

Dean's report for AGM 31 March 2019



It is with a great deal of pleasure and privilege that I present my report for 2018-2019.

This is my fourteenth report and it is hard to believe I have been Dean here for fifteen years. My time here has enriched my life; to serve God in this holy place is a blessing, to be your pastor is a continued privilege.

Dean's roles: Pastoral care

The past year has seen events in your lives, some sad, some joyous and some health concerns for either yourself or your families. It is a privilege to share these times with you confident of God's ever presence and grace. For your support during my recent surgery and recovery I thank you.

My role enables me as your Parish priest to share your journey. I have been invited to your homes, shared conversations, offered spiritual guidance and it is a blessing to share your concerns, feelings and spiritual journey. Gathering together weekly in community of prayer and sacrament is a blessing.

This year we said farewell and thanked God for the life of our much-loved parishioners Ruth Dudley, Julianne Cooper, Betty McCulloch and Lexi Shearstone and many funerals and memorial services of local community members.

I have officiated at many weddings, spent much time with each couple as they prepared for the significant event of marriage and there are another four booked for this year. Our beautiful Cathedral is a perfect setting for the joining of lives and hopefully the beginning of spiritual journeys for the couples.

Baptism also is a beginning, and we have welcomed many into the Church of God this past year. It will be with great joy when we will be able to use our restored font for future baptisms, as was always the intention.

Dean's role: Cathedral

I have made visitations to Christchurch St. Lawrence and preached at the rector's invitation. I attended the Deans Conference in Sydney last year.

I attended with +Stuart a service of thanksgiving at the grave of +Christopher Barlow (2nd Bishop of our Diocese) concluding with a Cathedral tour.

I have attended the Installation of Bishop of Newcastle at Christchurch Cathedral, Newcastle.

A service of Lament & Remembrance for those abused by the Church was held in our Cathedral in February, one of +Stuart's last official services in our Cathedral.

Many meetings take a significant portion of the Deans time, too many on occasions but all for the benefit and advancement of the Cathedral.

Restoration meetings have been held monthly as the important works continued this past year. As funds are drained the works will decrease so we all need to be mindful of the importance of the ongoing works and plans that are in place. Fund raising is a very important area in order for our plans to see fruition. Grants are chased and ideas discussed for raising much needed funds. Thank you to the team who keep the wheels turning on the Restoration works. The stone masons, our roofer, our Heritage Architect, the Chapter and our committee, thank you on behalf of us all.

Chapter Meetings are held quarterly to seek support from the Diocese and remind them of the significance of the Cathedral in the life of the Diocese.

Wardens & Parish Council meetings are held monthly to plan and set direction for the life of this Parish. Thank you to the Wardens and Councillors for your hard work and support.

Our commitment to Safe Ministries has been upheld with annual attendance of the Diocesan workshops held for those needed to be certified or have their certification renewed. This is an important responsibility of us all who work with the vulnerable, children or disabled people through ministries of the Cathedral and all clergy, Wardens & Councillors.

OH&S obligations of our Parish are constantly revised and updated. You may have noticed that our Cathedral has been closed to the public for OH&S reasons as work has been carried out in or around the Cathedral. Whilst we acknowledge the temporary closures may be inconvenient and cause disappointment at times, we do have a duty of care to those around us.

Two ordination services and one Synod week-end and a second Special Synod were held the past year as we elected our next Diocesan bishop. Thank you to the Cathedral team both in the sanctuary and in the body of the Cathedral for the professional performance of duty on every occasion. I am very proud of my team.

I have met regularly this past year with Rev'd Ross Hathway from North Goulburn Parish and it was with sadness I said goodbye when he recently retired. He and his wife have moved to Sydney.

Similarly I have met with Rev'd Graham Dunn from West Goulburn Parish as they adjust to changes in their Parish. I am very grateful that the Cathedral has a healthy relationship with other Anglican parishes and other denominational churches in our city.

I met with Rev'd Julie Furner from the Uniting Church several times this year and we have been able to offer the use of our Cathedral to the Uniting Church for services during their repair work.

Our Roman Catholic church connection through Fr.Dermot is a very healthy and co-operative one and I am very pleased that we all have a mutual respect for each other. Our Cathedral has been open for the community's outpouring of grief following the recent Christchurch massacre. The combined Churches are grateful for the Cathedral's lead.

Christmas, Lent, Easter are always very busy times in the life of the Cathedral. I lead Lenten study last year and again this year. Canon Anne is also leading two study groups this year and lead EfM group.

One less exciting but none-the-less significant was the connecting to the NBN network our office and Deanery in March last year, not as smoothly as advertised but we persevered to the end!

Revue:

Raising necessary funds to keep our parish and our ministries alive and functioning is an ever present reality. As Dean, on your behalf I thank those in our Cathedral congregations who have contributed in this important function.

Guided tours & organ recitals, bell tower tours, Craft markets, hall hire, Cathedral events and performances, you all know who you are and I thank you sincerely for your organisation and contribution and the hard work involved in these activities.

My thanks to the *Friends of St.Saviour's Cathedral* for your ongoing and enthusiastic support of the Cathedral. For your generous donation to the restoration works of the font on behalf of myself and our community I thank you. The *Friends* hosted the 100th Anniversary of end of WW1 commemorative service in the Cathedral, in conjunction with the Anglican Historical Society. +Trevor preached and Canon Kevin Stone officiated at this service as I was on sick leave.

To our Cathedral choir singers under the enthusiastic and skilful leadership of Barbara Griffin, and organist Robert Smith, I thank you for your contribution to our weekly services.

The two commercial offices in our Cathedral Office building are now tenanted for twelve months. This will assist our regular income stream.

Lay Ministry:

Our visitations to local nursing homes, respite hospital, retirement villages and private homes continued throughout the past year. Thank you to those who take up this Cathedral ministry. A special thank you to Peter Jordan who relinquished this ministry and his ministry in the Cathedral due to failing health.

I thank especially our paid cleaner, Armand Chlouk who took up the position following the resignation of Gavin Bowen. They both have served the Cathedral and the precinct well. Our high standards are maintained and the task of vacuuming and cleaning is constant.

The many varied ministries and tasks that are undertaken by our congregational members in many varied capacities I thank you. Your gift of time and talent ensures our Cathedral is open, clean, beautifully presented and functions smoothly. All are important and your contributions are valued.

Our Cathedral's ministry to children, *Mainly Music*, is a weekly program lead by Debra McConnell and is growing in numbers. Thank you to Debbie for her talent, her gentleness and for leading this valuable and vital ministry. To the loyal team of supporters who turn up to assist and provide hospitality to the Mums and carers of the children, much appreciated.

Dean's role: In Community

As Dean I welcomed a Japanese delegation visiting our city as guests of our Council I met regularly with our Federal Member, Angus Taylor and State Member, Pru Goward to promote the Cathedral in the community. I will arrange an introductory meeting with Wendy Tuckerman, our newly elected State member and hope that we can work co-operatively into the future.

I meet regularly with our Lord Mayor, Bob Kirk and am grateful for his support and that of the Council. The road works above us at Montague roundabout is intended to stop the huge amount of rainwater pouring down the back of our property. The engineer of the project, Francis Norku has been a member of our 10am congregation. Francis and his wife, Mahtoh, were farewelled in the 10am service last Sunday. They are moving to Katherine, NT.

The council is also providing the marquee for our upcoming Consecration to take over-flow of people attending the service.

The Cathedral and the Conservatorium of Music under leadership of Paul Scott-Williams have a very healthy and co-operative relationship and we have held a joint performance in the Cathedral for the past two years.

I have a friendship with Mark Bradbury, a local solicitor and President of Goulburn Chamber of Commerce. We discuss the growth of our city and he and his wife are great supporters of the Cathedral. I have a presence in cafes around our local town as I meet with parishioners and business people for a coffee and chat.

I also have a friendship with our soon-to-be neighbour and local business owners, Tony and Adriana Lamarra. They are supporters of the Cathedral and Tony has ideas for fund raising for both the Restoration project and our Parish markets.

Dean's role: Diocese

As Dean I attend Diocesan Senior Staff and Bishop-in-Council meetings in Canberra bi-monthly to give advice when asked and contribute to the overall direction of our Diocese and its place in our nation's capital and beyond and to promote the Cathedral to all Diocesan representatives on these committees.

As Dean I represented our Bishop-administrator on behalf of the Diocese at important National events, Australia Day celebration at the "Lodge", the Installation of +Matt Brain, Bishop of Bendigo.

The Cathedral was host to clergy from our Diocese for Blessing of New Oils and Quiet Day lead by +Trevor during Holy Week last year. This year our newly consecrated Bishop Mark will lead this day and Bishop Mark will be present at the Cathedral for all services from Maundy Thursday through to Easter Sunday. He and Monica will be staying at the Deanery with Sue and me during Holy week.

March last year saw Bishop's laying-up-of Staff service as +Stuart & Jane left our Diocese for a parish in Sydney. During the interim it has been a privilege and pleasure to work with +Trevor in the smooth transition period of our Diocese. I wish to acknowledge also the co-operative relationship with Bev Forbes, Bishop's PA especially during the past year.

General:

The varied ministries, meetings and appointments that I need to be aware of and attend couldn't come together without the support of my office staff, Pamela and Sue, who give of their time and expertise every week day to ensure my diary is full and all runs smoothly in and around the Cathedral. Their combined skills keep our accounting up to date and ensured our records were ready for our auditor. I also thank Laterals Accounting for accepting the role of auditor this year for a very reasonable fee.

Pamela and Sue also dispense the food parcels to all who call for assistance. This is a wonderful Christian ministry and the community groups in our local area are aware of our service and regularly call for assistance. Thank you to all our Cathedral parishioners who contribute, and I also acknowledge contributions from our community and neighbouring parishes. This ministry is for the community by the community through our Cathedral.

The members of our congregation and those volunteers from outside who give their time and talents in a variety of ministries in around the Cathedral, thank you.

Lastly, I couldn't continue my work, meet the responsibilities of the Cathedral, the expectations of the community and the Diocese without assistance from my colleague and friend, Canon Anne Wentzel, and so special thanks to her.

There is sufficient work for two full paid clergy here at the Cathedral however there are insufficient funds to support us both full-time. We need to be mindful of that.

Also to our Canons: Peter Bertram, Kevin Stone, Catherine Eaton, Rev'd Harley Lockley, Canon Sallyanne Hart for their ministry when called upon I thank them. It has been a real pleasure working with them as they support me and the work of our Cathedral in this place.

In your daily prayers please pray for the work of this Cathedral, for the building works, the variety of ministries, the faithful people, the clergy, the lay ministry team, our community and ask God for the means and strength to continue, giving thanks for His loving kindness and goodness to us, and His grace to see our mission in our generation sustained to the end.

Dean Phillip Saunders
For Lent 4 2019