



Parish Review

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RECTOR'S REPORT

Fr Keith Dalby



This past year has been a tale of two halves. The first half has been about the starting of the organ project, and the second half has been about getting back to what we are meant to be doing: mission and ministry.

As I look back on the year, I am amazed at how God has operated and shown that He is sovereign, and it doesn't matter what our plans are, His are greater and better. At the beginning of the year we thought that we could just get on and do the organ replacement project. Then we discovered that we needed to go through Anglican Church Property Trust (ACPT). When that occurred all our plans went into slight disarray. We were told that we would have to have all the money up front, plus contingency, plus GST. Ouch!!! We started to look at loans. I have to say that when I went away at the end of May for holidays, I was a bit despondent about the project. When I came back, **God let loose.** I got invited around to a parishioner's house where I was given a cheque for \$500,000 for the organ. It is not often that I am left speechless, but in this case the parishioners concerned were amused to see me all at sea!!! I banked the money and came back to the office and there was an email waiting for me from another parishioner wanting to give \$200,000. In one day, I had \$700,000 and, with \$300,000 in the bank already, we were a goer. **It was a great reminder to me that prayer and patience is the only way to proceed with God, and if you do that, it works out in the end.** Boy, am I happy.

This has meant that the project is now happily churning away in the background. Bill Killinger and John Brandon are overseeing an excellent committee including Dennis Wood, Don Yorath and Brett McKern. Bill has said to me it is the best committee he has ever worked with, everyone does their assigned tasks fantastically, and I am so delighted they are doing what they are doing; it is going to be an excellent organ at the conclusion of the project. The more I look into what is going on and the more I see of the organ build itself, the more in awe I am of Brett and his vision for the organ and what it can be for us here in Gordon. We are very lucky to have Brett.

In this year other things have happened as well. The ministry to our Chinese neighbours is gathering pace. We now have a regular group meeting from 5-9pm every Thursday. I encourage you to come and play table tennis; you will be very welcome. If you would like to play Mah Jong or chess, get a group together and get involved. You will also be very welcome! As far as Fr Ernest and I are concerned, the more the merrier and the more activities the better.

Despite all the necessary focus on the organ, Pastoral Care has always been on my agenda. I am delighted to say that we are getting much better at this and more people are being visited. With Jen Lum finishing her studies, she will become more involved in Scripture Teaching and in Pastoral visiting.

Finally, we welcomed back Bp Michael this Advent and, as a special treat, Bennita was able to accompany him for the first week. **Michael is going**

to be working very hard pulling together information from our various planning days and coalescing it into our Parish Master Plan for next year. I have already had one planning session and will be delighted to share that with you in the coming weeks.

I want to encourage you all. **The parish is in good shape.** It is not perfect, but it is in good shape. The fantastic contributions of many people over many

years have made that possible. We continue to build on that foundation and we continue to develop and grow the parish. I ask that you keep me, the Clergy and staff, the Wardens and Parish Council in your prayers so we can continue to be alert to the leading of God in this place and responsive to the mission and ministry in which He calls us to participate.

2019 Plan on a Page

MIS- SION	BRING GOD INTO THE LIVES OF THE COMMUNITY						
2019 THEME	BACK TO BASICS						
2019 FOCUS AREAS	CHURCH SERVICES; CHURCH ACTIVITIES (OWNER: Parish Council)		OUTREACH PROGRAM (Owner: Fr Ernest)			IMPROVING FINANCIALS (Owner: Wardens)	
STRATEGIC PILLARS							
	Energise the spiritual core of St John's, enabling individuals to feel God in their lives	Be an open and inclusive church, strengthening the ties between parishioners and sustaining newcomers	Expand the appeal of St John's to build a more diverse parish of supportive and integrated communities	Build stronger links with the broader community	Promote St John's	Generate increased financial resources	Generate more people resources

A recommendation was made at the last Annual Vestry Meeting that we have some sort of planning day for 2019. It has taken a long time and a few false starts, but we have made a start. I came up with the idea that somehow, **we need to get back to basics in our faith**. I discussed this with Bp Michael. Together we determined that this is a great theme because it gives us many variables in seeking to achieve the goal. We looked at the 2005 Plan, the Future Directions Group and the Mission Priorities work that was done in 2015. Michael will report back to the AVM next year and lead us through this planning at that time.

I then sat down with Natasha Copley and Stephen Woodhill and worked on a plan that we feel we can deliver in 2019. It will not tick everyone's boxes, but **it is a plan, and it is doable, and more importantly, achievable.**

In a nutshell it looks like this:

Mission: Bring God into the lives of the Community

2019 Theme: Back to Basics

2019 Focus Areas: Church Services/Activities (Owner: Parish Council)
 Outreach Programme (Owner: Fr Ernest)
 Improving Financials (Owner: Wardens)

Strategic Pillars: Energise the Spiritual Core
 Be open and inclusive
 Expand our appeal
 Build stronger community links
 Promote St John's
 Generate increased financial resources
 Generate people resources

I will be in overall charge of supporting the various owners as they achieve their goals. I will assist each owner to develop and implement a strategy and will give them the resources they need to succeed.

WARRIOR WELCOME HOME

*The Venerable Fr Rob Sutherland CSC
 (Assistant Priest)*



We believe 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.

Ministry and Mission To the Australian Defence Force, Veterans and their Families

It's been another amazing year following God's leading as we try to bring His love and His healing and hope to our Servicemen and women and their families. Our ministry to our Defence personnel and their families has jumped ahead but, as always, never quite as we thought.

Jesus told His disciples that people will know that we are His followers by the love that they see in us. Those around us rightly judge who we are as a parish, as Christians, through our actions. Warrior Welcome Home is part of what we do at St John's. **Warrior Welcome Home shows that we (and God) care for**

Warrior Welcome Home is really bringing God's healing to the men and women that our nation has sent away to war.

the young men and women that our nation has sent away to war.

Australia is very good at sending young men and women away to

war. We select our nation's best and brightest and we train and equip and lead them well. On operations around the world our young men and women in uniform are courageous, ingenious, merciful and successful. They do all this in our name

and we ought to be proud of them and grateful. Despite the rigours of operational deployment, it's coming home that is hardest. Coming home is where the physical, mental and spiritual wounds become apparent.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is much less of a problem than most believe. Research indicates that only about 10% of servicemen and women suffer from it. Even if the real number is twice as high it can't be the main problem. **Research in the US indicates that Moral Injury, "Dents in the Soul" (or spiritual wounds) appear to be the major problem for five times the number of sufferers as PTSD.** An Australian expert has said that everyone comes home with such "Dents in the Soul" It is these 'Dents in the Soul' that need fixing by families and communities and by churches.

On Warrior Welcome Home we have heard the stories of those who have gone away to war and who have come home broken: broken in mind, body and/or spirit.

I've been carrying this guilt and shame for years; I thought I was weak; thank you for giving me time and space to find God's love again.

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 both PTSD and these 'Dents in the Soul.'

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 love 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. **Warrior Welcome Home shows our Servicemen 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 at St John's 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; that we and our God care about the effects that going to war has on them and their lives and on their families. Hopefully Warrior Welcome Home shows that we care and that God and His church are doing something to help.

Doing

Warrior Welcome Home - Northern Territory

While running retreats for veterans and their families has been shown to work in Sydney, there aren't as many veterans here as there are in other places. Following last year's limited success in Darwin and despite interruptions from Cyclone Marcus we ran a successful program with local churches this year. This year we kept it simple and local in style; breakfast each morning was a sumptuous bar-be-cue 'Territory style' with parish volunteers producing really good coffee to get us going. As always seems to be the case, lots changed as we went along and we had NT Police participants as well as soldiers. Even the civilian parish volunteers and clergy found it useful.

St Luke's Anglican Church in Palmerston and Palmerston Uniting Church worked together and local Army and Police chaplains provided the participants. This was a more compact program than the one in Sydney with ongoing work being done by locals; **once again, God provided the healing of spiritual wounds.** The program not only met the needs of soldiers and police; a rape victim said that God also spoke profoundly to her.

Warrior Welcome Home – Sydney

We can never predict how God will use the Warrior Welcome Home Retreat in Sydney. This year we were able to offer places to some Army chaplains and wives, to some whose service was with other nations

and to some theological students thinking of Defence Force chaplaincy. We had people from Darwin, Townsville, Tasmania, Wodonga and Grafton. **Our ‘good plan’ was constantly God changed;** He knew better than I did when we needed breaks and hot chocolate. The results were again profound, profound healing of spiritual wounds in the lives of those who participated. It’s not appropriate to share most of the comments but one person shared, “I’ve been carrying this guilt and shame for years; I thought I was weak; thank you for giving me time and space to find God’s love again.”

We kept it simple and local in style: breakfast each morning was a sumptuous bar-be-cue ‘Territory style’ with parish volunteers producing really good coffee to get us going.

Q Station on Sydney Harbour was a stunning location: the weather was superb; the boat trip in Will Killinger’s boat provided an amazing change of pace, although no one else joined him for a dip in the harbour. The hot chocolate at Manly, the coffee by the harbour and shared meals helped build enough trust for participants to unload years and decades of spiritual pain.

The parish dinner with 100 people in St John’s War Memorial Hall and our closing service in the church with Bp Chris Edwards preaching all had a powerful effect. Each participant left knowing God’s healing power and love.

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 Rotary, Men’s Breakfasts and church groups. There have been overseas opportunities to speak about our work, but we have been unable to accept these.

Support to Bishop to the Forces and Chaplains

We have continued our strong relationship with Bp Ian Lambert and Army chaplaincy. Fr Rob has also worked both as an Army Reserve Chaplain and also on a full-time contract for Army for 6 months. Fr Rob’s appointment as the new Archdeacon to the Army should see this close relationship continue.

The Future

WWH - Sydney

We have a full and promising future. We hope to run at least one Warrior Welcome Home Retreat in Sydney in 2019 and we already have strong interest from people to attend. This could also see the ministry expand beyond Defence personnel and families to include NSW Police. September is the most likely date for WWH Sydney and again we will have key activities at St John’s.

Wotton Foundation

Our former Rector Fr Roy Wotton OAM was passionate about caring for veterans and their families. Having announced the Formation of the Fr Roy Wotton Foundation a few years ago, 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. Donations will be tax deductible.

Equipping other Churches – WWH NT (and beyond)

Following the strong success of WWH NT in 2018 we have offered to help two local churches continue this work in 2019.

We are still looking at where God will lead us next but Narrabeen, Tindal, Townsville, Tasmania and Brisbane (or the Gold Coast) are possibilities.

Working with other organisations

We continue to have discussions with a number of veteran’s groups including RSL Care, Legacy and Soldier On about working with the veterans with whom they are working. We would love to be able to

provide them with more support but at the moment we don’t see any capacity to do much more to help them.

Thank you to everyone for your amazing love and support; through us at St John’s, 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.

We will run another Warrior Welcome Home Retreat in Sydney in 2019 ... this could see the ministry expand to include NSW Police.

Fr Rob’s New Role



Now that Fr Rob is the Archdeacon of the Army, many people have questions about what the impact will be for us at St Johns. Well, the short answer is that it is fantastic for us! First, we will not lose Fr Rob to the Army as often as we have in the past. This past year, for example, he has done full time continuous service which has had an impact on his time with us. That will not occur going forward.

Second, **we now have a 1-star General who is advocating for Warrior Welcome Home.** This means what we are doing at St. Johns will have a much higher profile. Already that is paying dividends. For example, Fr Keith Joseph (pictured with Fr Rob and me at his Collation in Canberra), who is to be the next

Bishop of North Queensland, wants to talk with Fr Rob about bringing WWH to NQ once he is installed. This is a first for us. **So we are well placed at St John’s to take the mission and ministry to the Defence Force God has entrusted to us under Fr Rob to the next level.** I am very excited about that, and so should the Parish as a whole. Please keep Fr Rob in your prayers as he assumes his new responsibilities on our behalf and on behalf of all Australia.

CHINESE MINISTRY

Fr Ernest Chau

With enthusiastic support from the Rector, the Chinese Ministry began in an inconspicuous way here at Gordon. We first established two activities more or less at the same time. **Our aim is targeting residents who are originally from China and living in our surrounding suburbs.** There is a Chinese Bible Study on Wednesday morning from 11:00 to 12:30 and Social Gathering activities on Thursday afternoon 5:00 - 9:00.

The church digital notice-board is a great asset. Our notices in Chinese attract many enquires as well as attendants. It is understandable that most of them come to the social Gathering on Thursday afternoon since they had no association with the Christian faith in their lives in China. However, occasionally we have newcomers at our Bible Study. **We usually have more than 20-30 attendants at the Thursday activities and about 10-12 in our Wednesday Bible Study.**

Before Christmas last year, we invited all who came to play table tennis and chess to a celebration with refreshments. Fr Keith gave a talk on the meaning of incarnation. We had more than 35 folks attending. Many of them would never have been in a church building in their lives!

Growing an Inclusive Ministry

This year, after consultation with Fr. Keith and the Treasurer, we have recruited Ms I Veng Chang, who speaks Mandarin, to work part-time. The aim is to expand our outreach programs. She joined us in

August and already arranged an outreach activity: the Mid-autumn Festival gathering on a September Sunday afternoon. Ninety people attended. They had a good time of getting to know one another. We showed a film with gospel content then served them with a simple evening meal. Most of them speak very little English so it will be very hard for them to come to our Sunday Service. So I Veng is considering running a Bible Study for them. She has also been visiting all those who have come into contact with us through the Thursday social gathering activities.



Next year, we plan to expand our outreach programs. We will run a Playgroup on Thursday morning in the Church Hall, from 10:00 -12:00 during term-time. Likewise we will also start a simple English Class which will run twice a week. For these two activities, we sincerely hope local members will support us by participating. It will be great if some members can commit to teach or help out in the Playgroup.

Question to consider: It will be very hard for Chinese speakers to come to our Sunday Service because of their level of English. What should we do pastorally if they come to accept Jesus and want to be baptized and fully included in our parish?

哥頓聖約翰堂華人宣教事工報告 – 周全盛牧師

在主任牧師的熱情支持下，華人宣教事工在哥頓以一種不起眼的方式開始了。首先我們差不多同時建立了兩項活動: 星期三早上11:00-12:30 中文查經班,

星期四下午5:00-9:00

康樂活動。我們的目標是針對居住在牧區周圍從中國來的居民。教堂的電子報告板是一項很好的媒介。我們的中文宣傳吸引了許多詢問者和參加。可以理解的是，他們中的大多數人在星期四下午來參與康樂活動，因為他們在中國與基督教沒有任何關聯。偶爾我們的聖經

查經班也有新人參加。通常週四活動大約有20-30人參加, 週三查經班12-15人出席。

去年聖誕節前我們邀請所有來乒乓球和象棋活動的人參加慶祝活動，享用茶點。主任牧師講述了道成肉身的意義,有35人出席,許多是第一次踏足教堂建築物!

今年，在與主任牧師和司庫協商後，我們聘請了一位講普通話的張伊雯女士兼職工作。目的是擴大我們的外展計劃。自從八月份加入教會以來，她已經安排了一項外展活動：9月的一個週日下午的中秋節聯歡聚會。當日有九十人參加,

他們很開心相互認識。我們為他們提供簡單的晚餐,並播影了一部帶有福音內容的電影。大多數人說英語是有困難的,

邀請他們來我們的主日崇拜將會是非常困難。所以張傳道正考慮為他們開設中文查經班。

明年我們計劃擴大我們的外展活動。我們將於週四早上在教堂副堂舉辦『兒童樂園』，時間為

10:00至12:00。我們也將開始一個簡易的英語班，計劃每週舉行兩次。我們真誠地希望教會會友大力支持我們這兩項活動。如果有會友能夠教授英語班或幫助『兒童樂園』的運作, 這是極大的幫忙。

與此同時，張傳道不斷訪問或聯絡所有參加週四康樂活動給與我們聯繫過的人。

考慮的問題:

由於他們的英語水平，他們是很難來參加我們的主日崇拜。如果他們願意接受主耶穌並希望在我們的教會受洗，我們應該怎樣牧養他們呢？

MUSIC AT ST JOHN'S

Dr Brett McKern

Organist and Director of Music

This year has been one of consolidation for music in the parish. This has been partially because the organ, our major tool needed to maintain our music, has been in a sorry state despite its regular maintenance. More involved accompaniments and much organ repertoire just isn't possible with so many notes and stops not working, and with irregularities in the piston operation. We are, however, very much looking forward to the arrival of the new organ (see separate article on the organ) and the opening celebrations, both the service of dedication and the opening concerts in 2020.



This year we have farewelled a long-time member of the Parish Choir. Alan Mewett has been involved at St John's for many years now and remains a parishioner. We thank him for offering his musical talents and for his good humour and kind nature. Alan worked as a professional classical musician, including years with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and his musicianship was much appreciated at St John's.



Alan Mewett's farewell reception

We have been fortunate enough to welcome some new members to the Parish Choir and Evensong Choir, and value their ongoing support too. New members are always welcome, and Brett and Nicola are happy to talk to singers, whether you can manage a weekly commitment, or need to be more flexible. We have choirs ranging from unison singers through to auditioned eight-part choirs to suit everyone.

Our visiting choirs are always a delight, but we were sorry the Braybn Singers disbanded mid year. This choir sang at St John's a number of times in recent years. They decided that they would fold the group owing to lack of competent singers rather than let standards slip. While we were sorry to see them go, we applaud their commitment to quality. On the up side, we welcomed the Mater Chorale to St John's for the first time for Evensong in May.

As always, The Cathedral Singers, a choir-in-residence at St John's, continued on with their busy commitments. Like the visiting choirs above, they perform in many places, but at St John's they sing the devotional of a performance of Stainer's oratorio *Crucifixion* on Good Friday which remains popular, and with the parish choirs, they led the ANZAC Commemoration Choral Matins, and join in the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols as well as singing at some of our Evensongs. We like having them as part of our parish.

Evensong is often referred to as a jewel in the crown of Anglican liturgy and it has inspired many composers and performers over the years. We sing Evensong on the second Sunday of the month at 4pm between March and November. If you haven't been before, it is worth coming. The liturgical Office is always followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea and sherry, and we are most grateful to the Winters and their helpers for providing this splendid display of Christian hospitality.

In summary we say thank you to all the singers and participants in our busy music programme, and we would love to welcome others who may wish to become involved.

ORGAN REPLACEMENT PROJECT

29th August – We are underway!

The day the contract for the chancel organ was signed by South Island Organ Company (SIOC) and Sydney Diocese’s Anglican Church Property Trust (ACPT) was indeed a red letter day in the life of the parish. For the many parishioners who have so generously supported this project through its long gestation in the firm belief that the new instrument will be of benefit and a lasting legacy to the parish and the wider community, achievement of this milestone was particularly gratifying. Generous and very timely financial support enabled St John’s to sign without recourse to loan funds from outside the parish and has given significant impetus to the project. The Wardens and the Music Association’s Organ Project Committee gratefully acknowledge all other parishioners’ contribution to the project to date.



This photo is of St John’s chancel with the Hill, Norman & Beard (HNB) organ, digitally created from SIOC drawings, superimposed to show parishioners the appearance of the new instrument, once installed.

Our organ builder John Hargraves MNZM and his team are making good progress in SIOC’s Timaru workshop.

About 25 percent of the build is now complete, so we are keenly awaiting the next exciting phase of the project when work in the church will begin – scheduled for mid-2019. That’s when parishioners will feel much more part of the project as we rely for



Work on the great chest

musical accompaniment on the Hill organ and take care while workers are dismantling the Rendall and undertaking the structural work in the building.

Careful planning and scheduling by John Hargraves, John Brandon (St John’s project manager) and Brett McKern will limit the disruption in the church to approximately six months, with the expectation that commissioning of the organ and celebratory musical events will occur early in 2020 – what an exciting time that will be!



The console taking shape



Information Day about the new organ with the builder.

ST JOHN'S OP SHOP

Barbara Spooner



We have been extremely lucky with good weather on Sale Days, and we have never had to cancel a sale.

Our customers are growing in numbers with some coming from the Central Coast. Unfortunately, due to some behavioural problems among the crowd, a few customers have chosen not to attend our sales regularly. They feel the fun has gone out of their visits.

We are in need of more helpers, particularly on Sale Days, to assist with the initial crowd outside, then inside, or just to be seen around the tables. We are experiencing some light-fingeredness. We definitely need more help from strong people at packing up, by which time we are generally exhausted, having been on our feet for 6-7 hours. Not all our volunteers are able to be available on Sale Days.



We still receive wonderful donations, much evidence of “down-sizing” with unexpected delights. But the skip is full twice a week with un-saleable rubbish. Our non-Parish helpers have been much appreciated. Sadly, Kay, who came all the way from Lilyfield with her son John, has recently passed away. We will miss her “hawkeyes.”

Morning teas on Saturday sales, served by the WEGS, are much appreciated. Friday morning teas are “help yourself” with an honesty box.

OP SHOP – 2019 Opening Hours

OUTSIDE 9:00am – 12:30pm

INSIDE 9:30am – 12:30pm

MONTH	SATURDAY	FRIDAY
JANUARY	12 th	25 th
FEBRUARY	9 th	22 nd
MARCH	9 th	29 th
APRIL	13 th	26 th
MAY	11 th	31 st
JUNE	15 th	28 th
JULY	13 th	26 th
AUGUST	10 th	30 th
SEPTEMBER	14 th	27 th
OCTOBER	19 th	-
NOVEMBER	9 th	29 th
DECEMBER	14 th	-

Subject to change and/or weather closure

PASTORAL CARE

Cynthia Keithly

Meal Delivery

Home cooked meals were delivered with a smile, one parishioner to another, in three efforts. One additional effort was offered but declined due to strong family and friend support. The meal delivery efforts have shown personal care, reinforced friendships and perhaps started new friendships. It was heartening to encounter a few parishioners who said “yes” the instant they were asked to participate.

Visiting Home-Based or Nursing-Home Based Parishioners

I am making visits to homes and nursing homes, people I already knew well and some I did not know well or at all. There are always more people who need a visit from a friendly face. From next year, Jen Lum will be taking a more active role in visiting as Chaplain for the parish.

Telephone Calls

I telephone two now out-of-area parishioners every month or two. Last week, I chatted with one for over an hour.

Transport to Church

This need has been advertised repeatedly in the pew bulletin, and when personally asked, a couple of people have agreed to transport their fellow parishioners. One in short term need was brought a few times. Another with a long term need is coming more often than they dreamed, which is a blessing.

There are others who would like a ride, even on an occasional basis, not necessarily on a Sunday morning, and would be happy with a Thursday morning service, Evensong or a special service like Nine Lessons and Carols in Advent or Stainer’s *Crucifixion* on Good Friday.

Holiday Meals

Easter Lunch Together was held for the first time this year. It was a cheerful and colorful event with a very good turnout. Christmas Lunch on Christmas Day, another first, is being planned by James Winter.

“Can’t Get To Church” List

The pew bulletin, Shofar and 8am liturgical sheet (with readings and the intercessions page) are mailed each week to a number that varies between six and nine persons. There are both long-term and short-term recipients.

Cards and Letters

Thank you notes are sent to parishioners who have made and delivered meals, those who visit nursing homes, those who are driving people to church, and to people who are back at church after an illness or

injury. Get well cards, sympathy cards and a graduation and HSC congratulations card have also been sent.

Practical

I helped clear out the kitchen of a parishioner who died recently. This is the fourth time I have worked to clear a parishioner’s home; the other three efforts were the total home. In each case, with consent, I have brought many items to the Op Shop to be sold. With the most recent case, the heir kindly donated items to the Fête Treasure Stall. Parishioners are asked to please remember to make these recommendations when appropriate.

Computer Program “Infoodle”

This parish, on the glowing recommendation from St James’, King Street, has purchased a multi-application computer program called Infoodle. It keeps parish roll records and entries about pastoral care visits. A bonus is that I can do the weekly “zap-out” of pew bulletin, et cetera with it, a welcome capability after a year of spotty service from another outfit. Father Keith is getting rather expert in this program.

The level of pastoral care within the parish has risen somewhat this year, but there is much room for improvement. Parishioners, please do not think that one or a few pastoral care workers means pastoral care is taken care of. **Pastoral care is all of us showing love for one another, helping each other during the worst times, celebrating the best times.** If everyone on the parish roll did even three acts of pastoral care in the coming year – one friendly telephone call to someone who uncharacteristically was not at church on Sunday, driving a non-driver to church once, delivering food to the bereaved – this place would be, in the words of the parish prayer, “more compassionate for the sick, the lonely and all in need”.



SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SRE)

Natalie Maschmeyer (Coordinator/Teacher)

St John's is responsible for providing SRE (Scripture) teachers for Gordon East Public School. We use the Connect material from CEP and a special course ("Big Questions") for Year 6. This year, we partnered with Turramurra Uniting, Christchurch St Ives, St Matthew's Anglican (West Pymble) and Gordon Baptist Church to carry out this ministry.



In 2018 there were approximately 110 pupils attending lessons (K-6). This represents 33% of the student cohort. Many thanks are due to the dedicated band of teachers who kept up the good work of bringing the Gospel to children in our local area. This year, I was again the only parishioner from St John's teaching a class. Jacqui Bakker ably assisted with substituting when needed and Peter Mury was responsible for carrying out the (now mandatory) annual teacher observations. I am very grateful to them for their efforts.

Sincere thanks are extended to all those who supported us in prayer throughout the year.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Jen Lum

During 2018, the Women's Bible Study group met weekly on Wednesday afternoons. During the first half of the year, we completed our study of

Deuteronomy. We rejoiced to read that God keeps His promises and will always look after His people.

Currently we are reading and discussing Daniel. Again we are learning that God protects those who worship and follow Him. The last study for the year ended in the middle of Chapter 7 where the coming of the Son of Man is prophesied, an appropriate point to end, at the start of the Advent season.

ST JOHN'S KITCHEN MONTHLY COMMUNITY LUNCHEON



St John's continues to serve a homemade meal (for \$12) to the wider community. "Wider community" – people come from as far as Gosford! This lunch is very well received, and is held the second Monday of each month. At the Christmas lunch, Westpac Gordon provided three nice door prizes, and a trio entertained everyone by singing seasonal carols.

ANNUAL FÊTE

St John's parishioners rallied again this past year for the Annual Church Fête. Dozens of people assisted in the planning, set up, selling of raffle tickets, gathering merchandise for and running the many booths, baking, cooking and serving food, and, finally, cleaning up. This is great opportunity for outreach to the wider community – hundreds of our neighbours attend every year, and they all have a great time! The 2019 Annual Fête is scheduled for Saturday, 19 October. Please see the following pages for lots of photos from this year's Fête.

FÊTE PHOTOS

Courtesy of Cynthia Keithly







PARISH REGISTER 2018

Baptisms

6 Jan	Rafe Douglas and Carys Mya BENNETT
13 Jan	Rayden MacDONALD
14 Jan	Oliver James KNIGHT
21 Jan	Yijian (Elena) JIANG
28 Jan	Henry GEORGE
17 Mar	Florence Margaret ORLANDO
18 Mar	Lewis James BEEHAG
29 Apr	Alistair Joseph, Benjamin Joseph and Madison Jess COPLEY
6 May	Badyn Tyler and Sienna Indigo KNOTT
1 Sept	Ella Ashli and Kaiden Miller McKINLEY
16 Sept	Jesse Weston and May Temai BOLLINGER
3 Nov	Lachlan Robert SHAW
4 Nov	Cecily CREUSERÉ
16 Dec	Ezra Alexander GORDEVICH

Confirmation

29 Apr	Bridgette Grace Louise HOLDEN, Alistair Joseph, Benjamin Joseph and Madison Jess COPLEY
10 Oct	Sophia Alice Pitts

Admitted to Holy Communion

21 Jan	Yijian (Elena) JIANG
14 Oct	Christian "Kit" THOMPSON

Weddings

27 July	Eliza Margaret Anne Lathey OWEN and Andrew Nicholas POLLARD
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Funerals

30 Jan	David Philip GOLDBY
3 Feb	Roma Leila DOYLE
24 Apr	Reginald DRANSFIELD
24 July	William Charles LOCKWOOD
9 Aug	Stephanie Rold Lindsay THOMPSON
1 Nov	John Margaret WYNN
8 Nov	John Gordon BRADFIELD
20 Nov	Judith COMPTON

DIRECTORY OF CONTACTS

Rector

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

Assistant Priest

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

Revd Ernest Chau	0414 549 082
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Parish Missioner

The Rt Revd Dr Michael Hough	9498 2744
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Wardens

Chris Russell AM	0407 220 674
The Hon Patricia Forsythe	0418 165 466
James Winter	0411 752 802

Parish Council

Natasha Copley	8901 3554
Elizabeth George	0414 648 600
Nigel Hubbard	0438 284 762
Andrew Jeffers	0423 308 442
Bill Killinger AM	9403 1736
Dr Janet Long	0413 214 377
Stephen Woodhill	stephenwoodhill@gmail.com

Synod Representatives

A-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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St John's Music Association

Revd Keith Dalby (Chair)	9498 2744
A-Prof Charles George (VChair)	9144 6638
Dr Brett McKern (Secretary)	0408 303 225
James Winter (Treasurer)	0411 752 802

Maintenance / Grounds

William Torrez	0437 028 907
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Cemetery/Plaques/Interment

John McLean	9998 0171
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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
Revd Keith Dalby	9498 2744

Pastoral Care

Cynthia Keithly	
pastoralcarestjohnsgordon@gmail.com	

Safe Ministry Representative

Jan McLachlan	0408 641 037
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Women's Evening Group (WEG's)

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	0408 641 037

Parish Reader

Jennifer Lum	0411 836 282
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Servers' Guild

Esther Gandhi	9449 8285
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Sidesmen's Roster

John Brandon	9449 5864
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Church Administration

Parish Manager	9498 2744	TBD
Pew Bulletin	Cynthia Keithly	sjgpewbulletin@gmail.com
Parish Review Editor	Meg McDonald	

