

# Annual Report 2009 – 2010

Annual General Meeting  
10:45am Sunday, 30 May 2010  
Anglican Church of the Holy Cross  
56 McLean Street  
Melville WA 6156



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## Rector's Report

Looking back on such an active year for Holy Cross Church, my thanks as always go to you, the parishioners, who have offered support in both prayerful, practical and financial ways to the church and wider community and who have carried out the maintenance and cleaning of our buildings and resources with excellence. Special thanks to Jill & Gerald our Church Wardens, Mike our Treasurer and all members of Church Council who have supported and continued to help steer us in the right direction. My thanks also to our media team, musicians, and rostered Lay Teams for their dedication and contribution to our worship, and to Peter Bowman for producing our excellent Church magazine every month.

Our Church family is blessed with great love and diverse characters that come with their own unique gifts and abilities willingly used for Gods glory. Over the past year many have joined together in care, prayer, worship, nurture, study & welcome and the year has held a mixture of joyous blessings. We have shared laughter and fellowship, generous giving, thoughtfulness, outreach and growth sprinkled with just a few frustrations and some sadness.

Our Worship services have continued to embrace both traditional and contemporary styles along with some combined services that have been an inspiration and a joy. Throughout the year, we have seen several new families join the 9:30am service however one of our frustrations has been that the critical mass of people at this service is not quite enough at the present time to welcome and sustain them long term. Sadly I suspect it is because of low numbers at the service that we have also seen some of them come & then drift away. Attendance at Families @ Five, WOW and Sunday Club has continued to fluctuate greatly during the year and so much prayer is needed for a clear way forward in this area.

On a brighter note this year we have been pleased to welcome Rae, our student in training and have enjoyed travelling with her along her journey. Together we have all rejoiced in promoting Back to Church Sunday, Celebrating Holy Cross Day, Harvest Festival, Mothering Sunday and a selection of unique Easter & Christmas Services. These enjoyable events were all well attended and my thanks go to all who have promoted the unity of the church offering a warm welcome to those who come. For the first time on All Souls Day we held a Memorial & Thanksgiving Service for our loved ones who had died and an invitation went out to those whose funerals had taken place in the previous year. As we watched over 100 candles being lit each representing a personal loved one it was very moving and a stark reminder of all those we have known and loved who now rest in Christ.

Our mid week Communion Service on Wednesdays at 9:30am continues to attract a small number of faithful people who appreciate the informal style and relaxed atmosphere that this service provides and the good quality tea/coffee and yummy things that follow!

Outreach to the community has been active throughout 2009 starting at the beginning of the year with a well attended Alpha Course with an 'Away Day' at Penola by the Sea. The Easter Lent Course was also well attended and a very powerful reminder of Gods' limitless love for us. The DVD was excellent and the conversation stimulating and challenging.

We have also shared some great Mission Events, Fundraising and Social occasions throughout the year including: the Church Fete (complete with parachuting teddies), Quilt Exhibition, Quiz Night, Jumble Sales, Games evening, Meet the Teddies and Teddy Bears picnic, Harvest Festival & Auction, Shoeboxes appeal, Film nights, Music on McLean, Pancake Party, Easter Event for Kids, Church Dinners, etc. All of these have given us a great opportunity for fellowship & Outreach so thank you to everyone involved in making these not only most enjoyable but also great witness/fundraisers for the church.

I am pleased to report that my own family's permanent visas finally came through this year which ended over two years of uncertainty. Thank you for your love & support through this time and also through my recuperation after my operation. We can now focus on the future as we seek Gods vision together and share in all of the exciting things that God has planned for us here at Holy Cross.

I have found Holy Cross to be a loving & caring church, a welcoming church and a prayerful and faithful church, may it always be so. My fondest love to you all,

Blessings & peace  
Reverend Debbie

## Wardens' Report

From a Wardens point of view, we see the past year as being both challenging and rewarding and through all these various moments, the strength and dedication of the parish community has ensured our worshipping community continues to be caring and loving.

All our buildings continue to be free of any significant maintenance issues and all our grounds have continued to be well kept and tidy.

Parish members will be aware of the problem we have been having with the sliding door leading into the church. Also there is the issue of water entering the meeting room located in the South west corner of the site. Church council has these items in hand and it is anticipated the new church council will attend to these items as soon as it is practicable.

We have continued to benefit from both the Church and the Church hall being used by others which brings the community to us as well as a source of income.

We have had the signage added to the front of the building which has lifted our community profile and also we have had the replacement of the street signage which also adds to our community profile. Internally we have added notice boards which allow users of our facilities to see the various activities of the church. All these add to our outreach to the wider community.

The storage racks which have been installed in the old entrance area has enabled the area to be better utilised and also has addressed our need to be aware of Occupational Health & Safety obligations as set out in the Diocese guidelines.

The wardens would like to thank everyone for their contributions and commitment to the operation and mission of our worshipping community – Reaching out into the community with Christ.

The Wardens  
Gerald Morton and Jill Bowman

## Treasurer's Report

The Financial statement for the past year is a bit of a disappointment to me as the Parish has put in a lot of extra effort in fundraising this year to try and offset the anticipated deficit of \$15000.00 which was in the budget. As you can see the deficit was in fact much bigger than we expected, some \$19,100

The main reason for this is in our giving programme which was under budget by around \$4,500 however this was offset to some extent by the increase in fundraising of around \$3,700. It is pleasing to note that the tennis court continues to bring in \$4,782 about \$300 over budget. All in all we actually achieved our budgeted income of \$93,450 so why is the deficit larger than expected?

I believe we have done a good job in keeping our expenses under control with most areas coming in on or under budget. We have however spent money in improving the Signage on the Church and buying new office furniture for some \$2,700. We have also paid the final Synod assessment instalment on the Blackman Bequest of \$2,661. These two amounts of \$5,361 explain the increase in the deficit of \$3,832

I believe that next year we need to look closely at our Income & Expenditure as we cannot continue to maintain a deficit of \$15,000 for much longer. In looking at this financial statement there are very few areas in our expenditure where we can save money. Areas other than the Donations to Chaplaincy & Missions (where we could save money) are very hard to find and I don't think we want as a Parish to not support these.

This only leaves one alternative and that is an increase in our Income. No doubt next year we will continue with our Fund Raising much the same as this year but can we substantially increase this area? I really don't think so!

This then only leaves our personal giving commitments as an area where we can achieve an increase in our Income and I believe we need to really concentrate on this during the coming year to achieve at least our budgeted figure of around \$55,000

Mike Carr  
Parish Treasurer

## Secretary's Report

The year started with the addition of two new members to the Parish Council, Joy Millard and Renee Arnold and their input has been very welcome. I have attended and recorded the Minutes for ten of the designated eleven Church Council meetings, having to apologise for one due to an overseas trip. Thanks to Glenys Salmon for stepping in at this time. All Minutes have been confirmed as a true record of events taking place, signed by Rev. Debbie and filed in the Minute Book.

During the year Church Council members read and discussed a new subject at each meeting from a brochure distributed through the Anglican Church of Australia entitled "Time to grow: doing church differently". The brochure is practical and helpful with the aim to assist all churches in their ministry and mission.

The signage for the front of our church, together with notice board and posters is completed with many positive comments, and the Minutes recorded successful fund-raising events held, including Harvest Festival, dinner at TAFE, Annual Fete, Quilt Exhibition and another successful 'Music on McLean'.

At the March meeting the sad passing of Parish Council member John Smith-Gander was recorded and his fellow members paused to reflect on the exceptional contribution John made to the Church Council and the work of the Church.

Jenny Stone



## **Chaplaincy Report (Melville District Christian Council)**

This past year has been an exciting one for the Council. Much is being done to raise the funds necessary to maintain Chaplaincy cover in all schools. Your continued help is vital in this endeavour.

Funding for Caralee School is currently at crisis point. Anne-Marie's position is in jeopardy if funds cannot be found by the end of this term, so please keep her and the school in your prayers.

Rev'd Mark Arney has done a great job visiting some of the shopkeepers in Willagee and has already received some donations. However much more is needed and the Council have had a set of printed promotional material to give prospective donors. If anyone can help by taking a set or two and visiting a store or company in your area, please contact Glenys on 6101 2344, or 0419 916 948.

Arrangements for the Chaplaincy Dinner on August 14th are being discussed by Council, it would be wonderful if you would support it.

The collection of papers has ceased. We been unable to find someone to take on this task, it raised a large amount of revenue and so is a sad loss. We are still praying and hoping that someone will come forward and we would appreciate your prayers.

Gerda and Anne-Marie (Bicton Primary and Caralee Community schools respectively) have increasing numbers of students becoming involved with local retirement villages and hostels. This is proving wonderful for both the students and the elderly in these facilities.

Brad (Palmyra Primary), Annie (Melville High), Jenny (Booragoon Primary) and Vicky (Kardinya Primary) continue to do amazing work. It is encouraging to hear the way they work to gain the trust and confidence of students, and just how they help and support the students in so many ways.

On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank all those who donate weekly and would encourage others to consider what they might do to help. We need to continue to put our trust in the Lord that he will continue lead us, and provide what is needed to continue with this very important work.

Blessings  
Glenys Salmon

## Children's Ministry – Sunday Club

Sunday Club is evolving, changing and adapting to the needs of the children and their families. We often see new faces however turning them into regular faces is another challenge.

We have up to 12 regular attendees and about 30 children who attend special services and festivals such as 'Walking through Easter Day". On occasions we have had the children remain in the Church for the 9.30 service and sometimes at the joint 9am service, they appeared to have worked well. It almost seems to be less disruptive than having them go in and out during the service. We have also tried a new format of having several activities on offer, allowing different age groups to do their own thing, this also works well. Our challenge is to find the recipe to meet the needs of all the children and come up with a formula that will encourage more children to attend more regularly.

Feedback from the families who call Holy Cross their church – feel supported and the kids certainly appear to enjoy their time at church. Our challenge is to find the recipe to meet the needs of a demanding society on our young families. We not only need to nurture the young ones but provide an environment where parents are comfortable and receive the sustenance they need to grow in their faith.

Please pray for the families and for the people providing leadership that they may bake a Worshiping community cake that provides the right levels of love, teaching, patience and inspiration to the whole family.

On behalf of the Sunday Club Team  
Jill Bowman

## Church Hall Bookings Report

We are delighted to report that Holy Cross Church, it's Hall and Meeting Room facilities continue to be used throughout the week by many different sections of our community. These include Church and Bible Study groups, Coffee/Tea mornings, Keep fit, Physio, Dancing, Quilting, MU, Children's numeracy group and Local Elections, etc. These groups make donations towards the running costs of the Church and provide us with, not only a source of income but an outreach opportunity. Our thanks go to all who keep our facilities in a safe, clean and tidy condition.

Rev Debbie May

## **Cleaning**

The cleaning team have been kept busy throughout the year to present the church and facilities in a spik and span condition for the users of the Parish.

We have been trying to get another cleaning team to help with the cleaning of the building, but so far no one has come forward, which is disappointing.

Special thanks must go to Pat and Norma Tebbutt, Alison Hirth, Glenys Salmon, Elizabeth Jez and Sue Stephens. A special thank you to Michael Carr and Dick Sedden (Dick has had to retire from the cleaning because of ill health). Thank you one and all.

Dawn Carr  
Cleaning Dept

## **Cradle Roll**

This is done on behalf of Mothers Union. We have continued this ministry throughout the year to maintain the connection with children baptised at Holy Cross. At the moment we have 36 children on the roll who receive a card each birthday until they are seven years old.

Justine

## **Electoral Roll Report**

We have been pleased to welcome some new members to Holy Cross Church and our Electoral Roll now stands at 93 Members.

We were however deeply saddened at the passing of two long standing members of our church family: Mrs Amy Tincombe & Mr John Smith Gander. We shall greatly miss the unique contributions they each made to our fellowship and we miss them greatly. Our loving thoughts and prayers continue to be of them and with their families.

We were also sad to say farewell to Esme Stamp and Emily, Colin, Ruby & Sid Chalmers who all moved away from the area this year and we pray that God will continue to bless them in new homes.

Rev'd Debbie

# Cursillo Report



This is just a very short report, because, as with last year, we have again not been very active this year. However it is important that we endeavour to find the time to meet, at least quarterly, and we will try and ensure that this happens. These times of fellowship are very important and we should not let the seemingly speed of time passing allow us to become complacent about this special time of renewal.

We have 25 Cursillistas at Holy Cross and would encourage anyone who has not yet experienced these special few days in communion with other Christians, to consider doing so. The number of participants attending Cursillo increased again this past year, which is heartening, and includes gatherings in the country area, where the numbers are gradually growing.

Some of you may not be familiar with Cursillo. The word Cursillo means ‘A Short Course in Christian Living’ and is something that needs to be experienced to be understood. It is not intended to be a means to bring newcomers to the faith, rather it is renewal and recommitment for the faithful. Think of it as a special time and space given over to sharing fellowship with our Lord, and with others who are doing the same. There are now well over 2000 people from parishes in Western Australia who have attended Cursillo.

Justine is the contact for Holy Cross within the Anglican Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Perth and either Justine or Glenys would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have, should you have an interest in attending Cursillo.

Prayer is such an important part of our faith, and on a personal note, particularly this past year, I have had reason to thank God so many times for his answer to prayers. Prayers do get answered - not always in our time and way, but in God’s time, and in the way he thinks is best for us.

Glenys is currently the Prayer Convenor for the Cursillo Circle of Prayer, which is a very small group of Cursillistas who pray for other Cursillistas, and/or their families, who may be in need of special prayers. We also uphold in prayer those people, unknown to us, who may be thinking about attending Cursillo.

May God’s Grace be with you.

Glenys and Justine

## Families At Five

Families at Five has over the last year taken a few changes and turns. Initially Families at Five was an opportunity for family members of all generations to come together to learn how to live, prayer and share a meal as Jesus instructed us to do. With the very busy calendar at Holy Cross and life in general Families at Five has on occasion been incorporated into some of the events such as Music on Mclean. We have a great opportunity to re – think were we might take Families at Five in the future without losing the focus of shared family time and learning.

Families at Five is just one of the many ways families can be encouraged to participate in worship, our challenge is to develop service and social opportunities that suit the lifestyle of the families with younger children.

Please keep the children and family ministry in prayer with guidance from the Holy Spirit it can only grow - going from strength to strength.

Jill Bowman  
On behalf of the children and family ministry team.

## Tennis Court Report

It is pleasing to report another excellent year of tennis court hire with the revenue this year being approximately \$5,000.

In addition to the seventy five adults using the court regularly, there is a group of youngsters being coached on two afternoons.

This year another successful ‘Music on Mclean’ was held on the tennis court and surrounding area and the court is also put to very good use during our annual fete. It is most important that the court’s surface is not damaged during these events.

The court hiring fees have not been increased for several years. Because of increased costs, particularly electricity, I recommend the following:-  
Day Hire: from \$ 6.50 per hour to \$ 7.50 per hour  
Night Hire: from \$10.00 per hour to \$ 12.00 per hour

Norm Kidd

## Fete Report

Another wonderful effort at our Annual Fete which raised over \$8,000 and although it took a lot of hard work by the members of the Parish, a great time was had by everyone and what a wonderful outreach into the wider community of Melville.

Each year when the Fete is over and the final result is in, I think to myself, "well we won't beat that figure next year" but somehow we always manage it. I want to thank everyone who contributed in even a small way for making it such a success.

I am constantly amazed at the talent we have in our Parish. When you see the wonderful handmade items on Iris's Crafts, the Christmas Gifts and Novelties stall, the home made Lemon Butter and Pickles and the great assortment of Cakes that we had to sell on the Produce & Cake Stalls.

The White Elephant and Bookstall was very popular as usual and there were a great variety of beautiful plants and Cecily's Epiphyllums on the Pot Plant Stall. Glenys's Pre Loved Treasures did a roaring trade, proving it's true that one man's trash is another man's treasure and in Justine's Boutique there were lots of beautiful clothes and shoes at bargain prices.

The Hamburgers and Hot Dogs became very popular around lunch time and were washed down with an icy cold cool drink & Ice Cream. The Mothers Union did a great job in the hall providing Devonshire Teas and a place where people could sit down and relax for a while. The men on the Chocolate Wheel kept everyone entertained and we spun the wheel 26 times to the delight of the kids who constantly cajoled mum and dad into letting them have 'one more go' and Betty Rushforth's Lucky Number Stall was popular as everybody wins a prize. The Bouncy Castle was a hit with the kids and Joy Millard did some fantastic face painting, turning girls into butterflies & boys into lions or tigers. Derek Martin also kept them interested watching him turn sticks of wood into beautiful egg cups. Karen Ayres kept them entertained helping them turn old CD's into 'works of art' for Christmas. They also found lots of great toys at bargain prices at the Preloved Toy Stall.

This year we did not have the Quilt display in the Church but we did have a great display of Tea Towels courtesy of Alice Duncan and some beautiful wood turning items and lovely embroidery courtesy of Derek & Doris Martin. Our Quilting ladies have excelled themselves again providing a beautiful Quilt for our Quilt Raffle which we launched at the Fete and will be drawn at a special function to be held in March next year. The Quilt is valued at over \$3000.00 & tickets are \$2.00 each. We have 2,500 tickets to sell and we



hope to sell all of them this time so see Liz Lewis Norah Lovelock or Lorinda Ahmed and make sure you get your tickets.

Once again Debbie ran the Parachuting Teddy's as well as a colouring in competition for the kids and the intrepid Keith Martin launched them off the Church roof at about 11.00am. Some of them 'flew' and some of them crashed but it was great entertainment for the kids & their parents who had entered.

Our two cashiers', Julia & Kerry, did a great job in the vestry collecting & counting the money which made it easy for Glenys when she went to the bank.

So once again my thanks to our wonderful parishioners for a job well done and particular thanks to my hard working committee; Gerald, Keith, Dawn and Glenys for helping make this fete such a success.

Mike Carr  
Fete Committee Chairman

## Christmas Child Appeal

It was again our privilege to oversee the distribution of information and boxes to our Parishioners for the Good Samaritans Purse 2009 Operation Christmas Child Appeal.



We again made kits up for people which explained what to do and what not to do.

The response we had from the Parish for this appeal was amazing, as usual it was a great success and over 100 boxes were taken to the Samaritans Purse Headquarters in Balcatta. Justine and I were so impressed at the set up at the warehouse, they were so well organized.

One member of the Parish had a day in her home with her School Mums and made up several boxes. What a great idea that was. The Quilters who meet in our church, also made up boxes.

To those who participated in the Operation Christmas Child Appeal 2009, thank you one and all. We look forward to another great success in 2010.

Dawn Carr & Justine Morton

## Jumble Sale Report

The sales continue to be a good source of income for the parish as we 'outreach to the community in Christ'. One of the benefits is the fellowship we enjoy through helping one another to set up and put away and also by meeting those who attend on the day.

I want to sincerely thank all who help regularly, either for setting up on the Fridays, or serving on the Saturday. Adele, Jan and Carl, who take care of the white elephant stall, have been joined this year by Peter Bowman, Michael Carr, Len Culverhouse and Pat Tebbutt and we are very grateful for their assistance. Mel and Steven still give us a hand when possible which is good. We are lucky to have Jill Binning who comes each jumble sale and makes scones for us and our customers to enjoy with tea or coffee. Glenys looks after the cake stall with the help of Betty and Alice. What would we do without the help of May with her knowledge of plants, ably assisted by Alison?

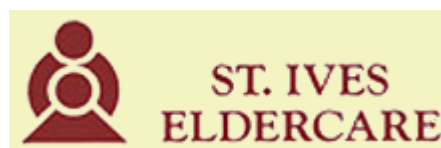
The clothing stall is managed by Jean, June and Justine and they always have lots of bargains.

Lastly, thanks to everyone who donates various items that we are able to sell - without you the sales would not be so successful.

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Justine

## St Ives

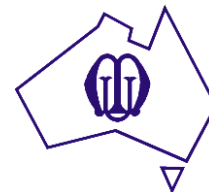


We continue to serve the community of St Ives Melville by taking communion to the residents there twice a month. The Reverend Debbie and I enjoy sharing this time with the residents who look forward to these services. We find this to be a very fulfilling ministry for us both.

Justine



# MU Australia – Melville Branch Report



## Theme for 2010 – “*Journeying into Relationships*”

Greetings Parishioners. I report we have twenty one financial members in our branch. Highlights from our Branch Program include:-

### **World Day of Prayer**

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at Pater Noster Catholic Church, Myaree. Six members were involved in the worship service.

### **Music On McLean**

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Mothers Union members involved.

### **W.O.W. (Welcome on Wednesdays)**

Guest speakers on herbs, bonsai, pelargoniums and geraniums.

### **Ladies Day Service**

At the St George’s Cathedral, Perth on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Beetle Game**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April to raise funds for Northern Outreach. Thanks for your support. Raised \$111.

### **MU Australia Work Shop**

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May on cyber bullying and over sexualisation of children, at St David’s Anglican Church, Ardross.

### **Southern Area Festival**

At St Michael and All Angels, Cannington on Sat 19<sup>th</sup> June.

### **MU Australia Work Shop**

By the executive at Holy Cross, Melville on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August.

We continue to knit and sew Trauma Teddies for the King Edward Memorial Hospital. They are gratefully received. We also send toiletries to the Women’s Refuges.

With God’s help we are endeavouring to work to our theme “*journey into relationships*”

Blessings  
Betty Rushforth

## Home Groups: Morton's Bible Study Group

Our group has continued to meet over the past year primarily on a Monday evening starting at 7pm, except for holidays, sickness and other responsibilities. We are blessed that all members of this group are still together and this has been encouraging as it has been a challenging year for some members. We are blessed in that all members are able to share thoughts and ideas in an environment of trust, care, objectivity, friendship and confidentiality.

Through the past year we have continued to use the "Life Guide Bible Studies" and various DVD/VHS/Television resources. In particular we studied:-

**Decisions:** We completed the last 8 of these 9 studies that walked through Christian decision makers of the Bible and how these can be applied to the modern day.

**Pleasing God:** 9 studies where we explored what it really means to please God and learn why faith in Christ is the foundation of such a life.

**For Lent:** We studied 'Bread in The Wilderness' by Kenneth H Carter Jr. We found this to be a very challenging journey of study where we were guided by excellent dialog that encouraged us to look at many "familiar Easter texts" in a new way.

I also participated in the parish Lenten study 'the Easter experience'. This excellent DVD guided study was again challenging in that; in a similar way, a familiar story was presented in a manner that challenged our current understanding and interpretation of Jesus' last days. Our group discussed parts of this also as it paralleled our group study.

Topical Religious Commentary DVD/VHS and television sources.

The Star of Bethlehem was a recent television documentary that revealed irrefutable scientific support of the biblical story along with the growth of the presenter's faith because of it.

Also we viewed King David, Mysteries of the Bible (5 DVD's) and Son of God. All these were presented in a way that made all of us consider events of the bible in a different light.

Throughout the studies, we reflected on the Old Testament prophecies and messages of the New Testament as they may be applied in the modern day.

Gerald Morton

## Home Groups: 1 Guy Place, Melville

Bible study has been continued throughout the year. Meetings are held every first and third Tuesday of the month, commencing at 9:00am. Our group has grown to eleven and we enjoy prayer, thoughtful discussion, in which all participate. A morning tea is held after each meeting and a lively conversation continues. We all feel that home meetings are a natural extension to church activity and promote Christian Fellowship.

The main topic for the year has been “The Gospel According to St John”. We will shortly be commencing the topic “Pleasing God”.

Patrick and Norma welcome all who wish to participate.

## Social Committee (incorporating Friend/Fund Raising)

This group overlaps a number of the established groups within our church community and as such wears a number of caps.

Our members organise/help with theme-type dinners, jumble sales, fetes and days of significance within the church’s calendar.

Specifically we have held:-

- † **“Meet the Teddies”** which commenced with a Cocktail? Party and continued through to the Saturday when the children attended “The Teddy Bears Picnic” where they played games and had afternoon tea (which had to be held indoors as the day was cold and blustery) but was still enjoyed by all.
- † The traditional Parish **Christmas Meal** held on 19th December, which was a very good start to our Christmas festivities.
- † **Shrove Tuesday** saw the cooking of many, many pancakes which were devoured much quicker than they were made.
- † **Music on McLean** was another event where our group helped extensively.

Jill Binning

## Order of St Luke (1)

The Perth (Melville) chapter of the Order of St Luke the Physician has again enjoyed the hospitality of the parish over the past year; for this it is most grateful, as also for the support of the Parish Priest, the Revd Debbie May.

The chaplain, the Revd Charles Brookes, was seriously injured in a car accident last July, and attributes much of his recovery (ongoing) to the love and prayers of many, in particular those of OSL chapter members. As far as possible, they continued meeting every third Wednesday night at 7:30pm while I was five months in hospital.

What we do miss in the Parish, however, is how few, if any, respond to our invitation to join us for prayers for themselves or loved ones. It is not that we compete with prayer or ministry at Sunday services. What we offer is complementary. So, please encourage and strengthen our small band by being with us occasionally, or bringing to Norma Tebbutt, our Secretary, special or urgent requests for healing prayer. This does not involve having to become a member of the Order and the use of first names only (unless otherwise requested) for prayer and ministry is in line with the need for confidentiality.

Charles Brookes,  
Chaplain.



## Order of St Luke (2)

The aims of the Order of St Luke are:-

- ✠ To promote an understanding of the healing ministry of the church and its acceptance in a balanced presentation of the gospel.
- ✠ To encourage the study of the scriptures, especially in relation to the healing ministry.
- ✠ To provide opportunities for members to meet together for study, prayer, sharing and ministry.
- ✠ To encourage cooperation between the healing ministries of the church and the healing professions.
- ✠ To help people understand that Jesus Christ heals today and that healing may take place in a variety of ways.

Our meetings take place every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

## Women's Support & Study Group

Originally called Wednesday Women (although we have changed the day we meet) this small group set out to provide a few hours of bible and prayer focussed fellowship for busy women. A kind of spa for the soul, creating a two hour "window" one evening a week during term time for those of us who can't always make it to Church services or other Church events and giving those who attend the opportunity to have some time away from family and work commitments to focus on developing relationships with each other and our Heavenly Father.

The format is simple, we follow a bible study series and set aside time for personal prayer support for each other. We are flexible about where we meet to ensure those who are without childcare cover can attend.

The journey so far has been exciting and surprising with each of us learning more about each other and developing our personal faith.

The future - we hope to continue to meet regularly and build a strong support and fellowship for women with a welcoming heart as new families join The Church of the Holy Cross.

## [www.holycrossmelville.org](http://www.holycrossmelville.org)

If you haven't visited the church website for a while you should notice a few improvements. It is now much easier to navigate, having shed a third of its pages. It now has a RSS news feed so that you can keep up to date without actually visiting the site. You will need to subscribe to the following to receive updates [http://twitter.com/statuses/user\\_timeline/52005999.rss](http://twitter.com/statuses/user_timeline/52005999.rss) using newsreader software.

Also new to the website is an online interactive version of the church diary which gives you the option to view and print daily, weekly and monthly pages as well as a complete list of events. Information about events and details of location will also be added when available. Please ensure that events are listed here as this is now the definitive version of the church diary.

We are also hoping to introduce a feature that will enable you to hear audio recordings from some of our services in the very near future.

For several months the editor@ e-mail address has not been working, all links were changed to my own e-mail address but I know some people sent information to the old address. Please accept my apologies that your articles were not published either on the website or in the church magazine. Information sent either to Debbie or myself [waynevmay@gmail.com](mailto:waynevmay@gmail.com) will get through. Talking of the magazine, an online full colour version of the magazine is also now available on the website. It includes details of services and readings and is usually available before the printed version.

Some statistics! Since its inception the new website has had 2955 page loads, 1669 being in the last twelve months by some 598 first time visitors and 175 of them came back for at least a second visit. Of the visitors this year 86% were from Australia, 3.6% from USA, 3% from the UK, 1% from Canada the rest from Norway, South Africa, Russia, Czech Republic, Bahamas, Japan, Sri Lanka, Korea, Nigeria and India. The 86% from Australia were made up as follows, 72% from Perth, 5.6% from Melbourne, 2.6% from Sydney, the remaining were undetermined.

Wayne May

## **W.O.W. (Welcome on Wednesday)**

This past year has been a lot of fun. We have incorporated the young mums from Mothers Union and they come and meet with us on the first Wednesday of the month.

On the first Wednesday of the month we make teddies for young children who have lost a new sibling at King Edward Memorial Hospital. This is done as part of our outreach and the teddies are gratefully received.

This year we have started having guest speakers who have given up their time to demonstrate their talents:-

Adel has shared the art of china painting, Louise has shared her knowledge of herbs and pelargonium's, Ty his knowledge of bonsai and Narisa her knowledge of Enyo products.

We celebrated Esme's birthday and farewelled her on her move to Melbourne. We will miss her.

Rev. Debbie has been missed during her illness and recovery, we look forward to her return.

Thanks to all who have helped with the W.O.W services. It's been great having you there. God bless

Sheri McCarthy.



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