



Annual Report

2011 – 2012

Annual General Meeting
Sunday, 20 May 2012
Anglican Church of the Holy Cross
56 McLean Street
Melville WA 6156

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Rector's Report

As I reflect back on the last year I acknowledge and give thanks that God has been ever faithful. He has been with us through our times of joy and laughter, of which there have been many, as well through those times of painful challenge that we have had to face in our quest to be faithful to him in our nurture and discipleship, our mission and outreach as well as in our daily lives.

The Church only ever executes mission and ministry as well as its members are willing to contribute and I am pleased to give thanks for all those that do contribute, often sacrificially, to the efficient running of our church and various parish events. I pay tribute to those who set up the altar each week, arrange the flowers, launder the linens, take care of media presentations and magazines as well as the dedicated teams who keep our facilities so clean and tidy, attend to the practical maintenance of the church and gardens and take bookings for the tennis courts. I am thankful to those who serve on a plethora of rosters, Marion from Willagee who comes to play for us fortnightly and to all who run home groups and study groups in our parish. I am also thankful to those that pray regularly for the ministry and mission in parish as well as those who give financially to ensure that the work of Holy Cross will continue reaching out into the community and safeguarding the church for our future generations. Our LPM and Warden Mrs Jill Bowman and our dedicated Church Council has done us proud over this last year and after suffering significant loss of members half way through the year faithfully continued on to build a dedicated team of Godly people that work closely together serving you diligently and faithfully. My special thanks to Mr Peter Bowman who stepped in to sort out the financial books and Mrs Jenny Stone who stepped up as minute Secretary to Council. My thanks also to Mr Patrick Tebbutt who I believe has served for over 12 years on Synod but who stands down this year to serve on Parish Council as Councillor.

Our newly appointed LPM Mrs Beryl Shooter and I continue to take communion fortnightly into St Ives and this is very much appreciated by all the residents that come along and a blessing to us as we share in communion and fellowship with those who attend.

Rector's Report (continued)

During Advent some of the church reflected on a study entitled 'The Purpose of Christmas', by Rick Warren and then throughout Lent we explored together 'The Power of a Whisper' by Bill Hybels. During our Sunday services spanning Christmas we also explored what it means to work as 'team' and all of these are things that I hope we can build on as we head into the coming year.

Working as a team is expertly portrayed on Wednesday mornings at Holy Cross when members of the church come together to provide mainly music for the young families in the community. This event continues to flourish and we welcome many lovely families into the church to enjoy not only the mainly music session but also a scrumptious morning tea together. I'm pleased to say that this group have quickly become very good friends, providing a caring social network not only to themselves but also to others in need in the community. Our Church Sunday Club has also enjoyed a boost with Emma Charlton coming alongside Jill Bowman and Carole White to minister to the younger members of our parish, this partnership is going very well and the children and adults all seem to enjoy the sessions together.

As I give thanks for the abundant ways that God has blessed us over this last year I remember among other things the wonderful events that the church has enjoyed; The South Side Symphony Orchestra, the Church Fete, the Pancake evening and Easter Fayre. Then there was the Christmas Karaoke, the Barn Dance, Ladies Nights & Men's groups, Music on McLean, Church Quiz, Jumbles, Harvest Auction, Church Picnics and Quinlains Dinners. All of these events and others too have been a testament to your faithfulness, your hard work and as well as being most enjoyable and entertaining have been such a positive witness to the wider church and community. God has blessed us with a deeply caring and loving church, people who are faithful and hardworking, generous and dedicated to serving Christ. Holy Cross Church and our outreach events are talked about in other parishes and held up as something to be aspired to. This is not why we do them but it must be an encouragement to us as we certainly are reaching out into the community with Christ.

Rector's Report (continued)

We live in a world where there are many blessings both in our public and private lives and yet so often these times of blessing can be hard to recognise when faced with difficult situations and challenges. At these times our deep emotions can blind us to areas where God is still at work and so with blurry eyes we sometimes fail to notice that He is there in our midst leading us on through the turmoil onto an abundance of blessings, spiritual growth and yet more opportunities.

Over the last year Holy Cross Church has not been immune to such times of both blessing and challenge. The blessings are a joy the challenges not so. We were saddened this year at the death of two long term members of Holy Cross Mrs Roma Griffiths & Mrs Norah Lovelock. Both ladies had contributed to the life and works over many years and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with their families and friends.

Earlier this year we were saddened when a number of parishioners decided to leave the church. We all shared in grieving their departure while as a church of people united in Christ we regularly prayed that Gods will be done and so as we continue in this prayer we also pray that He might bring healing and unity in the wider church. As painful as any loss can be it is imperative that we continue to move forward building on Christ our firm foundation and going about the work that He calls us to do in this place at this time.

This coming year will not be an easy one as we seek to turn around our financial situation to free us up for Gods work of ministry and mission, but with God's help it can be an exciting time of opportunities to be explored and blessings in abundance. We know that God will not call us to go anywhere that he has not already gone before. He promises to be with us through the highs and lows and so we thank him for the last year as we look to him for His guidance for the future.

Rector's Report (continued)

Something we must not overlook is that despite the difficult climate over the last year we have managed to pull together as a church united in Christ. In doing so we have enjoyed some wonderful events and mission opportunities, we even managed to come in on predicted budget! This is a testimony to your faithful commitment to Christ's Church and shows what is possible when we work through Gods Spirit and not in our own strength. The love you have shown and the care you have given is a great witness both within the church and in the wider community. By working together united in Christ we have achieved a great deal. Well done.

As we go forward into the coming year it is important for us to stay focussed and united as we anticipate and look forward to all the exciting and good things that He has in store for us. Thanks be to God!

May He richly bless you and your families.
Revd. Debbie

Wardens' Report

Holy Cross has been through a year of change and throughout this time the maintenance of the buildings and gardens have continued. We have recently undertaken pruning of the trees, a busy bee for the tennis court area and general gardening. A new lawn mowing roster with 4 new volunteers has been developed. The roster includes having a professional service coming in twice a year at our busiest times – Christmas and Easter. (If you would like to join the lawn mowing roster or would like to do some general gardening please see the warden). All this work has the gardens looking great.

The exit lights have been checked and some of the globes replaced. Several light globes and starters in the hall have also been replaced. Thank you to the friends and relatives of parishioners who donated their time and materials.

The general maintenance of the buildings is very good however to protect the buildings a grounds and maintenance team is being developed. This team will be responsible for developing a matrix for the ongoing maintenance of the building. This way we can save for expected cost, keep stock of any maintenance required and keep unexpected cost to a minimum.

As part of our risk management strategy we will be replacing the heavy hall tables with lighter ones and developing a safe storage system for them. The paintwork and floor in the meeting room is looking very dirty – some plans are currently being put into place to clean both however ultimately the walls require a coat of paint. Two vacuum cleaners have been donated to replace the very old and tired vacuums used in the past. Quotes are coming in to have the carpets cleaned. (If you have any contacts in this area please see the warden). A big thankyou to all those responsible for the cleaning. There is a need, however, for more people to join the cleaning roster if you feel you can contribute please see the warden.

The very good state of the gardens and buildings are in, are a credit to us all. To keep it this way we need to continue to support each other – if you feel you would like to contribute in any way please see the warden – she will jump with joy. God has blessed us in so many ways maintaining the church building and gardens is a small way we can give thanks to the Good Lord.

Jill Bowman
Warden

Treasurer's Report

The good news, with a lot of work and careful management the Parish has kept within its financial budget.

The bad news, the budget forecast a deficit of approximately \$20,000.

Funds received from Giving Envelopes and the Open Plate fall far short of providing sufficient cash to keep the church afloat financially.

We are very fortunate in have a very hard working core of people who undertake fund raising activities. Without this effort and the funds raised we really would be in dire straits.

This year has also seen money "fall" into the church bank account by what can only be described as "an act of God".

Thank you to all who give generously, not only of their money but their time. Remember, giving is meant to be a joyful expression of thanks to God from the heart. The value of our offering is not determined by how much we give, but how we give.

Peter Bowman
Treasurer

Children's Ministry

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Mathew 19:14

Our ministry team is growing with the children benefiting from some great teaching. Sunday Club is held at the 9:30 service during school term. Baby and toddler friendly activities and toys are set up in the rear of the church for those little ones not quite up to Sunday Club and other quiet activities for any children attending the 8:00 service.

Our children's ministry is undertaken at Mainly Music and many of the events held at the church. The team has also been linking in with Anglican Perth Diocese Children and Youth Ministry team.

The small library of books and toys has grown and is a great resource for the team to use in their work. The books and resources are all of a Christian nature. The library also includes books for parents to use.

Offering children opportunities for spiritual growth and learning at this time is quite challenging. There are so many competing priorities for families' including Sunday sport. Families are very keen to be part of our worshipping community but struggle to attend on a regular basis, however we must not let this be a barrier to our enthusiasm for the children.

Children are a blessing and can contribute much to our spiritual growth – when presenting their work or experiences their honest words can quite often give us opportunity to reflect and learn and nearly always brings a smile to our faces.

Your continued prayers for the children, their families and the ministry team is extremely important and valued very much. - If you feel you would like to join the team please speak with Revd Debbie or me.

Jill Bowman

Home Groups Report: Oasis

Jesus answered, *“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”* John 4 v 1-14.

Oasis Group continues to meet weekly during term time on Monday evenings. Our start time and venue have changed, we now kick off at 7:30 pm and gather at the Church but we continue to maintain the focus on Bible Study, Prayer and Support for each other. We have seen this group of ladies grow from strength to strength with the added blessing of new members. Amongst them a real answer to our prayers for some spiritual "mothers" to mentor those of us who are junior in our faith journey.

Together we studied our way through the entire book of Acts; an exciting journey through the foundations of the early Church and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon those early Christians. "The Battlefield of the Mind" by Joyce Meyer is our current study guide and it is challenging all of us to consider the effect that our thoughts have on all that we say, feel and do.

All women are welcome to join us and share the journey.

Thanks
Joy M

Bible Study Group

Our group has continued to meet on an average twice a month, with a high rate of attendance at the Tebbutt Residence. We have used Lifeguide Bible Studies as our main source of reference. Notably outstanding has been “Meet the Spirit” and “Faith Depending on God” which have promoted lively discussion. Our meeting is enhanced afterwards with excellent morning teas to which all contribute.

We look forward to future meetings and cementing our relationship with God and each other.

We are in recession at the moment due to change of address however when all is settled down we hope to continue.

Patrick and Norma Tebbutt

Jumble Sale Report

“One man's trash is another man's treasure”

Anonymous

I used this quotation at the start of last year's report and I use it again because it still amazes me that items I deem to be useless and worthless can be seen as valuable and useful to others (I think there's an analogy here that can be applied to more than just the Jumble Sale).

Since January this year there has been a determined effort to clean out items that have been at the Jumble for a while but not sold or are not suitable for sale. This has seen a significant reduction in the number of items on sale but has not affected sales.

There has been criticism that some of the items we sell could have been sold for far more than they were sold for. It is a valid criticism and we have taken steps to address this. Selected items are now being offered for sale on EBay and Gumtree (internet sites) and we are selling them at much higher prices than we would have sold them for at our monthly Jumble Sales. Thank you to those working on this.

Again, thank you to all our volunteers, without you nothing would happen. It can be a chore setting up and then packing up but for the result we achieve it's well worth the effort.

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Peter Bowman

Mainly Music Report



We are pleased to see that mainly music has gone from strength to strength this year. Our membership has continued to grow with a large number of families now on our books. While some families come along occasionally, we have a large core of people who are committed and attend most weeks. Both adults and children say that they miss it when it is not on during the school holidays but by then we are all in need of recharging the batteries and taking a well earned rest!

Our numbers have increased so much that we have at times considered whether we should close our books and provide a waiting list to ensure safety and the pleasure of all who attend. However apart from the occasional week when we have been literally packed to overflowing, the numbers have settled into a manageable size and week by week God brings along just about the right number. This is something that we will continue to monitor in the future. The cost of just \$5 which has included the session and a scrumptious morning tea has not increased over the last two years and this also may be something that we may need to look at in the future.

A huge thank you to all who contribute to mainly music, but especially to Sheri, Jill, Norma, Betty, Lynne, Carole, Betty, Elle, Leanne, Adele, Margaret, Pat, Peter & Shane who turn up most weeks to help out in a variety of ways. Also to Wayne who makes the music manageable by putting into easy formats for us to use. Our thanks too to all those who bake the most scrummy morning teas, help set up, serve and then clear away and clean the church at the end of the sessions. Our number of regular helpers has increased and we are thankful for this however by the end of the morning we are all extremely tired, but happy and thankful for a job well done.

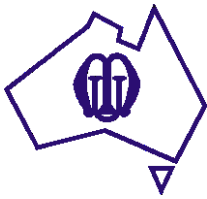
Mainly Music Report (continued)

Despite the hard work this is a wonderful exciting and thriving activity that brings many rewards as we share Christs love with young children and their care givers. It is an activity that reaches not only into the community but beyond as well and many seeds are sown for the kingdom of God through music, conversations and through the love and care that is shared between helpers and members.

I'm pleased to say that there are some strong friendships and support networks developing through mainly music and this is a joy to witness. The group has remained welcoming to new people as well as caring of existing members. We were delighted when some of our mainly music families volunteered to help at our Church Fete and Easter Fayre as well as with baking and clearing up. Some of them have also attended various church events so our thanks go also to them for their support and care of us.

Revd. Debbie May

MU Australia – Melville Branch Report



Our theme for the year was “Search the New Horizons”. We have endeavoured to reach out in Church and Community.

We assist in Parish Rosters where possible, altar, flowers, cleaning reading etc. Jumble Sales and Mainly Music. We knit for King Edward Hospital, we collect toiletries for Women’s Refuge. We send birthday cards to children baptised at Holy Cross, plus a bible for baptisms.

We were involved in World Day of Prayer held in our church in March and attended Lady Day at St John’s Fremantle on 26th March. We had a beetle drive to raise funds for Northern Outreach.

In September we visited Wireless Hill where Tom Berg was guest speaker on it’s history.

Christmas windup, Desley Adams played carols on the organ while we sang, than had afternoon tea. Sadly 4 or 5 ladies have left or moved on, we are hoping some more young mums will join us.

Beryl Shooter is speaking to us on the Order of St Luke the Physician on 14th May.

Our theme for 2012 is “Faith, Hope and Love”

God’s Blessings.
Betty Rushforth
Branch Leader.

Order of St Luke Healing Ministries

Perth Melville Chapter



Thanks to the following people

Revd. Debbie May, Rector of Holy Cross, Melville Parish Church, for her hospitality and support.

Secretary:- Mrs Norma Tebbutt

Convenor and Treasurer:- Mr Roy Rigby and his friend who has been our honorary auditor for many years.

State Secretary and State Executive Members and **Daphne Thacker** who have given personal support to the chaplain. Thanks to our faithful group who provided the retreat fees for the chaplain in June 2011.

Current Issues

The change to having our monthly service on the first Thursday appears to be a satisfactory arrangement, however, the chaplain acknowledges that no day of the week is convenient for everyone and appreciates the effort people make to accommodate such change.

A morning service is also held on the first Friday of each month at 10:30am. Due to the lack of support at the present, this service will be discontinued. With sufficient response this service can be re-instated.

Membership has increased with three new associate members and we look forward to officially welcoming them in addition to their initial welcome, later in the year.

Order of St Luke (continued)

Services

Using the OSL Handbook as a guide, creative services have been developed with a monthly theme. A copy of the service along with the chaplain's reflection is provided for members who cannot attend services. A copy of the service shared with an overseas person continues to be appreciated.

A Christmas card with greetings from OSL and Holycross Parish Church was sent to Army personnel serving overseas in December 2011 with a request for acknowledgement.

Advertising

The OSL Service advertising continues and is now included in the monthly Pastoral Newsletter, received by all clergy.

Records

Copies of all flyers, notices to the community newspaper, services and prayer lists are on file and flash drive.

Visiting

Pastoral visits are made to hospitalised members and those confined to their homes. Pastoral visits to lone members within the metropolitan area are yet to be made, however, with the copy of lone members at hand we look forward to making contact and providing them with a copy of the monthly service.

Sunday 16th October 2011 – St Luke's Day

An OSL service was conducted by the chaplain with a good attendance. Mrs Nancy Tucker was the guest speaker, her topic was Permaculture Gardening.

Sunday 25th March 2012

A healing service was held in St Peter's Anglican Church Palmyra, where the chaplain was the guest speaker. The topic, The Healing Ministry, this providing the OSL with an opportunity to make its service known in the wider community.

Order of St Luke (continued)

The collection was very generously given to the Order of St Luke Healing Ministries. This makes a great contribution towards the expenses for our WA Board representative, Daphne Thacker. Further funds will need to be raised to meet the expectation of \$500 from our chapter.

Purchases

The chaplain has purchased and donated a second CD player to the Chapter.

This year it gives the chaplain great pleasure to report that there is a sense of renewed enthusiasm within WA and within the Order and looks forward to this journey in faith with the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the year that lies ahead.

Mrs Beryl Shooter
Chaplain
Dated 12 April 2012

Parish Newsletter – Editor’s Report

There was a severe storm in December last year and the ceiling in the store room where the copier is located, collapsed. The photocopier was severely damaged. As a result we have not been able to produce a hard copy of the monthly Parish Newsletter (although the April edition was printed for us by Ricoh as a test of the capabilities of their machine, thank you Ricoh).

A new photocopier has been ordered and should be up and running by June. Copies of the monthly newsletter will be available (in printed form) once the new machine is in place.

Even though the Newsletter has not been available as a hard copy, you can still read it on our web site at the address below:

<http://members.iinet.net.au/~melvang/noticesheet.PDF>

Our newsletter is a valuable communication tool. I am always seeking articles, comments and news that relate to the Parish and Parishioners to include in the Newsletter. If you need to let parishioners know about upcoming events or to inform them about events that have just happened, let me know.

Peter Bowman
M: 0418 947 572
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Tennis Court Report

As well as being a steady source of income for the Church, the tennis court provides social recreation to a number of regular users.

Children are catered for with 'Tiny Tots Tennis' under the guidance of Chrissy Stephens on Wednesday afternoons.

The Tuesday afternoon group must be thanked for their regular cleanup and maintenance of the court.

The court is not used to capacity and more groups and players would be welcomed.

It is estimated that the annual income to the Church is about \$4,000.

N. H. Kidd

Notes

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