



Parish Review

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FROM THE RECTOR

Fr Keith Dalby

Where to for St John's?

The recent debate at the Extraordinary Vestry Meeting held on Advent Sunday highlighted an important issue. **What is the vision for the parish, and where do the various needs of the parish, of which the organ is just one, fit into this vision?** I have looked over past Parish Reviews and seen glimpses of the vision as I see it, but it is probably true that the vision has been communicated in a haphazard way, resulting in the jigsaw pieces being there but not all put together.



Some Background

Twelve years ago, when I first came to the parish (My, doesn't time fly when you are having fun!!!!) I came to a parish that the nominators pitched to me as being in the 1950s with the drawbridge up and pikes at the ready. They wanted it brought into at least the 1980s and the drawbridge down and the pikes racked. During their time with the Diocesan Nominators the then Regional Bishop, Dr Davies, put this to the nominators. Why should the parish expect to get a priest of their choosing in their style while they are doing nothing to contribute to the wider church in providing personnel for training in the ministry. In other words, why should the parish have an expectation that they can get someone they want, just because they want him? Are we contributors or are we takers? It is a fair question. For example, from the parish of Turramurra in one era came Fr Rob Sutherland, Roger Chilton and David Nixie. Other parishes have done similarly. It is one of the great assets of this Diocese that simply cannot be criticised. So, the question I have is this: What are you going to do when I retire in about 13 years? (By the way, the response, "I won't be here then, I'll be dead" is not an acceptable answer because we must answer the question not then, but now.)

Coupled with Dr Davies' initial question is the wider question, if we are to be a church that has a certain churchmanship, what is our responsibility to the wider church that also has that churchmanship, especially as there is a dearth of such churchmanship now. For

example, Brisbane, Newcastle and Adelaide are all dioceses that we would identify as being generally of the churchmanship we aspire to in this parish. They are all experiencing large numbers of vacancies because there are not the vocation responses that are required to fill the gaps. Inevitably, those gaps will be filled with people from places like Sydney where there is a surplus of vocations. Now this is not the place to go into a theological reflection on why this is the case. I have my own views. But the point is this, if we leave it up to others to provide for my replacement you will be disappointed when the time comes, and like Epping there is a real possibility that the parish could lose its nomination because of the lack of suitable candidates. Here in this diocese there are at least four parishes like us who cannot find a suitable replacement for their Rector, and it is only going to get worse. So, this is the general background to what happened next, and I believe to the way in which my prayers which were basically, God, help me to understand what it is I need to be doing here.

Our Vision and Strategic Plan

In 2005 we had a Vision and Strategic Plan discerning process. The results of that process can be found here; stjohnsgordon.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/St_John_the_Evangelist_-_Strategic_Plan_2005.pdf

In that process, we identified several areas of interest for us because of who we are. Under the heading, "Enable all people to reach their full purpose in Christ" are three areas: **Worship God, Small Groups, and Choir.** Under the heading, "Respond Actively to the Commission of Christ" are the following; **Proclaim the Gospel, baptise and make disciples, teach and instruct in the word of God, nurture, seek out the indifferent or lapsed, reach into the community, be good stewards, ecumenism, be welcoming, engage with the wider church and involvement in Synod.**

While these were great and I heartily endorse them, it became rapidly apparent that we were not even close to fulfilling any of them for a whole host of reasons, except for the choir. Coupled with this was the reality that while the process was very good it still did not have a Mission focus, although with the last two foci there was an outside the parish reference. Most of the second group of activities required a re-education of the parish in basic biblical understanding, and giving of confidence

to people to share the faith. If we are not willing to do that, then we shall never achieve any of what we want. So, bible studies were important and somehow getting information to people who are time poor was important. One immediate initiative we engaged with was to employ a Youth Worker. Lynn Salama worked with us for 5 years and it was a mixed bag. When Lynn left, we decided to take the opportunity to see if we could do something different. We eventually got Bp Michael to come to the parish and work with us to assist me in **Proclaim the Gospel, Teach and Instruct all in the Word of God** and by offering his skills to the wider church we were also engaged in **Wider Anglican Community**. So, for a relatively small amount of about \$16,000p.a. we achieve all that with Michael. I can say that his Shofar and Lectio is first rate, and the seminars he has had have made a real impact in the lives of all who engage with him, and I know of no-one who uses Lectio or Shofar regularly who doesn't get an enormous amount out of it. I do not understand why everyone who has email is not getting Lectio Gold, it is free and it is excellent and thought provoking. I know of many people who get much out of the Shofar as well. On top of that he provides our Bible Study material that I use in Wednesday Bible Study. We are working on a plan whereby we can allow access for the wider church to use these materials and therefore we as a church community can be a resource for the wider church. So, the reason we have Bp Michael is to achieve some of the ministry activities desired in the Strategic Plan.

Our Missionary Activities

As noted above, the parish despite its very good vision still did not have a parish-wide sense of Mission. This was due, mainly, to the Op-Shop having taken on that role when others such as June Pick many years earlier were distressed that there was not a mission focus in the parish. One of the important concepts we need to grasp is that Mission has changed since those early days. Then it was common to send money to get others to do mission. That was not actually doing mission, but supporting mission. A new Mission focus arose when the opportunity came to engage with Fr Rob and what became Warrior Welcome Home. This opportunity for Mission also gave us an opportunity to exercise the parish financially towards the funding of an Assistant Priest, and to engage personally in mission and not simply send money away to others to do it. I was delighted to take this on, as were the Wardens and the Parish Council. So, with Fr Rob coming back to us, two objectives were being achieved: exercising the parish financially and giving us an opportunity to be engaged personally in a mission activity where we can control the activity and see the benefits for ourselves, and to grow as a parish. With respect to the Assistant Priest it

helps to get us to achieve the challenge set to the nominators and the Wardens by Dr Davies. It costs about \$140,000p.a. to have a full-time assistant in the diocese of Sydney, mainly because of the housing component. This reduces to about \$100,000p.a. if you take out the housing by having a house for the assistant to live in. In the last year, we expended about \$65,000 with Fr Rob, and we received about \$40,000 from the Army. This means for Fr Rob to be here it cost us about \$25,000 this year. I think we get a very good deal out of that. Mind you, we are still well behind where we need to be to get a full time assistant. I would love to have Rob more often here but it costs money. Warrior Welcome Home fits very nicely into the need for us to be doing Mission, not just supporting Mission. It also has a happy intersection with the Strategic Plan Objectives to **Proclaim the Gospel** and **Seek out the indifferent or lapsed**. Fr Rob then fits into both the Ministry and Mission areas of our church and its Strategic Plan.

As part of the **Wider Anglican Community** we have been asked by the Diocese of the Northern Territory to assist with their needs. Parish Council has considered this request and we have given a one-off donation to assist, as part of our **Missionary Budget** but there are other opportunities that will need further exploration before we can consider them and that will simply take time. It is my understanding that the Warrior Welcome Home and the Darwin Assistance has cost about \$30,000 of our Missionary Budget which is up from about the \$22,000-\$25,000 that was regularly donated by the Op-Shop. I would like to keep it around that level and increase it where possible.

The Organ

The Organ fits into two areas of our mission, **Worship God** and **Be good stewards**. As I noted in my letter to the parish before the EVM our style of worship, and the organ, are important parts of that expression of our worship style. Thus the organ and its future is an important part of the parish and its future. However, and this is important that people do not misunderstand what I am saying, or misinterpret what I am about to say as being either indifferent to the organ or being against the organ. Let me say again plainly, my preference is for the organ to be replaced with another pipe organ, and the Organ subcommittee have chosen the one debated on Advent Sunday and I am content with that, I trust their decision. However, I have always said, and I have been consistent that I will not allow the Strategic Plan which is the Ministry of our Church and the Mission Activities of our Church to be compromised by the need for the organ to be replaced. Wherever a pipe organ has been replaced in Australia a major benefactor has been required to achieve that result. If

the pipe organ is to be replaced it will require the people of the parish being able to give over and above what we are already doing, and not adversely impacting on that, either the Ministry or the Mission activities that the people of this parish themselves identified as what they wanted to be. It has been my experience that people will give where their passion is. However, be under no misunderstanding, if the organ is not replaced with another pipe organ there will be a real shift, although it will be subtle initially, in the direction of the parish with respect to its music. The parish must be aware of this so it can make an informed decision with respect to their response to the appeal.

Future Proofing

All that above said let us not forget a couple of important points. The Wardens and I have long understood the need to make provision for the future mission and ministry here at St John’s as we are fully cognisant that there will always be financial pressures on the parish. This was recognised many years ago, with the establishment of the Foundation Trust. When I arrived, it had been going for many years but only had \$30,000 in it. In the intervening 12 years, it has grown to over \$400,000. We have also had the Cemetery Trust, and since my arrival here we have also established the Music Association. The Association has been established with DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status and is tasked with, once the Organ has been replaced, paying the Director of Music, paying for choir robes, organ scholars and the like to improve the music here at St John’s. This will assist the parish by not having the necessary music focus too much of a financial strain on our budget. So, we have two trusts that are specifically targeted to Ministry. We now also have a Foundation in the Roy Wotton Foundation for Mission. This was one of Fr Roy’s great passions. The Foundation has at its heart the Warrior Welcome Home, but it can also support any Mission activity of the church. We are very close to having DGR status, and it is already, like the Music Association, registered under the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission). This means we can attract funding and donations from outside the parish to continue the missionary work like Warrior Welcome Home. This means we can attract outside parish funding to help us achieve our Mission and Ministry goals and not have to rely on the parishioners completely. Of course, this will take time to transition just as it will with the Music Association. What I am highlighting is we have a plan and a strategy to allow these initiatives to continue and to not be too much of a financial burden on the parish so we can do other things as well. In a very real sense these four Foundations value add to our parish.

Summary

So, to summarise, what I believe our Ministry and Mission should be is based on our Strategic Plan as described above. I have put in the parish people who will fit in with our mission and we have established financial structures to allow this to happen more effectively. Are we doing enough? No. Would I like to do more? Yes. However, we need to walk before we can run, and I firmly believe that this parish is in a much better place than it was 12 years ago, and we have a bright future. Of course, you as the parish may disagree with me as to the direction I have planned with the help of the Wardens and the Parish Council over the years and that is your prerogative. However, you need to make that obvious so the Wardens, Council and I can take that all on board. I hope that this has helped. Below I have included a chart with the Strategic Plan Vision Statement and its objectives and the actions we have taken. While much is being done, please do not interpret this as contentment on my part as I see that there is still much to be done, but I hope it helps you all understand that what we are doing and what you are financially contributing to is based on a plan and a strategy that was developed back in 2005 and we are continuing with it.

Strategic Plan	Action Taken
Vision Statement	
Proclaim The Gospel	Bp Michael Lectio + Shofar Fr Rob WWH
Baptise and Make Disciples	Fr Keith engagement in the Parish
Teach & Instruct in the Word of God	Bp Michael Lectio + Shofar + Bible Studies Fr Keith using Bp Michael Bible Studies Fr Rob Parish Ministry + WWH
Nurture those in our Care	New Hospital + Parish Visitors to be commissioned early Jan St John’s Kitchen / Op Shop
Seek Out the Indifferent or Lapsed	WWH / St John’s Kitchen / Fr Keith / Fr Rob
Reach into the Community	Fr Keith Gordon KRG Action Group involvement (GKAG) St John’s Kitchen / Op Shop
Be Good Stewards	Foundation & Cemetery Trusts / Music Association / Roy Wotton Foundation
Ecumenism	Involvement in Inter Church Council
Wider Anglican Church	Bp Michael as a Resource Person Fr Rob training up the parish financially to eventually support a full-time assistant for training for the wider church Support of Darwin church
Involvement in Synod	Our representatives

WARRIOR WELCOME HOME

Ministry and Mission to the Australian Defence Force and Veterans and their Families

Fr Rob Sutherland CSC (Assistant Priest)

After an amazing year in 2015 when our ministry to our Defence personnel and their families jumped ahead in many areas, 2016 has again been frustrating. The need is just as great and the interest stronger than ever but this year, no matter what we tried, our Warrior Welcome Home Retreat just didn't happen. I will share our future plans towards the end of this article but let's start with why WWH is important and what we have been able to do.

Jesus told His disciples that people will know that we are [His people] and know His love by the love that they see in us. Those around us can only see God's love and our love through our actions. People, understandably, judge St John's as a parish and each of us and our God by what they see us do. Warrior Welcome Home is and must be who God is and who we are. Warrior Welcome Home shows that we (and God) care for the young men and women that our nation has sent away to war. Into the future, it might also be for our Police and Emergency Services too.

Jesus almost always acted before He taught; His teaching was usually to explain to people what He had done in God's name. In Jesus people saw healing and life and hope before they heard His message. Mission, doing the work of God in our world is within our DNA at St John's. We have heard and cried over the stories of those who have gone away to war and who have come home broken - broken in mind, body or spirit.

We have found that love, particularly the love of God, can help and heal the spiritual wounds, the 'dents in the soul' that our young men and women suffer from going to war. Even training in the ADF without actually going to war can cause these 'dents in the soul.'

"I was living in my own house with my family but I felt like a stranger... I didn't belong. Thank you for helping me feel that I can come home."
WWH participant

"I thought that I was the only one who was going through what I was suffering; as a Christian I felt ashamed that I didn't get better and ashamed to ask for help. I wanted God to fix me but I didn't even know what was broken. Thank you for helping me to know that I'm not alone and for bringing Jesus love and healing power to me." WWH participant

Since [my husband] came home there has been lots of support for him for his physical and mental wounds even if it didn't help his spiritual wounds I still felt that it was all about him. Thank you for giving us a program that included me and my issues. My own church rejected me but you have welcomed me and loved me and listened to me. Thank you. WWH participant

Warrior Welcome Home shows our service men and women and their families that God still cares and loves them and heals them and is their hope for life. Hopefully it shows them that we, God's people, and our God care about the men and women who serve our nation in the Australian Defence Force; that we and our God care about the men and women who go to some of the darkest places in our world; care about the effects that going to war has on them and their lives and on their families. Hopefully Warrior Welcome Home shows that God and His church can help.

Last year was so successful that we thought that in 2016 we just needed to do the same again. In the Bible God often uses apparent lack of success to refocus the direction of His people in the direction that He wants. This is how we are viewing the apparent lack of success this year.

This report looks at things we have done and things that are being developed.

Doing

Warrior Welcome Home Retreat

In 2016 we were not able to repeat the blessings of the 2015 Retreat. We tried several dates and moved the event to try to accommodate participants. It didn't work so in the end we cancelled it.

We have continued to work with previous participants to encourage them on their journey and to share some of the successes of their recoveries. Their support has continued to remind us of the need for our program, encouraged us to continue. These former participants have also given us wonderful feedback and suggestions for future directions for WWH.

To summarise the feedback:

- There is a need for a Christian program bringing God's love and healing of spiritual wounds in veterans and their families.
- The families need this as much as the veterans.
- Participants aren't finished healing by what we do but this sets them on the path to let God continue His healing.
- We need more churches, especially those near Defence bases, involved.
- Developing a program that could be delivered over an hour a week would be useful.

The letters, emails and cards of thanks from the participants have confirmed that the love of God that we showed them in so many ways has been effective in helping them get better and have the strength and courage to live again. There has been a strong recognition of the pain of guilt and betrayal in their lives but also examples and tools to deal with these. In Jesus betrayed, abandoned, forsaken and crucified but then victorious over all these everyone was able to find God's hope and healing.

Direct Support to Army

St John's has continued to provide a vast amount of direct support to the Army by making Fr Rob available, as often as we can, to support Army Chaplaincy. In addition to his work at St John's, Fr Rob has worked for many weeks of the year part-time as an Army reserve chaplain. Fortunately the Army pays both Fr Rob and the parish quite well for this support. While still focussing on helping soldiers with Spiritual Wounds Fr Rob has been able to provide the Character or Spiritual component of Army programs which aim to build resilience.

I needed to know that God gets it. He understands soldiers. He still loves me and Jesus on the cross is really for me.
WWH participant

Support to ADF ARRTS Program

The Australian Defence Force Arts for Recovery, Resilience, Teamwork and Skills program has continued and a former WWH participant, Ch Steve Neuhaus, has taken over from Fr Rob in providing chaplaincy support to this program.

Research into Dents in the Soul/Spiritual Wounds or Moral Injury

In 2014 we announced our participation in an academic project with Bishop Tom Frame of the Australian Centre for the Study of Armed Conflict and Society (ACSACS) within UNSW. Having supported this project for 12 months it was wonderful to see the launch of the book *Moral Injury – Unseen wounds in an age of Barbarism*. This project continues. The book has almost sold out.

We have a few more copies in the parish office but have sold the rest of our copies back to the editor. It has been widely distributed amongst Government and Defence and other groups in Australia and overseas.

"No one understood... what I was going through; you listened and you understood and you didn't try to tell me what I had... I found I could trust... enough to tell my story.."
WWH participant

Spreading the Message

Fr Rob has been invited to speak to many groups about Warrior Welcome Home and Moral Injury amongst veterans and their families. There has been strong interest and support from Probus Clubs, Men's Breakfast groups, Church groups and even the Australian Parliamentary Christian Fellowship. Following the National Prayer Breakfast talk in 2015 Fr Rob was also invited to present at the Military Christian Fellowship Hope Seminar. This presentation should be published shortly.

There have been overseas opportunities to speak about our work but we have been unable to accept these.

Not just Defence Veterans

There is growing interest in WWH from other groups. Fr Rob was invited to lead several sessions for the NSW Police Force Chaplains' Seminar at Goulburn. We have also held discussions with NSW Fire Brigade. We will invite members of these organisations to the 2017 WWH Retreats.

"Now I know that God still loves me ... Jesus understands and God can heal even me."
WWH participant

The Future

We are determined to offer two Warrior Welcome Home Retreats in Sydney in 2017 and we already have strong interest. One will be in May and the second in September.

There is too much happening to include it all but here are some key initiatives to note.

Wotton Foundation

Our former Rector Fr Roy Wotton was passionate about caring for veterans and their families. Having announced the formation work of Warrior Welcome Home last year progress in legally establishing it has been slower than we had hoped. It is now very close to becoming the reality that Fr Roy's legacy deserves. Once established we hope to use this foundation to raise funds for the work of Warrior Welcome Home and spiritual care of veterans.

WWH in other Churches

It looks as if Darwin Cathedral parish will be the first outside Gordon to take up the offer of running Warrior Welcome Home. The Dean of Darwin, The Very Rev'd Dr Keith Joseph, is strongly supportive and between us we believe we have the resources. We have the expertise and the cathedral parish has the participants. Please pray for this.

Discussions with other parishes and churches continue.

A video based program

A number of participants have suggested, and some churches have asked, if we could produce Warrior Welcome Home like the Alpha and other programs. This would make it easier for other churches to take up and to use WWH. While this will be expensive and time consuming, it does provide the opportunity to make WWH truly accessible to many groups around the country and the world.

Working with other organisations

We have had discussions with a number of veterans' groups including RSL Care, Legacy and Soldier On about working with the veterans that they are working with. We would love to be able to provide them with more support but at the moment we don't see any spare capacity to do much more to help them.

"I really needed to hear stories of other people who felt like me... knew the darkness... the pain... the shame... I just let it all out." WWH participant

Thank you again for your amazing love and support; through us God has blessed the lives of some wonderful men and women who have served our nation and also their families. I suspect that in blessing them we also have been truly blessed.

ST JOHN'S MUSIC

Dr Brett McKern (Director of Music)

Is music essential in the Christian Church? Well it is oft said that the Christian Church is a singing church, so here is a brief examination of some of the famous texts on the subject.



The Bible is the obvious place to start. 1 Chronicles says, "And they ministered before the dwelling place of the tabernacle of the congregation with singing,"ⁱ and 2 Chronicles,

Also Jehoiada appointed the offices of the house of the Lord by the hand of the priests the Levites, whom David had distributed in the house of the Lord, to offer the burnt offerings of the Lord, as it is written in the law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, as it was ordained by David.ⁱⁱ

The Psalms are well-known for their belief in song: "Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing,"ⁱⁱⁱ for example. St Paul says to sing:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."^{iv}

Further afield, St Augustine of Hippo (354-430) is famously attributed with, "Qui bene cantat bis orat".^v *Sacrosanctum concilium* says,

"The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art ... Holy Scripture, indeed, has bestowed praise upon sacred song, and the same may be said of the fathers of the Church,^{vi} ... "Liturgical worship is given a more noble form when the divine offices are celebrated solemnly in song."^{vii}



Pope John Paul prayed that every worshipper, by "expressing their faith harmoniously and solemnly in song, will experience its richness ever more fully."^{viii} Even in the Diocese of Sydney, if St Paul sings, so does Matthias Media:

"there's ... no escaping the fact that singing is a vital form of praise ... The point could not be clearer. We sing to the Lord, blessing his name, and we sing of the Lord, declaring his glory."^{ix}

Well that's unequivocal then; we sing. Christian liturgy includes music, but is liturgy really a key task, part of our 'core business', to use common corporate terminology. I have recently been *prompted to ponder on this at some length*. The *postulation* was that the main role of a parish church is to bring people to God. Now there is no denying Christ's Great Commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,"^x but equally Christ instituted the Eucharist and commanded us to "this do in remembrance of me."^{xi} Now here is liturgy handed down from Christ Himself. Moreover, this Christian liturgy continued.

But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. And when they

had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.^{xii}

As Christians we follow Christ's example and commands. Liturgy is essential and music quintessential. But how does this play out with the Great Commission in the twenty-first century in the upper north shore of Sydney?

If we seek to bring others to Christ we need to be seen to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. We need to be so filled with and grateful for the love of God and all He has done for us that all we do is for Him and in His Name. The usual thoughts are that we should be moral, do good deeds, and similar traits, which others will see; but this does not differentiate us as Christians from other good people. There are two ways the Christian imperative can be borne out in contemporary society. One is by proselytising (of which one could be cheeky and note the last four letters of the word). Unfortunately this is not always seen in a good light in the modern world. Sometimes Christians have been given a bad reputation by the more forceful and sometimes fundamentalist evangelists. This may cause the act to backfire. Indeed, we never quite got to Archbishop Jensen's ten percent.^{xiii} The other way to show belief in the love of God is liturgy. The response to a God who gives us everything is thanks and praise. Non-Christians see church buildings and regular liturgy and it is obvious that the work of God is important given the time, effort, expense, expertise, beauty and art Christians expend on His worship. Worship, or liturgy, is very much the central task of the Christian.



If we combine these two arguments – that is that liturgy is essential and music is crucial to it – we see the importance of church music. We see that church music is at the heart of the core business of the Church of St John the Evangelist in Gordon. Is this borne out practically? Does music bring people to Christ? At St John's over the last less than ten years, we have seen the number of people regularly involved in music at St John's increase over one thousand percent into three figures. This includes people from those who participate in choirs or play orchestral instruments just a few times a year through to those dedicated souls who are there multiple times a week, not just singing in choirs but are

involved in a number of missions. We also see people come in audiences and congregations to concerts, music meetings, funerals, weddings, civic services, or other events irregularly, or maybe even just once. These people are all exposed to the music of St John's. These people are all exposed to Christ in action. These people are exposed to God working through His people.

This is my belief, and the reason for my life and career in His service. It is the belief of many others at St John's. It is the impetus for music ministry. It is the reason St John's music ministry is growing. So, in the words of Fr Sabine Baring-Gould,

Onward, then, ye people,
Join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices
In the triumph song;
Glory, laud, and honour,
Unto Christ the King;
This through countless ages
Men and angels sing.^{xiv}

Pictures:

1. Battle of Pozières centenary service 7-8-2016; St John's Parish choir, 8am Singers and The Cathedral Singers with the Governor and Mrs Hurley (photo: John Ross Edwards)
2. St John's Evensong Choir and viols authentically performed music by Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625) at Evensong 14-8-2016 (photo: Padraig Byrne)

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- i. 1 Chronicles 6:32, King James translation.
 - ii. 2 Chronicles 23:18.
 - iii. Psalm 100:2.
 - iv. Colossians 3:16.
 - v. Often translated, "He who sings, prays twice."
 - vi. *Sacrosanctum concilium*, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 1963, Chapter VI, Paragraph 112.
 - vii. *Sacrosanctum concilium*, Chapter VI, paragraph 113.
 - viii. Pope John Paul II, 2003, quoted in Bishop Conley, *Bishop's Column: He who sings, prays twice!* www.lincolndiocese.org/op-ed/bishop-s-column/3363-he-who-sings0prays-twice; 20-3-2015, accessed 15-11-2016.
 - ix. Rob Smith, *The role of singing in the life of the church*, matthiasmedia.com/briefing/2012/09/the-role-of-singing-in-the-life-of-the-church/, 10-9-2012, accessed 15-11-2016.
 - x. Matthew 28:19, NRSV.
 - xi. Luke 22:19, KJV.
 - xii. Matthew 26:29-30.
 - xiii. That was: "To see at least 10% of the population of the region of the Diocese in Bible –based churches in 10 years." *The Sydney Anglican Agenda*, www.lectionarystudies.com/parish/anglican18a.html, accessed 15-11-2016.
 - xiv. S. Baring-Gould (1834-1924), hymn *Onward Christian Soldiers*, in *New English Hymnal* The Canterbury Press, Norwich, 1985, number 435, verse 5.

CEMETERY UPDATE

John McLean

Regular weekly maintenance, weather permitting during the year, has enabled the completion of the whole cemetery area to a satisfactory state, a task that has taken this past 7 years, with contributions from many church volunteers.



More recently, Keith Smith has retired, and special thanks to Margaret Stafford for her weekly visits to ensure the general cemetery appearance is maintained. The use of wood chips as grave cover with follow up weed spraying now keeps the area under control. Lawn maintenance and edging is serviced by contractor on a needs basis.

THE CATHEDRAL SINGERS

*Jan Kneeshaw
(Secretary/Chair)*

As many of you know, The Cathedral Singers (TCS) is an auditioned choir, based at St John's and singing at churches all over Sydney and beyond. Like most liturgical choirs, we are finding it difficult to recruit new singers who can sight read, and with a background in church repertoire, as fewer churches are now worshipping using the more formal music.



In spite of that we have a dedicated group of talented people who have very busy, professional lives and enjoy coming together to support each other and assist in leading the music and worship in the various churches we visit, including St John's Gordon. We produce a newsletter several times a year and the last one has examples of the "other lives" of some of the choristers. Copies of that are available at the church or on our website cathedralsingers.org.au. It is also interesting that several of the choir found us on our webpage and came to us with backgrounds in other churches.



This year we have been diverse as ever, and in recent weeks we have sung at Mudgee, Terrigal, St Mary's Cathedral, Scot's



Church Mosman, Balmain and Dee Why as well as St John's. We also combined with the St John's choirs for special services, including the Lessons and Carols on Sunday 18th.



We also sang Evensong at St Andrew's Cathedral on 12th December, carols for services of Lessons and Carols at several churches including Advent Carols at Leura and at West Pymble Shopping Centre for their Christmas Fair. As well as our normal activities, we are pleased to sing at other events such as weddings and are planning to sing at two in the coming months.

We are grateful to the Rector and Parish Council at St John's for welcoming us and allowing us to have our base here, storing our music as well as rehearsing weekly. We are also very happy to accept donations towards our work and these are tax deductible. *Enquiries: 9144 4915*



Pictures – SJG, Mudgee, St Mary's Cathedral, West Pymble, Terrigal

OUR MISSIONER

Bp Michael Hough

Bishop Michael has again led the parish in several series this year. His visits included Saturday workshops, mid-week Bible studies and the Sunday Sermons. This last visit we added new slant to his visits by having groups meeting in homes. This meant we were able to reach out to about 48 new people in this last visit alone, and it will be the basis for his next visit in the lead up to Easter.



We look forward to our weekly publications with Bp Michael’s insights into what it means to follow God, using examples of what is happening in our world and the wonderful ways in which faith changes our thinking and our sense of who we are and who we are meant to be. These weekly publications are printed for each Sunday service and sent out to those on the parish email list.



To find out more, visit Facebook: Disciples of Christ; or view Bp Michael’s webpage: www.houghongod.com.

FLOWER GUILD

*Jan McLachlan
Jan Kneeshaw*

Once Advent arrives the “flower ladies” take a break as the church will be unadorned until Christmas, as is the custom. The church calendar, seasons, celebrations and special services are all considered when organising and arranging the style, colour and type of flowers for display. This mindfulness adds to the process as well as to the act of service by this group. Greenery and flowers frequently are from guild members’ gardens with supplements from The Hills Florist or other local stores.



This year we have gladly welcomed several new members onto our roster and the regular teams continue to contribute their time and skill for which we are most grateful. We have received complimentary and encouraging comments from parishioners and their verbal and financial support is greatly appreciated.

WEGS

(Women’s Evening Group)
Sue Close



2016 was another busy year. Meetings are held in the Upper Room on the second Monday of the month at 9.45am with morning tea, which is followed by our meeting. We look forward to our AGM on Monday 13th March 2017. During the year we have had many interesting and informative speakers including James Winter on Habitat for Humanity and the Rector speaking on his visit to France for the Pozieres commemoration service. Our meetings are less formal than in the past with more emphasis on friendship and communication.

Our WEGs stall, on the first Sunday of the month, continues with successful purchases along with refreshments and time to socialise following the services. Thank you to Alan Tilley for his support in helping to set up the tables. We have many customers at the Saturday Op Shop who purchase morning teas which seem to be most popular. WEGs continues to support the Parish Annual Fete supplying cakes, jams, craft etc. for sale. This year we achieved an excellent return for the Fete. WEGs also supported the inaugural Christmas Twilight Markets in the grounds of the church with a stall that was most successful. Thank you to Rhonda Cramer and Pat Gaudry and their team. Our annual December Christmas lunch was most relaxing at Gordon Golf Club. Many thanks to the WEGs members who diligently bake and provide craft, and to all our active members for their valuable and on-going support throughout the year. Particular thanks to Ercil Allen who is a most efficient treasurer. We could not achieve what we do without the strong support of so many loyal women. New members are most welcome to join WEGs - please contact our secretary Robyn Kerr if you are interested to join in.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

David Corbett and Hayden Tucker have again worked very hard through the year to ensure our buildings and grounds are kept working and operating, including the enormous task of set-up and clean-up for the annual fête, and our first Christmas Twilight Market.



The staff, wardens and parish are extremely thankful and appreciative of all that they do through the week.

OP SHOP

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning, no matter the weather, the volunteers arrive to sort through an array of donated books, clothing, kitchenware, china and silverware, and share in morning tea and fellowship together. This year the team has welcomed several new members eager to assist and join in.

June Millar and her team do an amazing job to sort through an enormous amount of goods, deciding what is saleable, what to put in the Anglicare bin and what to discard in the skip.

Sale days have been well attended this year with regulars and newcomers. We are very appreciative of donated goods, and respectfully ask donors to abide by the signage regarding furnishings and computer equipment. We look forward to a busy 2017, and wish all our donors and customers a very Merry Christmas.

OP SHOP – 2017 Opening Hours

OUTSIDE 9:00am – 12:30pm

INSIDE 9:30am – 12:30pm

MONTH	SATURDAY	FRIDAY
JANUARY	14 th	27 th
FEBRUARY	11 th	24 th
MARCH	11 th	31 st
APRIL	-	28 th
MAY	13 th	26 th
JUNE	10 th	30 th
JULY	15 th	28 th
AUGUST	12 th	25 th
SEPTEMBER	9 th	29 th
OCTOBER	14 th	27 th
NOVEMBER	11 th	24 th
DECEMBER	9 th	-



POZIERES 2016

In February 2013 the mayor of Pozieres came to see the Pozieres cross in our chapel in preparation for the 100th Anniversary of the battle of Pozieres in 2016.

During that visit the Mayor's wife Marie noticed the kneelers, especially the Pozieres one. After an interesting discussion, it was decided by me that we should make two sets of kneelers and send them to France to Pozieres for the centenary. The Mayor then insisted that I come to make the presentation. After approaching Betty Ross Edwards she agreed to head up the project with John as support staff. I could not have been more delighted with the outcome. The team that Betty put together was first rate and the kneelers were fabulous.



The Mayor then insisted that I come to make the presentation. After approaching Betty Ross Edwards she agreed to head up the project with John as support staff. I could not have been more delighted with the outcome. The team that Betty put together was first rate and the kneelers were fabulous.

So in June, thanks to the generosity of the parish, Alice, Rebekah, Matthew and I sallied forth on the great European adventure of 2016 to the UK and France. We spent 4 weeks in England spending time in London, Cornwall, and then 3 weeks based in Oxford thanks to the generosity of the George family. In London we did the usual spots such as London Eye, London Bridge, HMS Belfast, the Tower, and Madam Tussauds. It was a fabulous three days there, and then we went off to

Cornwall. On the way we stopped off at Stonehenge on the summer solstice!! How cool was that!? Our four days in Cornwall were spent based in Newquay. We visited Port Isaacs (Doc Martin Territory) Land's End, Penzance, and Falmouth. Afterwards, we went to Oxford.



It was absolutely fabulous being in Oxford, going to St Mary the Virgin where Cranmer was tried, and John Henry Newman was Rector, The Martyrs' Memorial where Cranmer, Ridley and others were burned at the stake, and other fabulous sites. We used the time to visit Alice's relatives from Edinburgh down to Hampshire, Birmingham across to Darlington, and then visited Whitby including the ruined Abbey.



After our time in England we went down by train to London to board the Eurostar to Lille in France. There we picked up a car and went to Pozieres. This was a very moving time for us as a family with my Great-great

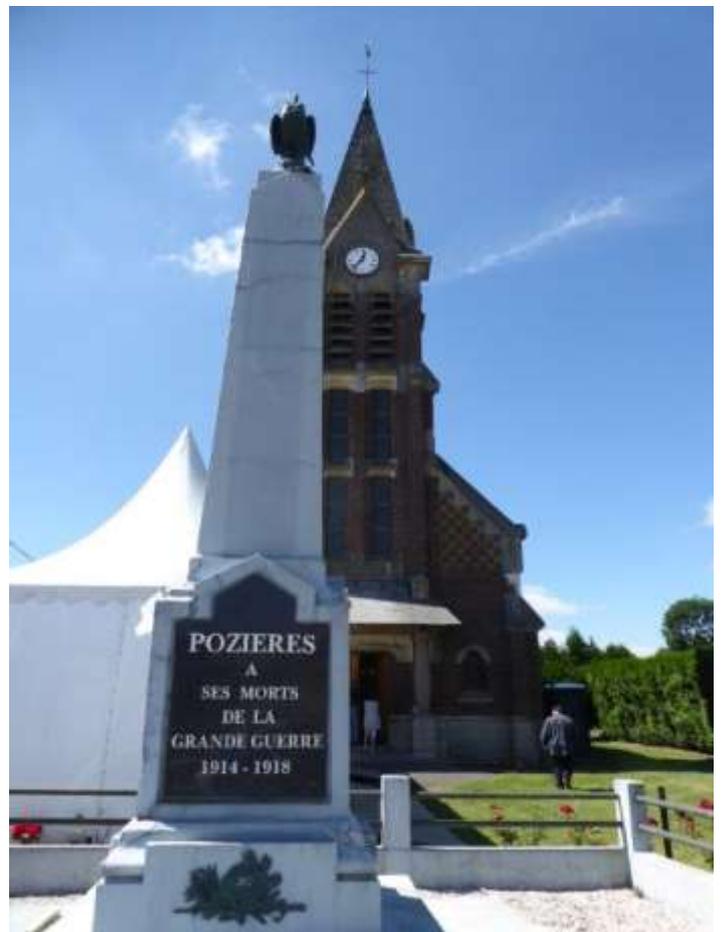
Uncle Harold Cade having fallen at Pozieres in 1916 after surviving Gallipoli. We stayed with Mayor Bernard and his wife Marie at their B&B in Pozieres. It was a wonderful



10 days exploring the countryside and the local towns of Albert, Amiens, Fricort, Thiepval, and others. Driving on the wrong side of the road was a challenge, but we managed to survive. A personal highlight was being the first member of our family to be able to be within 100m of where great-great uncle Harold lies somewhere in the fields of Pozieres, and Mouquet Farm.



When the commemoration weekend occurred much was happening. The town put on a light and sound show to tell the story of what happened during WW1 and specifically at Pozieres. If you ever go there, and it is on, go to it. There is an English translation available.





On the Saturday before the official function I blessed the new Memorial Park which is at the site of the windmill. In that park over 7000 crosses were laid in the symbol of the rising sun to commemorate all who died in that six-week battle. The Official function was excellent, and all surviving regimental colours were paraded for the first time ever. During that ceremony, the Mayor was awarded an honorary OAM for his outstanding efforts in Australian-French relations with respect to Pozieres.



McColl translated for me. Afterwards we went across the road to the site of the new bilingual school, which I then blessed. After that we went into the French equivalent of the town hall where Barry and Von Gracey who are the founders of the Pozieres Remembrance Association were awarded the Legion of Honour, France's highest award for civilians. It was also the first time that a husband and wife had been awarded at the same time. This was a particularly moving event as the President of France personally intervened to make the award, although he was unable to be there to present it himself. He sent a General instead!!!



On the Sunday, we had the church service and the official handing over of the kneelers. It was a great service conducted in French and in English, and as such was totally chaotic, but it worked!! I preached and John

On the Monday we went down to Amiens to catch the train to Paris and then to our hotel La. We had three very packed days where we saw the Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Ancient History Museum, Natural History Museum and the D'Orsay. We had a cruise on the Seine, and saw much of the beauty of the capital.



Eventually, though, it was time to go, and so off to the airport and back home, exhausted, but well-travelled. My thanks again to the parish for sending Alice and myself which enabled us to afford to have Matthew and Rebekah join us as well. It was a very moving experience and a great joy to be able to represent you, the parish, on such an important occasion, which their town and our parish are inexorably linked.

ANNUAL FÊTE

Pat Gaudry

The Annual Spring Fête celebrated 200 years of activity on the church site.



The commemorative plaque on the wall of the chapel notes that a church and school started here in 1816. This historic anniversary was noted with an excellent article in the North Shore Times with details provided by Sue Dunston and Jill Lyons. Many people saw the article and came to the Fête to help us celebrate the bicentenary.



The front lawn was the focus of children's activities with a jumping castle, lucky dips and books available at bargain prices. The courtyard became a food court with the traditional spit roast BBQ, crepes, and champagne with strawberries, all available at the tables under the sails.

In the main hall were the usual stalls with cakes, jams, sweets, and hampers, craft items, photo cards and jewellery, Fruit and Vegetable Stall, Treasure Stall, and the Chocolate Wheel. The hall was also the venue for a musical trio from Barker College and the choir from the Gordon branch of Sing Australia sang a few well known numbers prior to the raffle draw. The main passageway managed to fit several stalls from parishioners and other traders. The upper room was busy with Le Café serving coffee with cakes and scones.



In the back car park we had the Op-Shop, and stalls from several community organisations. This year for the first time we had five Fair Trade stalls set up near The

Plant Stall on the lawn stocked with local plants carefully raised in the gardens of parishioners and friends. The Book Shop in the crypt had over 4,000 books, many had been donated by Barker College at the conclusion of their Fair in September.

In the back car park were information stalls from several community organisations. This year for the first time we had five Fair Trade stalls which added to the interest of the Fête.

The church was open for visitors with an organ recital mid-morning. All in all the Fête was a very busy place with much to see and do and a great chance to have 'Open House' for the local community. We were blessed with excellent weather, and a big crowd. There was something for everyone and all went home happy after an entertaining day.

Much thanks is due to the people who organised the stalls and worked so hard to bring off a very successful, happy and fun day. Next year's Fête is Saturday 14 October 2017.

CHRISTMAS TWILIGHT MARKET

The Twilight Christmas Market seems to have been a hit—great shopping, a chance to catch up with friends, community outreach and fundraising all rolled into one



event. The market raised \$4,500 for the church. This would not have been possible without generous support from the parish.



In particular, Reece and I would like to thank the Women's Evening Group for providing a great range of homemade cakes, jams, relishes and plants, Brett McKern, the Twilight Singers and Antony and Karen Pitts for providing the music, Jan McLachlan and Graham Tucker and also BV Microlights for providing the lighting, which gave the market a fantastic Christmas atmosphere, Alice,

Rebekah and Father Keith Dalby for selling raffle tickets (and managing to win a raffle prize) Leanne Winter, Deb and John Marshall, John McLean, Chris and Gill Russell and Hugh Keithly for doing the BBQ, coffee, et cetera, David Corbett, Hayden Tucker, Rosemary Angus, Cynthia Keithly and Father Keith for all the support and assistance that made the event run smoothly. Thank you to all who came to our first Christmas Twilight Market. We look forward to doing it again next year.

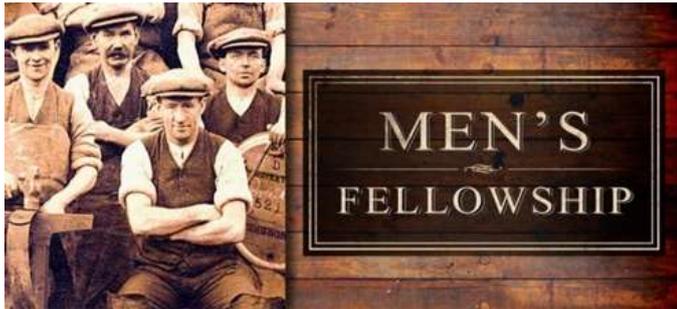


ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Community luncheons are held to bring the parish and public together to share a 2 course meal for \$12 held once a month. The Christmas Luncheon on Monday 19 December was well attended and enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Sue, Janice and all the team for all the planning, preparation and "slaving over a hot stove" to provide enjoyment for others through the year.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP



Weekly Wednesday meetings continued through this year at 1pm in the upper room and were well attended. The Rector has joined when available.

A Men's Breakfast was held on Saturday, 27th February. Our next Breakfast will be on Saturday, 4th March 2017. All men are welcome to join us.

KU-RING-GAI INTERCHURCH COMMITTEE

Shirleyann Gibbs and John Welch

At the KIC 2016 Annual Dinner at St Ives Uniting Church on 11th November, we were delighted to formally welcome Ann Powell, a delegate from the newly joined St Swithun's Anglican Church, Pymble, and its Rector, The Revd Dr Roger Chilton, who have been with us for most of the year. This year we updated and re-issued the Ku-ring-gai Interchurch Agreement which now

includes St Swithun's and was signed and witnessed by Clergy and Lay Representatives of the individual Churches. Again a very happy occasion attended by some 105 people. The guest speaker on this



occasion was Jim Mein AM, Past Moderator of the Uniting Church, speaking about "Can the World's Religions bring about Peace"? Once more, the St Ives Uniting folk were a great help to committee members in setting up and clearing the place back to normal for Services on the Sunday.

The first 2016 meeting took place on 19 January followed by meetings on the fourth Tuesday of subsequent months at which various events were planned. The first of these was the KIC Breakfast on Saturday 6 February with two speakers: Larry Mullans, Youth Worker from St Jude's Anglican Church, Bowral, who shared his background and the program he has established for a large and active youth involvement in religious and social participation; and the second speaker, Lisa Andrawes, spoke about her tertiary

education role at Ku-ring-gai High School as the religious support teacher for staff, parents and pupils.

The annual KIC Clergy Luncheon was again held at Cheryl Doyle's home (a Corpus Christi delegate) on 18 May and was enjoyed and appreciated with lively conversation and great food!

The KIC Social Awareness Luncheon was held at St Andrew's St Ives/Pymble Presbyterian Church and. The speaker was Julie Telfer, Hospital Chaplain ICU Ward Gosford and on-call Northern Sydney "Chaplaincy, a ministry of presence", speaking on the value of listening and identifying patient critical non-health concerns, especially of critically ill or dying persons.

Members have attended services, ecumenical functions and prayer meetings at one another's churches, including the World Day of Prayer and other events.

Chairman, Alex Koroknay, called for meeting topic suggestions. Shirleyann started off in August with "Quo Vadis" with a 2-sided sheet of sources and opinions for reference, followed by Madeline Forbes (Pymble Catholic) and John Welch. Other members continue in 2017, beginning in January with Alex Koroknay's topic on "Caroline Cox (Baroness, House of Lords UK) and her work about persecution of the Christian Church."

NEW OFFERTORY BAGS



Four new offertory bags to be used at Christmas and Easter have been commissioned, to match the Priest's new cope and the altar frontal.

The first, shown by Margaret Horsley together with

Fr Keith, contains 6400 stitches. Designed by Catherine Blanch, they are being embroidered by Margaret Horsley and Robyn Blanch.

The timber handles were turned by Betty Edwards' brother-in-law, Doug Sparkes, 8 years ago, and the steel rims were manufactured by Carl Ackland.

Enormous thanks to Margaret, Robyn and Catherine.



Parish Register 2016



Baptisms

31 Jan	Saman Mohammadi
6 Mar	Joshua Gilbraith Knight
6 Mar	Eleanor Creusere
19 Mar	Austin McBride Harold Lynch
20 Mar	Stirling Avenir McCarroll
20 Mar	Helena Kelva McCarroll
29 May	Alisara Tucker
12 June	Tara Elise Radovic
14 Aug	Iva Alice Gordevich
18 Dec	Tate Bollinger

Weddings

9 April	Ley Catherine Wilson and Edward Wannop Wilson
23 April	Kirrily Gai Taylor and Ian Alexander Beehag
19 Nov	Katherine Rose Williams and James Lawson-Craig

Funerals

4 Mar	Jane Meredith 'Meg' Kremer
12 Apr	Merryn Maurice Blyth
4 May	Chloe Anne Hamer
21 July	David William Ash Walcot
1 August	Sylvia Marjory Cribb
15 Sept	Audrey Cynthia Long
22 Sept	Francis Sydney Merchant
26 Sept	Maree Ann Grieve OAM
20 Oct	Isobel Colleen Shellshear
9 Dec	Joseph Hugh Lewis Huges
13 Dec	Lyndon Graham Cooper
15 Dec	David William Alexander

Directory of Contacts

Rector

The Revd Keith W Dalby	
office:	9498 2744
rectory:	9498 2596
mobile:	0433 538 915

Assistant Priest

The Revd Rob Sutherland CSC	0406 767 757
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Honorary Clergy / Honorary Assisting

The Ven. Clive King AM	9498 2744
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Parish Missioner

The Rt Revd Dr Michael Hough	9498 2744
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Wardens

Onno Bakker (Rector's Warden)	9416 3214
Bill Killinger AM	0407 551 600
James Winter	0411 752 802

Parish Council

Chris Russell (Secretary)	
The Hon. Patricia Forsythe	0418 165 466
Elizabeth George	0414 648 600
Nigel Hubbard	0438 284 762
Kim Thompson	0419 245 267

Synod Representatives

Prof. Charles George	9144 6638
Jennifer Lum	0411 836 282

Parish Treasurer

James Winter	0411 752 802
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Director of Music

Dr Brett McKern	0408 303 225
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Assistant Director of Music

Nicola Chau	9498 2744
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Maintenance / Grounds

David Corbett	9498 2744
Hayden Tucker	9498 2744

Cemetery

John McLean	9998 0171
Margaret Stafford OAM	

Op Shop

June Millar OAM	9983 1167
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Risk Management

John East	0407 896 080
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Bible Study

Jennifer Lum	0411 836 282
Fr Keith Dalby	9498 2744

Pastoral Care

Elizabeth Kelly	9144 3064
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Safe Ministry Representative

Jan McLachlan	9498 4246
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Men's Fellowship

John McLean	9998 0171
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Women's Evening Group (WEG)

Rhonda Cramer - President	9488 8405
Robyn Kerr OAM - Secretary	9449 7279

Ladies' Fellowship Group

Jennifer Lum	0411 836 282
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Ku-ring-gai Interchurch Committee Reps

John Welch	9144 3448
Dr Shirleyann Gibbs	0435 957 997

Flower Guild

Jan Kneeshaw	9144 4915
Jan McLachlan	9498 4246

Parish Reader

Jennifer Lum	0411 836 282
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Servers' Guild

Phillip Bradfield	9487 3127
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Sidesmen's Roster

John Brandon	9449 5864
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Plaques/Interment

John McLean	9998 0171
-------------	-----------

Church Administration

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Pew Bulletin & Rosters	Cynthia Keithly
	pewbulletin@stjohnsgordon.org.au
Rosters	Yvonne Moon (Ret. May)

Parish Review Editor

Rosemary Angus	9498 2744
	office@stjohnsgordon.org.au