Church- that we truly are all age, Christ-centered, hospitable, creative, and worshipful.

We have had some wonderful speakers at Messy Church this year, including Pamela Cunningham who told a wonderful lego story of the Prodigal Son, Shamus and Sue Fairhall who tied in their family's mission work to disabled islanders with our Good Samaritan theme, and Andrew Scott who gave us a new perspective on Jonah and the whale with his account of being protected by a whale during a storm at sea. This is part of my philosophy at messy church, that we all have a story to tell, and I hope there will be more people who are up for sharing their story to help connect to this congregation during the next year.

Family Nights

Inspired by the wonderful feeling of community at last year's Parish Picnic and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake meal, we began our Family Nights with about one every term this year. We shared a meal each night, sometimes had some light entertainment, but the real point was to have some time to deepen relationships in our church family. I felt this purpose was achieved from the very first night, as some 8:00 and 10:00 congregants who had never met started conversations and found common ground. Throughout the day and night at these events there are a steady stream of all ages through the kitchen, everyone helping to prepare food, serve and clear the dishes, pitching in just like in an extended family. From my view these nights are a visual representation of our love and respect we have for each other and the willingness of everyone to contribute to our community.



On a personal note, I wish I could somehow adequately convey my appreciation to all of those who have helped me transition into this role during the past year, and those who have given so tirelessly in all that we do to make us ever more appealing to families. What an inspiring bunch of people we have at St Stephens. May God bless you all.

Wendy Fowler

mainly music

2019 began strongly, with good numbers of families and good team support for both Tuesday and Wednesday. Tony Jee led Tuesday, Gill Cranch Wednesday. We also had the interns to assist which added a youthful flavour. With Tony's resignation there was some soul searching and we were delighted to have James Cameron and Wendy Fowler take up the challenge and the interns took up some of the slack while Wendy transitioned into the new role.

By term 3 we had no interns and two of the Wednesday team members had to withdraw for health reasons. We were grateful to have the help of Michelle Coslett and also had Sue Harper join the team.

As we begin 2020 Tuesday has good coverage, however, Wednesday has minimum coverage and with Susan Newbould on the move soon we are struggling.

In all, it's been a year of good numbers of families attending, good cross fertilisation into messy church and a few into Family Alpha as well.

I believe we as a team are doing a great job in getting alongside mums at mainly music and walking with them as they explore their faith and overcoming trials they may be experiencing. It is encouraging to see the mums so deep in conversation at every session, and often to observe that it's the children who are ready for home before the mums, as the mums are so content to stay in the community that they sometimes so desperately need!



Gill Cranch and Wendy Fowler

Op-shop Report 2019

The Op-shop began the year well, but suffered a slump in donations and sales in the middle of the year. This slump is gradually being corrected. A Relieving Manager, Marion Nel, was appointed in April, and this allowed Manager Cindy Basson to return to a 5 rather than 6-day working week. It also meant that when Cindy required time off work for health and family reasons, Marion was able to step in at short notice. However in December Cindy's stepfather in South Africa became gravely ill at a time when Marion had already planned to take leave. We are very grateful to volunteers Dirk du Plooy and Lorraine Lloyd for stepping in to the breach quickly to allow Cindy to travel home to South Africa.

The Parish approved giving 10% of monthly profits to a local charity at the October Special General Meeting. Since then the shop has adopted a Charity of the Month programme beginning in November, and this has been well received by volunteers and public alike. Charities of the Month for November and December were SALT Orewa Community Christmas Lunch and Hibiscus Coast Foodbank, appointed by the Committee based on support given in previous years by the Parish. For 2020, recipients of this support will be determined by Op-shop Volunteers and Parishioners attending the AGM.

Vestry hosted the Volunteers to a Christmas Dinner which was much appreciated. At this function certificates of appreciation were given to the volunteers, and a vote was undertaken to determine their choices for 2020 "Charity of the Month". The top 3 Charities (Women's Refuge; Youth in Transition; WanderSearch Auckland) have been the recipients of support for the first 3 months of 2020, and a further vote is to be undertaken by Parishioners at the AGM. The AGM top 3 will automatically become charities of the month, and the results of voting will be combined to find the remaining 6 recipients for 2020.

The Op-shop Committee undertook a review of Op-shop governance as recommended by the Listener's Report, and this was reported back to the Parish in November. This included reviews of the Operations and Volunteer Manuals and development of a Policy document to provide clarification of roles. The Committee felt that the word Board gave an impression of being a body separate from Vestry, and for this reason the language has been changed to give a better understanding of the relationship.

In November Cindy Basson (Manager) and Marion Nel (Relief Manager) recommended a trial of later opening hours, with a "late night" (7pm closing) on Fridays. There was no clear benefit, and the trial was discontinued in December.

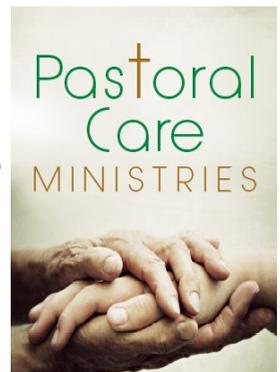
The consent for the “hole in the wall” to join the 2 shops is still pending but likely to be made available within the next month, with a 2-year timeframe for it to be used. At this time the Committee is not ready to recommend that the work be done, but hopes to see an improvement in profits with the above actions which will give the confidence needed to do this. A return to clearer definition of sales and expenses for each of the 2 shops has been made for 2020, and this information will be a determining factor in such recommendation. There is no doubt that managing incoming stock and displaying it would be much easier for paid staff and volunteers if this were to be completed, however it will be dependent on projected profitability.

This operation is only possible due to the hard work of Managers Cindy Basson and Marion Nel, and the wonderful band of volunteers who give so selflessly of their time, and we thank them for their support and loyalty. We encourage parishioners not already involved to give thought to ways they might participate.

Alison Vedder for the Op-shop Committee

Pastoral Care

I am amazed that another year has almost gone, with much for which to be grateful, in particular the regular offers of help and practical acts of kindness demonstrated by parishioners to other parishioners in need of help. Sometimes those on the receiving end have been personal friends, neighbours or people from their Home Group. But at other times help has been offered to people they did not know all that well, simply because they could see it was needed.



Once again, winter brought the usual run of persistent coughs and colds, which were hard to shake, and whilst some have had bouts of influenza, others have been laid low with a type of viral pneumonia, which has been very debilitating for them. At times this has affected their ability to attend worship or engage in other parish and social events. Hence the need at times for others to help Ian and I with visiting those needing assistance. Some have needed help to get shopping, or, perhaps, transport to get to a hospital or doctor's appointment, or to have a blood test done. Others have needed meals, or simply to see a friendly face. I particularly want to acknowledge the support of Terry and Paul Huffam, Max and Gill Cranch, Gill and Jon Henderson, and Christina Jensen with pastoral visits and follow up where needed.

When Rob had a spell in North Shore Hospital in late May, June last year following a stroke, we were very grateful for the visits, prayers, and messages of support, along

with the occasional meal and ongoing enquiries as to his wellbeing. Thank you to Ian and Helen and all of you for the care you showed to us, during this time. Thank you also to all those who covered for us during our absence or unavailability for parish rosters and ministry.

Home and Hospital Pastoral Visits:

I have continued to liaise with Ian most weeks, as to who has been visited by either one of us, and who else might need a pastoral home visit, Holy Communion, or a hospital visit, etc.

Because I am involved with a number of other areas, (Mainly Music, Op Shop duties, Selwyn Centre, Messy Church, Northhaven services, to name some of them), I fit in as many visits as I can each week, but also have home and family pressures which need attention from time to time. I wish that I could do more, or had more helpers available, but we each have many calls on our time. So a big thank you for what we have been able to achieve together, with the Lord's help.

Prayer Chain:

Our small group of Prayer Chain members have continued to uphold those who have requested prayer week by week. I have coordinated these requests, and updated the Prayer Chain members as progress reports have come in, and new requests have been received. We are grateful to Our Lord for the many answers to prayer received, and for each other's love, support and persevering prayer.

Taste and See Meals:

I have cooked anything between forty and fifty individual meals every couple of months, which have been given out as needed, along with several larger family meals; from time to time, I have had assistance with the cooking, or the packing of the food into containers and labelling, which has been much appreciated. At Christmas time we made just under 110 trays of Christmas cookies, which was an extraordinarily generous offering from all those who contributed, and again it seemed to be well received by those to whom it was distributed.

Northhaven Rest Home Ministry:

Ian and I have taken turns in visiting and providing two communion services each morning, (one at 10.15am and the second service at 11am) for some of the Northhaven residents and staff, on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, (with the exception of the 2nd Wednesday in January, when we have been on holiday). We have also sometimes been asked by staff to bless and cleanse rooms following a family bereavement, which may then have led to a request to have a funeral for the person who has just died at St Stephen's Church or in the Chapel. Being able to offer this kind of pasto-

ral assistance at a critical time for the family concerned, is greatly appreciated, and is a privilege for us.

Much of what has been done pastorally continues to happen through our formal and informal networks of friendship. Even though as friends, neighbours, or fellow parishioners, we may feel a bit at a loss to know what to do or say when others are going through a difficult time, just being there for each other is vitally important. That phone call, helping hand, or listening ear, and time given, even if only limited, can make a world of difference for others. So again, my thanks to all who have contributed to this work and done so with love and compassion for others Your help is deeply appreciated and is invaluable.

Anne Aspden (Pastoral Care Co-ordinator)

Beachfront Rest Home

Our monthly Communion Service is now being held back in the main lounge area instead of a bedroom. Thanks to Silvia Gudsell our wonderful organist on Melanie's keyboard the resident's so appreciate it and sing well as singing hymns mean a lot to them - great memories.

The Residents loved hearing Alan Lyth singing at the Christmas Communion Service the Bethlehem Carol , a delight for all. Thanks Alan. The Christmas Cookie goodies cooked at St. Stephen's kitchen under the guidance of the Rev. Anne Aspden , the Residents and front Staff loved not just the tasty treats but being thought of at that time of the year. I loved handing them out, I wish you cooks could have seen the pleasure it gave.

We have a need of an organist to job share in playing hymns with Sylvia - can you help? Sylvia adds so much to the Communion Service.

Thanks to the Beachfront Rest Home Staff and Residents that I have such joy in Sharing Gods Love with them All.

The Revd. Pam Cunningham

Missions

Missions Report

Kondoa Mission

In 2019, Vestry conducted a review of the Parish's support of Kondoa Diocese including its priority for the Parish and the funding of this mission. The call for this came from

the Bishop's Listening Process and it proved to be a most helpful and positive review. The independent Vestry subcommittee published their written report to the parish in October. They then reported verbally and were available to meet parishioners in November. The great majority of the parishioners who spoke to them gave strong support to their conclusions and expressed their desire for the parish to continue to support the Diocese of Kondoia.

In summary the subcommittee concluded that:

- All funds have been appropriately gathered, approved and spent as intended.
- The type of inter-church support we are involved in is common throughout the churches and aligns closely to the policies of General Synod and the Board of Missions.
- The Hardcastles' travel to Africa has been in no way a 'jaunt'. It has been hard and costly work for the extension of the Gospel.
- There is strong dependency of this work on the commitment of Ian and Helen. Their dedication to this taxing task is most praiseworthy. It would be beneficial if that load were shared by some others and the Committee recommended that the Mission Committee be enlarged to strengthen the knowledge base of this project.
- The parish should be proud of the amount it has raised and given to Kondoia and for the personnel we have sent to strengthen the leaders of that Diocese.

The Subcommittee recommended that the parish's commitment to the Diocese of Kondoia be continued for the next three years on the following basis:

- a) That we continue to fund Bishop Given's stipend to at least \$5000 a year for the next three years.
- b) We continue to support evangelists to the extent that the money can be raised by parishioners.
- c) That we continue to supply funds for church roofs as Op Shop surplus funds allow, in balance with other responsibilities to parish and community.
- d) That Short Term Missions be continued as funds can be found, whether from parish funds, grants or personal funding by those going.
- e) That emergency issues be responded to as circumstances allow.
- f) That our other commitments to the Board of Missions, Kailakuri and other missions are also attended to.

As shown in the table of Mission Giving, parishioner giving directed to Kondoia met our

target enabling us to continue with our planned support for the Bishop and ten evangelists.



Bishop Given wrote to us expressing his appreciation of our support and pointing out that NZ has had a strong connection with Kondoa. Since 1991 NZ CMS has provided direct missionary support to the Kondoa district.

He continued, “Today without the support of St Stephen we would not have a parish at Kwadelo, Kisaki, Soya, Tanguzero, Nante, Lalta, Ovada, Farkwa, Masimba, Magungu to name few! All these areas, their evangelists and pastors, have benefited from St Stephen support.

Church workers in Nante – a brand new church in 2018

One day when St Stephen saints are welcomed by Jesus in Heaven they will be asking, ‘Where did we find you do not have a home and we welcomed you?’ The answer will be, ‘As you provided a shelter for the evangelist at Soya so that he could live and preach the good news to Muslims you did this for me!’

“Indeed to be honest without your support we cannot survive in Kondoa. Even for me as a bishop I cannot survive in Kondoa without the support of St Stephen.”

Whilst there was an invitation for another Mission trip it was not good timing for our parish last year. I have been asked to lead a trip in 2020 but with the development of COVID-19, this will be under review until we better understand the effects of this disease internationally.

Kailakuri Hospital

In Bangladesh, it is pleasing to report that the American doctor couple, Dr Jason and Merindy Morgenson, with their three children have started work at Kailakuri Hospital. In spite of the long gap without a qualified doctor, the village medics trained by Dr Edric Baker have successfully run the hospital and clinics. What a



tribute to the vision he gave them and the effectiveness of his training!

It was good to welcome Peter Wilson (Coordinator of Kailakuri Hospital Care Project – NZ Link) to the parish again. Peter presented the film “Soldiers without Guns” about the NZ Army peacemaking mission to Bougainville to an Everyman (& Woman) evening as a fundraising event for Kailakuri hospital.

Mission	Amount sent
Anglican Missions Board	5,000
Auckland City Mission	117
Barnabas Fund	200
Christian Broadcasting Assn	250
Christians Against Poverty	565
Church Army	100
Firefly Orphanage	330
Fund raising	150
Hospital Chaplaincy	410
Kailakuri Hospital	935
Kondo: Bishop Given’s Stipend	5,000
Kondo: Evangelists’ Support	2,600
Opshop Tithe: Orewa Xmas Lunch	995
Opshop Tithe: Foodbank	514
Orewa Sea Scouts	90
Radio Rhema	150
Total	17,406

Of the above, Vestry initiated \$5,000 to the Anglican Missions Board for general missions and \$1500 towards Bishop Given’s stipend. \$1,509 was from the Op Shop tithe distribution which started in November. All the rest (\$9,397) was parishioner mission giving.

Well done, St Stephen’s,
Ian Hardcastle for the Mission Committee.

Hosting & Reception

The year has seen the continued opening of the chapel for quiet prayer on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Support is also available for the Church Administrator and a hosting service. And it is a joy to show visitors around or to have people come to enjoy the peaceful setting.

There are a group of 9 parishioners who provide this service. It is good to be able to welcome people to the church on these occasions and offer some hospitality. I would be pleased to have some additional people volunteer to join the group.

Grateful thanks to all concerned!

Rob Aspden

Library Report



Have you borrowed a book from our church library recently? It's a great resource to help us in our faith journey, by widening our knowledge and experience. Don't forget to check out both bookcases.

We now have a section which will help those who are preparing prayers for our Sunday worship. It is on the top left of the high set of shelves, next to the doors into the hall. Make sure you sign out these books so that those who are following you can trace the relevant one when it is needed.

Our stock is being replenished steadily and it will soon be necessary to cull some of the older, less popular items. We had 70 issues in the past year. Thank you to those who donate Christian books that you have purchased recently, so that others in our congregation can enjoy them. We have a small budget, so if you would like to request a title that will be of general interest, please pass on the details.



Gill Henderson

Selwyn Centre



2020 Christmas Party Guests and Volunteers

Wow. Time flies when you are having fun. 2019 was another good year for the Whangaparaoa Selwyn Centre. Changes happen and sadly we said Goodbye to our long standing faithful volunteers and friends - Pauline and then Anne . Replacements are few and hard to find but Wendy Fowler, Anne Aspden and Paul Huffam have been a great help. We do have two volunteers Sue McKay and Mary Therese Caldwell who have come onboard to help and join in the fun when they can.

With 28 guests on our role we regularly have around 20-22 each week meeting up for companionship, a hug and a laugh. We currently have a waiting list of 2 after capping our numbers at 28. We have only had four guests leave us. One who tried it and found it was not for him, two who left the area and another who moved into care. Pretty amazing stats considering between them they are an average age of 86.

Selwyn Centre contributes to keeping them alive and stimulated. The words 'Best Day of the Week' are commonly heard spoken on a Friday.

Our typical morning starts off with some exercises. We have been using the Arthritis DVDs on the screen which the guests have been enjoying along with some games. A lovely morning tea follows, provided by our wonderful kitchen volunteers. This is a highlight of the day just having time to chat and catch up with their friends. I fill the next slot attempting to add variety and stimulate with Bingo, Art and craft sessions,

Quizzes, Special theme days, Invited speakers and Discussion on various subjects. The day ends with indoor bowls, the very popular rummikub and often a table playing the card game 500.

The guests enjoyed a lovely morning out at the movies, accompanied by our awesome volunteers to see Downton Abbey. We look forward to 2020.

Julie Taylor Selwyn Centre Co-Ordinator

Home Groups

As per last year's Report, the Home Group resources have now been moved from my home library to the Resource Room at the church. Alison Vedder did a great job re-sourcing a book shelf which was duly installed and the library moved. It is hoped that the relocation of the library will encourage finding something just right for your particular group.

All the resources were catalogued and are now available for borrowing as per the borrower's record which should be filled in with the group name, date borrowed and date returned. We do have a good library, but it would be encouraging to hear of personal studies or resources which could be added to the library.

Each group operates slightly differently. There are day time groups, evening meetings also. There have been a number of groups closed this year for a variety of reasons.

Our Home Group Leaders do sterling service in the life of the church and I thank them all sincerely for their faithful service to St Stephens.

I have decided that my time as Home Group Coordinator has come to an end and my term will end at the upcoming AGM. The resources have now been moved and I feel that it is time for me to step back and allow someone else to be encouraged. I have enjoyed my time as Home Group Coordinator. I have learned much, gained new skills, both administrative and personal and hand the baton with love and encouragement to whoever will follow.

Guinny Sorensen Home Group Coordinator



Alpha Report



St Stephen's ran just one Alpha course in 2019 which was run as an "Alpha for families". The course was programmed to allow parents to come and participate in Alpha while theirs and other guests young children were together in a separate room being supervised with activities similar to those in the Messy Church program, as well as being included in Messy Church Sunday when it coincided with the Alpha Course.

This was the second time St Stephen's has run an "Alpha for families" and certainly proved to be a successful outreach, with one of the participants committing her life to Jesus, through being baptised during a 10 am service. The success of the 2019 course can be seen through the regular attendance of the course participants and their families and their commitment to being involved in the church's activities.

An Alpha Marriage course was also run by Roy and Sue Smith in their home. This was a marriage preparation course for two of St Stephen's congregation members and culminated in celebrating their wedding, held in the St Stephen's Chapel.

Late last year a team from St Stephen's participated in the "Indaba" exercise with St Chads Orewa and Christ Church in Warkworth. It was decided that St Stephen's offer these other two churches the opportunity to join in with our Alpha. Leaders and congregation members from St Chads' Orewa have joined St Stephens in this current course. The course was also been offered to Kingsway School parents as an introduction to Christianity, unfortunately this has been declined by the school.

Roy Smith is offering to run the popular "Alpha Prayer Course" to those who struggle with prayer and wish to develop their personal prayer life. This will be a small group activity or also may be offered to be a one on one course if needed.

St Stephen's Vestry is committed to the continual employment of Alpha as a major outreach programme and eagerly look forward to seeing what blessings 2020 will bring to peoples lives and to the growth of God's Kingdom here on the Hibiscus Coast.

In conclusion I must say a big thank you for all those who volunteer to help Alpha run smoothly, from those who run the children's program, to all those who prepare all the yummy food, (a major element in Alpha), to the Alpha helpers and prayer supporters. I thank you all and ask God's blessing on each and every one of you.

Blessings

Roy Smith, Alpha team member.

EVERYMAN

Friends finding Faith



It has been a challenging year with health and other problems. Thanks particularly for the support from Paul Huffam and others.

We had ten meetings during the year, including three combined meetings, and a breakfast in the church hall. Resulting from the meetings we were able to give \$90 to the Parish's Children & Youth Ministries program, \$50 to Kondoa, \$60 to the Altus Trust, \$410 to Kailakuri Hospital, \$90 to the Scouts, \$50 to the Barnabas Fund, \$50 to a charity of Wayne Walker's choice and \$50 to the Tear Fund.

Blessings and thanks to all concerned.
Rob Aspden

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (Part 1)

17 February 2019 at 11.30 am

Present:

The Revd Ian Hardcastle, The Ven. Michael Berry, and 68 Parishioners

Apologies:

Gill Cranch, Ron McInnes, Pat Franks, Bob and Susan Newbold, Jackie Blackie, Garth Cunningham, Cassie Cross, Jean and Brian Holgate, and Baffin Wong.

The Vicar opened the meeting with prayer.

The Parish Roll was tabled.

Motion: That the Parish Roll be received

Ian Hardcastle/ Carl Becker - Agreed

Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 March 2018 were confirmed at the Vestry meeting on Tuesday 20 March 2018.

Matters Arising:

Graham Lamont confirmed that discussion of the Memorial Wall would occur during the second half of the AGM on March 17.

Vicar's Report

The Vicar said:

When I reviewed 2019, portions of Charles Dickens' famous opening sentence to A Tale of Two Cities came to mind:

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, ... it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair ...

Storms seemed to batter the Parish through much of the year for diverse reasons. We don't need to recount all the difficulties - in short it has been a hard year. Yet through it all, God is good and we have things to celebrate. My written report covers the main points.

I have expressed thanks to the staff, wardens and vestry – once again thank you for your good service this last year. I want to extend my thanks to all of you who volunteer and serve in so many ways. The ministry of this church is ours and it takes all of us to do it. Thank you for being part of what we do.

As we press on into 2019, we have work to do, good news to proclaim and God's Kingdom to be extended.

I believe in a Church which is Jesus-centred, Holy Spirit-empowered and Bible-based. In Christ we are family and we look for the growth of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our relationships.

In our church services, my desire is for people to engage with God's presence, to deepen their relationships with God, to offer heart-felt worship, to learn and be encouraged, to pray for others and know the assurance of God's strengthening presence and love.

We want to continue developing pathways to help young families move from one level of involvement to the next - both in terms of age-appropriateness and engagement.

In outreach and missions, I want people to be empowered to reach out with the good news they have received, locally and further afield.

In short, my longing is for us to grow in faith, love and mission. These are the big goals. We have some recovery to do as a parish both financially and emotionally from the strains of the last year.

May our faith be refined, our harmony increase and may we grow on the good foundation of Jesus to his praise and glory.

Motion: that the Vicar's Report be received.
Sorensen

Ian Hardcastle/ Guinny

Carried by acclamation

Moved a vote of thanks for the work of Ian and Helen -

Don Battley
Carried by acclamation

Proxy Vote/ Absentee Ballot

The Vicar spoke to the request for absentee ballots and proxy votes, explaining that he had consulted the Diocesan Chancellor, Bruce Gray Q.C. and he has ruled that such votes are disallowed writing, "the Ministry Unit Statute provides at Clause 89 that all questions before a general Meeting shall be decided by a majority of those present and voting. I think this precludes proxies or any other form of absentee voting."

SGM Minutes

The minutes from the Special General Meeting of September 23 will be added to the agenda of the March AGM for approval

Motion: 'that the other reports having been circulated, be received.'

Craig Fowler/ Peter Lloyd. Agreed.

Discussion: Several members raised issues for discussion relating to the reports.

Carl Becker asked that portions of the closing sentences of his Café Theo report be removed, and apologized for what he described as the unhelpfulness of the second-to-last sentence of the report. He announced that he would not be standing for re-election as People's Warden.

The Vicar thanked Carl for his sincere apology.

The Revd Dr Don Battley expressed concern at rumblings of discontent regarding St. Stephen's relationship with Kondoa, and in particular the possible perception that it was an "African jaunt" for the Vicar and Vicar's wife. He noted that it was, in his view, very exciting that a medium-sized parish such as ours has developed such an impactful relationship with and partnership with a church in Africa, and implored those who might have reservations about the St. Stephen's—Kondoa association to revisit their views.

Torben Sorensen emphasized that as an Anglican church, our governance model should reflect that the wardens and vestry should work under, and support, the vicar. He expressed concern that the model documented in the Vestry Report seemed to diverge from this ideal.

Robert Mann challenged the prohibition against plants being sold in the Op-Shop, noting that this had previously been profitable. The Revd. Hardcastle proposed that decisions regarding stock should be left to the shop managers.

Tony Jee requested more information surrounding the circumstances of Grant Hodgson's resignation as Op Shop manager, expressed concern regarding the stress under which Grant had been placed, and conveyed that St. Stephen's could have faced a legal challenge were it not for Grant's good grace. In response, the Revd Graham Lamont suggested that the AGM may not be an appropriate time or place for this discussion in light of it being implied that the situation had been mishandled by certain parties. He stressed that the demands of natural justice were not easily met in the context of impromptu allegations. Following advice from Archdeacon Berry and after discussion with Carl Becker, Carl made some brief comments regarding the situation, pointing out that he acted following advice with an employment consultant and after discussion

with the Op Shop Board.

Captain Peter Lloyd conveyed his delight at the business of the church and the many great ventures in which it is engaged. He highlighted Messy Church as something that he felt was going especially well and generating excitement.

Jan Watson asked that the work Gill Henderson put into Mainly Music over the past 10 years be acknowledged and moved a Vote of thanks to Gill Henderson for her work with Mainly Music.

Carried by Acclamation

The Revd Anne Aspden asked that the work done by the Op Shop team be recognized. She praised Cindy's work there, and commented on the opportunities the venue provided to pray for newcomers and minister to members of the community.

Lady Rhyl Jansen noted the success of the Selwyn Centre which has hosted up to 28 smiling, well-fed guests per week.

Wynn Chadwick commended Selwyn Centre for a wonderful experience every week, and also stressed the importance of Saint Stephen's prioritising the Op Shop, especially since the Parish had been the first in the area to undertake the venture.

The Vicar reported that AAW has been put into recess. The group, which started in 2010, has done good work, but is now on hiatus. Janice Cooper spoke to the origin and raison d'être for AAW, and expressed hope that someone might resurrect it in the future.

Dr Rob Aspden asked that people consider volunteering to meet the staffing needs of the Op Shop, and pointed out that one person alone was scheduled for up to 14 shifts (42 hours) over a month.

The Vicar passed the chair to the Ven Michael Berry, Archdeacon for the Southern Region of Auckland, who read the following statement from the Bishop asking that he chair the electoral portion of the meeting.

"In recent weeks, some tensions have arisen relating to the elections at today's AGM. These are not matters that should, or will, be discussed at this Annual General Meeting.

I, (the Bishop), have met with various parties to discuss these tensions. There has also been a level of mediation between parties prior to that. To date, these actions have not resolved the tensions.

For this reason, it could pose a conflict of interest for the Vicar to Chair this part of the meeting, or for there to be a perception of such a conflict. As such, Ian and I agreed that an external person be appointed as Chair for the elections. I, (the Bishop), have therefore appointed Archdeacon Michael Berry as my nominee, to do that, and thus to give confidence about a fair and transparent process.

It is important for me to note that Ian has my confidence for the ministry which I have delegated to him here as Vicar of the Parish. At the same time, it is important that a fair process of elections be undertaken by the people of the Parish for those whom they wish to serve for them in the work of the governance of parish life.

Signed: +Ross Auckland

The Archdeacon commended the Parish, remarking that it was a healthy sign to see so many people standing for vacancies.

Scrutineers

The Archdeacon appointed the Revd Trevor McCracken and Alan Lyth as scrutineers for the ballot.

Number of members of Vestry to be elected

With the increased numbers standing for vestry this year, there was debate on the ideal number of vacancies to be filled.

Motion: 'That 8 members of Vestry be elected'

Warwick Rope/ The Revd Graham Lamont. Lost

Motion: 'That 7 members of Vestry be elected'

The Revd Ian Hardcastle/Janice Cooper. Agreed.

Give Vestry power to fill casual vacancies on Vestry

The Archdeacon noted that such a decision stands until revoked. It does not need to be renewed from year to year.

Motion: 'that Vestry be given the power to co-opt to fill casual vacancies on Vestry'

Peter Lloyd/ Don Battley. Agreed

Withdrawals:

The Archdeacon announced Carl Becker had withdrawn from standing for People's Warden, and Lindy Austen had withdrawn from standing for Vestry.

Receive the name of the Vicar's Churchwarden

The Vicar announced the appointment of Alison Vedder as his Churchwarden.

Election of the People's Churchwarden

One nomination: Roy Smith

A paper ballot was taken. The Archdeacon declared Roy Smith elected as People's Church Warden being the highest polling candidate and having received (as required by the Diocesan Ministry Unit Statute) over 50% of the votes.

Election of Synod Representatives

There were 4 nominations for Synod Representatives- Roy Smith, Lady Rhyl Jansen, Guinny Sorensen, Capt Peter Lloyd

Voting papers were distributed.

Approval of AGM Minutes

Motion: 'that Vestry be given the power to approve the minutes of this AGM at the next Vestry meeting'.

Capt Peter Lloyd/ Bruce Vedder. Agreed

Change of AGM Date

Discussion of a Change of next year's AGM date to November to allow new Vestries to commence with the new year.

This requires a resolution of the AGM to ask Diocesan Council for permission to change the AGM date by more than 1 month.

Motion: That Diocesan Council be asked for permission to change next year's AGM to November, 2019 so that vestry commences with the calendar year.

Carl Becker / Janice Cooper. Carried

Synod Representatives Election Results

The scrutineers returned Vestry Election results with the voting papers: the following were elected:

Lady Rhyl Jansen, Capt Peter Lloyd

Both were certified to have received at least half of the votes cast.

Janice Cooper extended compliments to compilers of AGM booklet, as it gives a great view of what goes on at the Parish.

Election of Vestry members

There were 13 nominations for Vestry.

John Adams, Dr Robert Aspden, The Revd Dr Don Battley, Carl Becker, Gill Henderson, Dr Craig Fowler, Wendy Fowler, Christina Jensen, Dr Robert Mann, Guinny Sorensen, Torben Sorensen, Jan Watson, and Becky Wong.

Voting papers were distributed, collected and the scrutineers retired to count the vote.

Other Business

Motion: that all other business be discussed in AGM Part 2, and to be notified to Parish Manager by 28th February

Helen Hardcastle / The Revd Anne Aspden. Agreed

Motion: That at the re-convened Annual General Meeting the Annual Accounts include a full breakdown of all expenditure to enable parishioners to understand how the parish reserves became depleted to the extent that parishioners were asked at short notice for a cash injection of \$30,000 last November.

The Revd Paul Huffam/ Dr Robert Mann. Agreed

Interlude

While the meeting waited for the election result to be counted, Helen Hardcastle led the meeting in singing: My Lighthouse; Be Thou My Vision; Hallelujah Sing to Jesus. This was followed by a session of Church Jokes which was truncated by the return of the scrutineers!

Vestry Election Results

The Archdeacon announced that the following were elected:

Dr Rob Aspden, The Revd Dr Don Battley, Wendy Fowler, Gill Henderson, Christina Jensen, Torben Sorensen, and Becky Wong.

All were certified to have received at least half of the votes cast.

The Archdeacon passed the chair back to the Vicar.

Adjournment

Motion: that the meeting be adjourned to reconvene at 11:30am on March 17th.

Carried by Acclamation

The meeting closed at 1.25 pm.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (Part 2)

17 March 2019 at 11.30am

Present:

Archdeacon Michael Berry, The Revd Ian Hardcastle and 47 parishioners.

Apologies:

Wayne Walker, Di Hillas, Guinny Sorensen, and Lyn Walker

Opened in welcome and prayer by Archdeacon Michael Berry- as chair of the financial part of the AGM, 11:46 am

The Parish Roll was tabled.

Minutes

The Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 23 September 2018

Matters Arising: No Matters Raised

Motion: 'that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September, 2018 be accepted as a true and accurate record' Bruce Vedder/ Helen Hardcastle. Agreed.

Financial Report

The Revd. Dr. Don Battley reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. He noted a deficit of \$4,900 in last year's cash flow and current church reserves at \$80,000. He commended last year's treasurer and wardens for managing to keep the deficit to a minimum, and the congregation for their positive response to the financial appeal. Don explained that the Parish is now required to list real estate worth under capital reserves, and suggested that this requirement provides a reminder both of the resources with which we are entrusted, and the call to be good stewards of these resources.

He brought to the congregation's attention that vestry has been setting aside \$500 per month as a maintenance reserve. This is necessary now that the building is seven years old and is starting to need more upkeep. He noted that a maintenance reserve is something few churches manage to do and is commendable, but does have an effect on the general fund. In future years, capital purchases will need to be made from funds outside of cash reserves so as not to deplete the general fund.

Don acknowledged the work of the Finance Committee, specifically John Adams and Alison Vedder for their tireless work in management of church finances during the last year.

Motion: That this Annual General Meeting of Parishioners adopts the unaudited annual financial accounts for the Parish of Whangaparaoa Peninsula for the year ending 31 December 2018, as prepared by Trust Management and based on information supplied by this Ministry Unit; and notes these financial accounts will be audited as part of the Diocesan consolidated accounts audit

Don Battley/ Janice Cooper. Agreed

Raised Concerns/ Responses to the Financial Report:

There was a query as to why not all mission payments occurred prior to the end of the calendar year. Ian responded that Alison did endeavour to make all scheduled payments but that more donations came in.

Concern was expressed regarding the capital involved in the 3DC printing club and how much had been lost since its disbandment. Per Ian, the wiring needed to be written off, filament was sold to Kingsway school for \$500, and the machines are currently being repaired and marketed by Shamus Fairhall. Costs associated with the club were of \$8,691 for purchase of 3D printers, \$14,000 in last year's budget, and the running costs including rent were \$21,000.

There was clarification sought about the overall loss of \$4,900 given that the Op Shop grossed ≈\$240k. Don clarified that the accountants had amalgamated accounts, and explained that the deficit of \$4,900 related to the church and Op Shop together. The Op Shop itself achieved a net profit of \$61,000. He emphasized that the deficit of \$4,900 was inclusive of the financial appeal, and that without the appeal the deficit would probably have been upwards of \$30,000.

There was a request from Lady Rhyl Jansen that vestry look into formally supporting the Hospital Chaplaincy.

There was discussion of the Parish's support of Kondoa, and clarification was sought as to whether the support of overseas missions interfered with the church's tax or charitable status. Don clarified that receipts for donations given for overseas missions were clearly marked as not eligible for tax reduction. Ian stated that leadership had sought advice on the church's legality in using undesignated funds to support Kondoa, and that he had been assured that the parish was permitted to give in the way it had.

Budget:

As the treasurer nominated by vestry for 2019, Torben Sorensen summarized the year's budget. Parish giving is estimated to decrease from last year's total \$185,618 to \$157,600. He stated vestry's intent to support a youth and family worker especially since it was a factor in the November appeal. He detailed the reduction in the Parish's quota to the diocese, as well as the stable Special Funds, which would allow next year's expenditures to be reduced. He showed that overall we are operating at a loss of \$74,766, and cautioned that we are very dependent on the Op Shop. He expressed appreciation for those who give their time to the parish by serving in the Op Shop. Because we are not expecting to have extra costs (such as paid redundancy costs incurred last year), the parish is projected to have a small surplus of \$2,650 at year's end.

Responses to the proposed budget:

Jon Henderson recommended that the monies in the maintenance fund be invested so they can earn interest.

Janice Cooper commented on the professional fees needed to pay for consultants this year, and stated it was unwise to not have made an allowance for the same in the 2019 budget. Torben stated it would be best to not address the comment due to issues be-

ing worked on right now, and Archdeacon Michael Berry stated that vestry needs to take Janice's comment on board.

Jeannie Wilson stated that it would be helpful to number pages in next year's reports. There was a query concerning the planned expense of \$1,000 to Café Theo, and that it was understood Café Theo had been stopped. Don clarified that Café Theo has been deferred and not stopped; as such, the funds are likely to be used later in the year.

Motion: That the 2019 Budget be Approved

The Rev. Don Battley/ Capt Peter Lloyd. Agreed.

Motion: Moved a motion of thanks to Alison Vedder for countless hours of work and for the work of John Adams and others on the finance committee.

Helen Hardcastle. Passed by Acclamation.

Proposed Memorial

The Revd Graham Lamont made a heartfelt appeal to all and noted the long held ambition to create a memorial that would celebrate the "Saints of St Stephen's" who had the vision to make this parish what we have today. He thanked those in the congregation including The Revd Neville Cooper who had encouraged this endeavour when the challenges seemed insurmountable.

The option presented to the congregation builds on plans Ray McTeigue had in mind and is based on the existing retaining wall, which has the outcome of avoiding dripline of the heritage oak tree. Graham detailed the proposed wall as 7.4 meters long, 1.4 meters at highest point, and comprised of 128 custom made blocks with cavities that can inter ashes and 55 sites that can mount plaques. The planned wall would be covered with a terrazzo finish, highly polished, and be very durable. It could later be extended by an additional 32 interment blocks and 12 plaques. There would be a wheelchair accessible path alongside the wall to allow for viewing of plaques, and he noted that Ian had asked for additional fencing to be included to prevent people falling into the trench beside the chapel.

Graham stated the cost estimated by the builder as \$29,000 inclusive of the pathway and terrazzo finish, and mentioned a possible \$15,000 could be covered by previously indicated donations. Graham stated that vestry would need to decide how much to charge for interment and memorial spaces, but that even were we to charge 20% less than Auckland Council, the proceeds would be twice the amount of building costs once all of the memorial spaces had been purchased. The memorial wall is not intended as a drain on Church finances, in fact it could be a source of funds in future years.

Neville Cooper commented that we must appreciate the time, energy and work Graham has put into this for the last 20 years, and there was a round of applause from the congregation.

Helen Hardcastle asked if it was possible to complete stages of build as funds become available.

Graham stated that it would be best to do it all in one time.

Motion: That this meeting:

Welcomes the proposal to construct a columbarium-style Memorial Wall beside the

Chapel, and asks the Vestry to proceed with:

- Getting the plans finalised,
- Obtaining a firm estimate of the likely construction costs
- Completing the relevant consent applications

with a view to reporting back to a Special Meeting of Parishioners by September 2019.

The Revd Graham Lamont/ The Rev. Neville Cooper. **Agreed**

General Business

Combining of the Op Shops

There was discussion over the motion submitted by Paul Huffam that any decision to combine the two Op Shops be implemented after approval is given by the parish at a General Meeting. Points were made that combining the Op Shops will incur costs of building work, consent, and future significant costs of restoration to the Shops' original states. There was agreement that this was not a decision to rush into. It was explained that vestry had decided to wait until June to reassess the situation of the shops. There are a range of issues to consider, including that a hired consultant had stated more profit could be made and fewer volunteers used in the combining of the two shops.

Motion: Regarding the proposal to join the 2nd Chance part of the Op Shop to the 2nd Space part by making a hole in the common wall, it shall be implemented only after approval of the parish to do so is given at a General Meeting in which all the associated costs have been available to the parishioners before any voting on this proposal.

The Revd Paul Huffam/Dr. Robert Mann. **Agreed**

Closing

Closed in prayer by Archdeacon Michael Berry.

Motion: That a hearty vote of thanks be offered to Archdeacon Michael Berry.

The Revd Paul Huffam – Carried by Acclamation.

The meeting closed at 1:08pm.

Minutes of Special General Meeting

19 May 2019 at 11.30am

Present:

Ian Hardcastle (Chair), and 21 parishioners

Apologies:

Peter Lloyd, Ron McInnes, Wendy McInnes, Alan Lyth, Sue Smith, Craig Fowler abstained.

Ian Hardcastle opened the meeting, the Parish Roll was received, and attendance and apologies registers circulated

Approval of employee of parish to be on Vestry

For Wendy Fowler to continue on Vestry having been appointed as an employee. Ian explained that he had received advice from the Diocesan Chancellor that in line with the Statutes a General Meeting was required for approval for an employee to be a Vestry Member.

Vestry recommends that Wendy Fowler, having recently been appointed to be an employee of the Parish as Co- Children & Families Minister, should remain a Vestry member.

Wendy spoke briefly to provide her viewpoint on why she felt it would be beneficial to remain as a Vestry Member, even though an employee. She then left the meeting.

Discussion followed with Torben Sorensen and Don Battley being strongly in favour. Paul Huffam raised the concern that this would mean that there would now be 2 paid employees on vestry, and reflected on the principle previously raised that it could mean too much power was held by individuals concerned. Notwithstanding this concern, he felt it was acceptable for now but should not happen again and would support the motion provided that it was specific to the current incumbent. Ian Hardcastle responded that the motion specified Wendy by name and was not general. Rob Aspden and Torben Sorensen also responded in favour of the motion.

The motion was put and passed unanimously.

Motion: That this meeting approves the continued appointment of Mrs Wendy Fowler as an elected Vestry Member while now also being an employee of the parish, subject to normal appointment or election processes.

Bruce Vedder/ Alison Vedder. **Agreed**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:51am

Minutes of Special General Meeting

13 October 2019 at 11.49am

Present: The Revd Ian Hardcastle (Chair) and 28 Parishioners

Apologies: Don Battley, Torben and Guinny Sorensen, Alison and Bruce Vedder, Peter and Lorraine Lloyd, Sue Smith, Peter Little, Wendy McInnes, Rhyl Jansen.

Opened in welcome and prayer at 11:49

The Parish Roll was tabled.

Motion: "That the roll as presented be accepted"

Moved: Ian Hardcastle: **Agreed**

Rescinding of Motion to change AGM date

The Vicar explained the rationale for keeping the AGM as it was which allowed for the previous year's financial officers to give account for their decisions. He also explained that this year, the vestry needed to have a full year to complete the work as advised by the Bishop's Listening Process.

Motion: That the decision of February 2019 AGM to a change of AGM date be revoked.

Moved: Roy Smith / Seconded: Christina Jensen: **Agreed**

Discussion of conflicting motions:

The Vicar stated that since there were two conflicting motions on the agenda, it would be best to debate both of them before any voting occurred. Also that because of various circumstances, most of the members of this year's financial committee were not in attendance, and had submitted letters to explain the rationale behind vestry's proposed motion.

Motion: That the meeting allow a letter from Don Battley on behalf of the finance committee and a letter from the Treasurer to be read:

Moved: Ian Hardcastle: **Agreed**

Letter from Torben Sorensen, Vestry Treasurer: 10/10/2019

An analysis of OP Shop takings may be summarised as follows:

Sales YTD August 2018: \$138,930.00

Sales YTD August 2019: \$128,766.00

BUDGET YTD August 2019: \$148,750.00

Thus income from the shop is \$19,984.00 behind budget at the end of August. This

equates to a yearly shortfall of \$29,976.00 against budget.

Vestry has sought clarification on the shortfall. One of the points identified is that there is no indication of how the money is used. It is noted that previously the OP Shop had a banner advertising money supporting various projects, both in the community and through ministries such as "A Girl Called Hope". This was often remarked on by people supporting the shop. Without a transparent indication of where money from the OP Shop goes, it appears that many people would prefer to support other OP Shops in the area, particularly in regard to donations by way of dropping off goods for sale.

It is noted that both the Hospice shop and the Salvation Army are seen as good opportunities for giving back to the community, and if we fail to offer a like opportunity, we will fall further behind.

Torben Sorensen Treasurer

Letter from Don Battley on behalf of Finance committee:

Distribution of Op Shop Surpluses - a Statement from the Vestry Finance Committee.

Regrettably neither Torben Sorensen, our Treasurer, nor Don Battley can attend on Sunday 13th. Accordingly, we wish to submit a written statement.

The Op Shop has been a major ministry of this parish with many positive results - socially, reputationally and financially. It is also a superb example of creative recycling. Parishioners should be cautious about changing our policies too often.

Initially the small Op Shop in Manly gave steady support to the parish and major support to the building project. With the move to the larger shop/s the revenue grew substantially and made it possible for us to share some of the proceeds with the wider community, while we also depended on the shop proceeds to enable us to deploy a Families Pastor with positive consequences.

Some events last year caused us, regrettably, to have to suspend the donations outside the parish. Vestry regretted that and hope to avoid such a situation recurring. We believe it is still desirable that the parish share some of the proceeds with other community organisations. This brings some credit to the church, recognises the humanitarian benefits of those services and recognises the community contributions to the Op Shop in both goods and volunteers.

At the same time, the parish still needs financial input from the shops to fund some of our ministries. While offerings have increased this year - well done everyone - the overall giving is not enough to finance all our ministry costs. To attempt that would require us to push hard at parishioners for increased giving, which we think is not currently

desirable.

Accordingly, it is the view of the Finance Committee that the parish continues to need the Op Shop revenue, and that donations to the community are desirable to maintain.

We believe that the vestry proposal to, in effect, tithes the Op Shop net income to the community is a good one: it will give vestry clear guidance and authorisation while leaving us free to utilise the other 90% in any way that our mission in Whangaparaoa or beyond requires.

Issued by: Torben Sorensen, Don Battley, Ian Hardcastle, Finance Sub-Committee.

Discussion:

Ian offered a context for the debate saying that at the AGM in the year after the new Op Shop opening, responding to comments in the AGM, Vestry brought motions to the AGMs to give funds to other charities. This resulted in funds of \$28,500 being given in 2015, \$33,000 in 2016 and 2017, and \$6,584 in 2018 to causes closely associated with our church.

Debate over what was the right way to use profit from the Op Shop focused on points being made that because we had so many volunteers from the community, and relied on goodwill from the community for donations and patronage, we should be seen as positively influencing the community through our donations to various causes. Main points from the other side of the debate were that because we had been through financial difficulty last year and needed to ask for a cash infusion in November, it would be best to restrain from giving to outside organisations and instead focus on supplementing our own reserves, especially since if the Op Shop failed, the remainder of the lease of the shop would need to be recovered by Parish reserves.

Financial Concerns/ Motions:

1. That our offerings not be given away to state funded or other outside organisations other than approved missions.
2. That the St Stephens Vestry not approve donations, or requests for donations, from community organisations.
3. That St Stephen's Vestry adopt a policy of limiting any funding of outreach ministry to Mission agencies, Christian charities and Christian-initiated activities within our local community in which parishioners participate.

Moved: Ron McInnes / Seconded: Paul Huffam

Amendment: That the third motion be amended by adding the word "or" after "mission agencies", and changing the word "and" to "or".

Moved: Paul Huffam / Seconded: Robert Mann: **Carried**

Neville Cooper: Do these motions refer to offerings we put on the plate, or profits from the op shop?

Amendment: That the first motion, be amended by changing the words “our offerings” to “Op Shop Profits”.

Moved: Ron McInnes / Seconded: Robert Mann: **Carried**

Robert Mann: The first motion is incompatible with the last. Voting on them together would give you an incoherent bundle.

Motion: That we vote on these motions in parts.

Moved: Ian Hardcastle: **Carried**

Amended Motions:

That Op Shop Profits not be given away to state funded or other outside organisations other than approved missions. **Lost:** 7 ayes, 19 nays 2.

That the St Stephens Vestry not approve donations, or requests for donations, from community organisations. **Lost:** 3 ayes, 26 nays 3.

That St Stephen’s Vestry adopt a policy of limiting any funding of outreach ministry to Mission agencies or Christian charities or Christian-initiated activities within our local community in which parishioners participate.

Lost: 5 ayes, 22 nays

Motion from Vestry.

That 10% of the profits of the Op Shop be given to selected community charities.

Moved: Rob Aspden / Seconded: Roy Smith

There was a short debate, with views stated that 10% may not be sustainable and contrastingly that 10% was not enough.

Amendment: That the motion be limited to up to 10% of the Op Shop profits

Moved: Paul Huffam / Seconded: Robert Mann: **Lost:** 7 in favour 14 against

The unamended motion was put and carried (17 ayes, 5 nays).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1:12 pm in prayer.



