

Rector's Report 2022

My report is a general one. I commenced in January for a three-month locum when Lachlan asked if I would cover his long service leave. This concluded at Easter.

After Lachlan announced his acceptance of the Dean's role in Geraldton in July, I agreed to return as Acting Rector while the Nominators searched for the new Minister for Christ Church. We are grateful for the invitation of the Wardens and Parish Council and for their trust in us for this time and the endorsement of Bishop Edwards. I commenced in August in this role, and Elizabeth and I have continued until March 5, 2023.

This has been a wonderfully rewarding time for us both as we relished the opportunity to return to this vibrant Christian family of Christ Church Lavender Bay.

In the early part of the year Covid continued to be a significant issue and a strong influence in the way things happened or didn't happen week by week. Registration of attendance, mask-wearing, singing, choral work, holy communion, social distancing, hand-hygiene, furniture disinfection, furniture positioning, many restrictions and modifications continued to be issues.

In August, on our return, we were able to begin to restore some practices to pre-covid days. This has been measured and careful and is still evolving. Some practices will remain in an on-going sense for the foreseeable future.

Christ Church has an effective live-streaming system and audio and visual capacity of a high standard and can be forever grateful to Lachlan for his many-sided giftedness, including his technological understanding and competence.

We have been encouraged by signs of returning on-site attendances of both congregations. (This has continued into the new year).

Christmas services were very well attended, including the Carol Service which featured dramatized Bible readings and congregational participation.

Christ Church continues to uphold its reputation as a warmly welcoming church with a very high percentage of its members actively contributing significantly to many regular tasks involved with everything the parish undertakes.

2022 marked the sesquicentenary of the first service held in the church building. A very memorable and enjoyable function was held to mark the occasion hosted by Geoff and Ann Kells at their home. Our resident historian the Rev. Ross McDonald divulged some snippets

of the past and Mrs. Liz Fountain read some correspondence of Rachel Henning about the first wedding held in the new building. We then acknowledged the many individuals who had, under the good hand of God's grace, created the church we all now enjoy.

The Rectory

A great deal has been undertaken in the Rectory since the beginning of 2022. Extensive repairs to the roof, floor and underfloor, drainage and ventilation. A new bathroom, lighting and painting upstairs including new front bedroom windows. Much of this has been long overdue. It has been financed from the Development Fund and very significantly by very generous donations by several individual families. New rectory families will enjoy this provision for years to come.

This could be an opportunity for us both to record our thanks, gratitude and appreciation to all those who 'furnished' the 'empty' rectory for our arrival. We hardly needed anything to add to a complete home and we just hope you have remembered now what you needed to collect on our departure!

Congregational Life:

Behind the scenes: So many members of Christ Church do so much all year round to ensure the successful functioning of the parish. Much is not noticed or applauded but is essential. I have the privilege of knowing how many folk contribute so generously of their time and talents. Thankyou. The Church Wardens shoulder an ongoing and demanding responsibility to ensure our function and viability. Hours of labour detail our finances and our volunteer treasurer and auditor track our progress. We are all very ably supported by our Administrator, Mrs Alice Hung. The Parish Council oversee, initiate and support our life and future together. Expression of our mission shapes our decisions.

From the outset I have had strong, solid support and assistance in every endeavour. The team spirit is infectious!

Music continues to enjoy special prominence at Christ Church at both services. The high standard reflects the dedication and devotion of organist, choir and band. Worship is facilitated and enhanced for the increased enjoyment of all. Christ Church services are a pleasure to attend.

God's Word is read and proclaimed faithfully and well. We are so fortunate in the quality of our Bible readers and the excellent preaching team of highly qualified men and women.

Small Groups: My quick calculation is that about 70% of our regular church attenders are also attending small groups for Bible study and sharing of experience. There is certainly room for growth in this very pleasant and helpful activity. Leaders and hosts are strongly commended for this important aspect of 'belonging together.'

Pastoral Care is the subject of a separate report from the Rev. Di. Nicolios. I just want to add a personal observation that so much goes on 'unofficially' and quietly all the time. This reflects the Christian care and concern of individuals for each other. This is on top of initiatives like Helen Wheeler's 'Coffee with a Friend' at Waverton where women and men meet informally to talk and pray, Anita Barnett's and Ros Wilson's occasional groups and Anne Cook's High Teas. One very helpful aspect of caring is the network of phone calling which happens often and on particular 'need prayer' occasions.

For some years Geoff Kells has initiated Bible reading groups for men (including sailors!) which have been and continue to be ongoing spiritual refreshment for their participants.

Today: Christ Church now begins a new chapter with a new leader and unknown possibilities for a future in God's purposes. The church may face many challenges and will uncover many exciting possibilities for growth and strength – offering God's good news in a needy world.

Let us be faithful and fervent in prayer that the Lord will walk (or run!) with us into the days ahead. Let us always be looking to Jesus the 'pioneer and perfecter' of faith.

Peter Smart

WARDENS REPORT 2022

Rod Pearse reports on behalf of the Wardens:

Thank you to Ian Davidson and Philippa Armfield for your hard work as Wardens over the last twelve months. The three of us have worked well together as Wardens and with Lachlan Edwards and Peter Smart who were our Ministers over this period. Thank you also to Parish Council for your contribution throughout 2022. Again we have worked well together.

Lachlan was on long service leave from mid January to April and Peter Smart stepped in as our Minister over this period. Lachlan was then offered and accepted the position of Dean of the Cathedral in Geraldton, WA and left us on 24 July to take up this position.

Peter Smart once again agreed to be our Minister whilst the Nominators searched for a new Minister.

We are greatly indebted to both Peter and Elizabeth for their service over this period.

We would also like to thank the Nominators Richard, Anita, Philippa, Ann and Rod for their hard work, and for their application.

From August 2022 the Nominators searched for a new Minister for our Church and they announced in December that Greg Webster had been offered and had accepted the position of Minister at CCLB. Greg commenced in his new role at Christchurch on 7 March, 2023. Welcome Greg and Cath.

Montessori have been the operators at our Preschool for over thirty years. We decided however that we should seek a closer spiritual alignment between our Church and the preschool and its families. We have therefore licensed Bernardo and Laura Rivera to operate the preschool in our Church Hall for an initial three year period from 1 January, 2023. The Riveras have been operators of the Neutral Bay Preschool for some years and they have worked closely with St Augustines Anglican Church. We expect that we will also have a closer relationship with our preschool community going forward. The Lavender Bay Preschool opened on March 6, 2023.

Turning to financial matters, we made a small operating profit of \$6K in 2022, which compares to the budgeted \$25K loss.

Operating Receipts of \$348K for 2022 were 6% below budget.

Congregation offertories of \$187K were 16% below budget. Offertories were 7% below the prior year and below 2022 because of gaps in EFT giving which is of increasing concern. Donations were above budget.

Operating Payments of \$342K were 14% below budget primarily because of savings in ministerial staffing and repairs and maintenance expenses. We had originally budgeted for an assistant minister on a two day a week basis.

2022 was the wettest year on record in Sydney and our 150 year old Rectory showed its age leaking badly and resulting in damage in several places.

Repairs costing around \$50K were urgently needed during August and September. Fortunately, the Rejuvenation Fund was in a position to fund these repairs

Rejuvenation giving and grants increased by \$62k through 2022 to a cumulative \$324K. This compares to outgoings of \$147K during 2022 of which \$63K was for the Church's North Gables, \$51K was for water ingress/repair projects within the Rectory, \$8k was for tree lopping within the Church grounds and \$25,000 was for expenditure on the first half of the Rectory upstairs Bathroom renovation (funded by generous donations from two families who have also funded a similar spend in 2023 to complete the new bathroom).

In 2023 we estimate an additional spend on rejuvenation of \$175K for specific projects such as stonework in the Church, painting and Window framing repairs in the upstairs Rectory, completion of the Rectory upstairs bathroom, a new kitchen in the Church Hall and pathway upgrading in the grounds. We have sufficient funds to cover that estimated expenditure which will take estimated rejuvenation spend over five years to \$412K. We will have an estimated cash balance of around \$36K in December 2023. An additional NSW Govt grant of \$20k is also expected in 2023 which will fund half of the Church Hall kitchen upgrade and upgraded access.

We are the custodians of a 150 year old Church and Rectory which require ongoing maintenance and rejuvenation and we also have a Church Hall which is an important revenue source but must be maintained. We also have extensive grounds to maintain.

Further rejuvenation projects will be required on an ongoing basis in the future and these will require additional fundraising so that we can go forward without drawing down our financial reserves which backstop CCLB's financial viability.

We particularly want to thank Peter and Elizabeth Smart for their efforts in 2022. They have been very active in the Rectory, pulpit and in bible studies and pastoral care around our Congregation for most of the last year. Their experience, spiritual support and good humour has been greatly appreciated by all in what has been a busy and challenging year for CCLB.

Treasurers Report 2022

CCLB concluded the financial year ending 31st December 2022, with a modest surplus of \$6,163 or 1.7% of total income. CCLB is in a sound financial position with a legacy of healthy reserves built up through time by previous members. (Please refer Profit & Loss Statement, Balance Sheet.)

BUT today CCLB is struggling to pay its way, our current income barely meets our expenses, and restricts our ability to grow Gods kingdom.

In the last 3 financial years our offertories have collapsed:

2020 \$215,734

2021 \$201,361

2022 \$186,684

A reduction of \$29,050. Please prayerfully consider.

We are very thankful for those who maintained their regular giving through the years. In faith the 2023 Budget increases our Offertory giving.

The 2023 Budget sets out our response to God's faithfulness and generosity towards us. It is Christ Church's partnership with God; to draw closer to Him, and to do what he has called us to do. It is an open invitation to join with each other, be a blessing to friends and strangers alike. Together we can connect with our community of friends and neighbours to make known the wonders of Christ by loving our families, friends and neighbours by volunteering our time, gifts and by giving financially.

Ultimately, the Budget is the continuing and never ending story of God's love and faithfulness to us as individuals and as a community, and how in 2023 we can respond through prayer, commitment and our offerings.

Brian England

"As you excel in everything, - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in love – see that you also excel in the grace of giving." 2 Corinthians 8:7

PASTORAL CARE 2022 - REPORT

The informal care of parishioners who are in Bible Study groups continued through the Study group leaders during 2022, though this obviously was directed at those who were in existing groups.

For other parishioners, when pastoral care needs arose, these were attended to by myself as Minister for Seniors and Pastoral Care, and by Peter and Elizabeth Smart during their two locums with us during the year, from January to April when Lachlan was on long Service Leave and from August (following Lachlan's resignation and departure) to the present, as the nominators have conducted and completed their search for our new rector. I would like to record my deep appreciation of their pastoral skills and the selfless way they have visited and encouraged many of our people, particularly those who are house-bound or are now in residential care. Their care and visits have been deeply valued by the recipients.

One of our number who has moved into a care facility is Betsy Taylor, who is now living in James Milson Village. Through the kindness and support of her friends Liz Fountain and Helen Wheeler, as well as her niece and another friend, she is able to return to her apartment every so often for a short visit, to keep in touch with her home. That is pastoral care in action! Warwick Lewarne also moved into a care facility during the year.

We continue to pray for and visit the Yeos, Norman Brunson, Enid Tong and others either house-bound or in residential care.

There is also much done on an informal basis by a number of different groups who meet together every so often for morning or afternoon coffee parties, for the sole purpose of enjoying each other's company and fellowship. Some of us lead busy lives, while some others feel the loss of being well-occupied and find life lonely, so meetings like these can be very uplifting. And for those for whom life is sometimes too busy, it's an opportunity for some time out to relax with sisters and brothers in Christ. A group which started in July 2022, run by Helen, and called 'Coffee with a friend', meets weekly in the Botanica café in Waverton, and is open to both church and community members. It regularly has 4-6 people attending – a wonderful initiative, with both a 'care' and a 'reaching-out' element to it.

In 2022 we celebrated three new members of our 'nonagenarian club': Trevor Adams, Warwick Lewarne and Don Flanagan. Congratulations to all three for achieving this milestone.

There is much pastoral care that happens informally as members of the congregation care for their friends through prayer, visiting, providing transport, making meals, and celebrating special occasions. Wonderful care indeed!

And of course, we have supported families in crisis – such as Libby, Peter and Michael Andrews, and the Flanagans with their son Sean.

I have also had the opportunity of meeting informally, over coffee, with a small group of parishioners who are dealing with issues relating to dementia in their family. This is an issue which will become more obvious as our society ages, so we will need some strategies about how we can help meet such needs in our church services and meetings. A project for 2023!

I have no doubt that the Lord is pleased with all our efforts to care for each other, since we are exhorted thus in 1Peter 4:8, "Love each other deeply, for love covers over a multitude of sins." He gives us the strength and power to live like that, caring for one another.

Di Nicolios, Minister for Seniors and Pastoral Care

Children and Youth Ministry 2022

2022 welcomed Chris Tompkins as Student Minister for Children and Youth to take over from Emily Smith (nee Edwards). During 2022 the numbers involved in our children and youth ministry fluctuated heavily. New families who visited the church were warmly welcomed and supported, however few families were able to commit to coming weekly, and those who were irregular in attendance in 2021 remained that way through 2022. The year started with weekly Kids Spot talks, which were initially online videos, that transitioned into in person talks, which eventually stopped being weekly. Throughout the year a few attempts were had to try and kickstart and revitalise children's ministry at the church, with a Welcome Picnic and Family Fun Sundays, however neither our children's ministry nor youth ministry saw significant growth over the year.

Children's Ministry

Christ Church Lavender Bay does not presently have a large children's ministry, however is very open and welcoming to families and strives to have an intergenerational service for all ages. As the church does not have a separate children's program, the children are encouraged to stay up the back of the chapel and both play with games/toys, and do some Christian crafts or activities depending on their age. When there are Kid's Spots up the front, some of the older kids are invited to be a part of them.

There are many lovely volunteers to thank who have helped out with the children and families ministry over the course of the year. We are blessed by our community and the way in which they show God's love to one another. Special thanks go to Virginia Adam for her particular care for the mothers in our community and helping run events for them and for Jennifer Morgan-Nicholson for helping prepare activity packs for families and maintaining our toys and games.

2022 began with weekly 3 minute talks targeted at families, however over the course of the year we decided they were no longer to be a weekly occurrence, rather for special services, as the likelihood of having children was unknown, and the age of expected children varied from 4-12 which made targeting specific ages with content difficult. While many congregants seemed to enjoy and benefit from the content, the primary target demographic for them, kids, were not present and so we've put them on hold for now.

Youth Ministry

The Sunday afternoon Youth Bible Study which ran during 2021 did not continue into 2022 as one of the core families were unable to commit to the time, which brought the attendance down to one or two attendees who were able to come, and so the decision was made not to continue into 2022. Plans to move it to a more suitable time for our youth did not eventuate due to overall lack of availability of various leaders and participants.

One of our core families moved church during the year to one closer to their home, which means that we now only have one regular high schooler who is involved in our community. This means that currently we do not run any targeted or specific youth events at Christ Church Lavender Bay.

Easter and Christmas

Easter and Christmas saw large numbers of children and families present at the church. We were able to effectively welcome them, entertain and teach the kids and provide elements in our service that targeted kids. There were a few new families who joined us for these special events, however most of the attendees were known to Christ Church beforehand.

Family Fun Sundays

We hosted 3 Family Fun Sundays during 2022, targeted at our families, in June, August and October, coupled with Easter and Christmas to provide large family services every 2-3 months. These services brought in many of our families, and often saw a return of families for the next month after these services, before regular attendance of families dropped again. These services incorporated more craft, kids activities and food. These events made good use of the outdoor spaces the church has to offer and enabled parents to connect in well to the community. The spacing of these events was helpful for both families and volunteers, who felt that a more regular occurrence would not be feasible at this time. Discussions were held to think about incorporating children's music into the service during the Family Fun Sunday's, however this did not eventuate during 2022.

Music Ministry 2022

During 2022, the music ministry of Christ Church Lavender Bay was re-built and re-energised following past disruptions caused by Covid-19.

This provided broad opportunities for all in the music ministry to know God's love, grow God's love and show God's love to each other, to the ministry team, to all congregation members and visitors.

The 10am Traditional Service

Organist Louie Chen took up his playing role in December 2021 in time to play for the Carol Service and Christmas services in 2021. As an initial measure, Lachlan Massey, a young composer and conductor of the Sydney Children's Choir assisted in rehearsing and presenting these services.

From that time, Louie Chen then took on leadership of the music ministry, through regular Sunday morning choir practices and by playing the organ during the 10am services. Leading a choir was a new experience for Louie and he showed balance, wisdom and strong character as he grew in knowledge and confidence in this ministry. We have all been the beneficiaries of his good musicianship, especially in his playing of Preludes and Extroits.

Choir members who had not sung together regularly during Covid lockdowns, were faced with the challenge to re-establish the habits of practising together early on Sunday mornings and singing regularly at the 10am service. They rose to the challenge and we have all benefitted from the good singing and good will of choir members.

Easter 2022

The Palm Sunday Service, Good Friday and Easter Day Services went smoothly with special Easter items for each service. Elizabeth Smart introduced a number of very effective songs rehearsed and sung by the choir.

Choir consolidation continued through the year, with habits of regular attendance becoming settled, despite interruptions, the threat of Covid-19 and the need to maintain safe health measures.

Lachlan Edwards left his position as our Rector, departing in July for a position in Geraldton, and we welcomed Acting Rector Peter Smart and his wife Elizabeth.

Elizabeth Smart continued her role of introducing new music to the choir.

She planned and organised a special First Sunday in Advent program for Sunday, 27 November, and planned and organised an exceptional Carol Service for Sunday, 18 December, 2022. (Elizabeth also wrote the excellent script for the dramatised readings

presented in the Carol Service.) All choir members worked hard to make an effective musical contribution to these services.

Choir members continued their support for the Christmas Eve service and Christmas Day service, contributing to the consolidation of music ministry during 2022.

Mission. (Philippa Armfield)

In 2022 our support for missionary activities was as follows:

- CMS - \$9,000 for Erin who is serving in East Asia. Erin returned to Australia in 2022 to gain further qualifications to equip her for her work and she hopes to return to her overseas location later in 2023. We remain committed to supporting her. We also continue to prayerfully support Roger and Noriko Dethlefs serving with CMS in Japan.
- Defence Force bishop and chaplains. RAN Reserves Chaplain Andrew Nixon preached at our services on Sunday 6 November 2022.
- Anglicare. \$4,000.00 for their Christmas Appeal which provides emergency food and financial support to people in need. Throughout June 2022 we provided an opportunity for congregation members to support Anglicare's Winter Appeal with a Tap and Go facility at the church so people could donate via credit card. Toys'n'Tucker in December was once again via online donation rather than collecting food and toys at the church as in the past.
- Bush Church Aid Society - \$5,000.00 to support Jim Watson in his Indigenous Ministry Worker role in the Northern Territory. In 2023 we are hoping to have a new focus for our support for BCA. Caroline Thornton also collects BCA boxes from members of the congregation adding to our support for this ministry in rural, regional and remote Australia.
- Christian Care for Children With Disabilities, Thailand (CCD) - \$2,000.00 through Anglican Aid for the work in Chainat (The Geoff Wilson Fund). The Memorandum of Understanding between Anglican Aid and CCD will come to an end in June 2023.
- Diocese of North West Australia - \$5,000.00 to support their North West Ministry Training Program. In 2022 our focus was on support for Matt and Leonie Morrison who are based at Broome Anglican Church where they are involved in youth ministry and also training in ministry to Indigenous Australians.
- Stanhope Anglican Church - \$5,000.00 to support the cross cultural ministry of Edwin Thambyaiyah. Edwin preached at our services on 10 April 2022. Edwin has now left Stanhope Gardens to take up a new role with Rooty Hill Anglican Church.
- In 2023 the Mission Committee and Parish Council will consider possible new mission partners following Edwin Thambyaiyah's departure from Stanhope Anglican Church and with changes to the way we could support CCD.

Parish: Christ Church Lavender Bay **Date:** 31.12.2022
For the year: 2022
Safe Ministry Rep: Diane Joester

SCREENING AND SELECTION OF PERSONNEL (Faithfulness in Service 5.19)

Summary of Safe Ministry Training Records for the year of this report:

Working with Children Checks (WWCC)

total number of verifications: 8 _____

This should include ALL verifications done in the year –
even for visiting leaders/teachers

Safe Ministry Training (SMT) – numbers of people trained during the year:

Essentials: 0 _____

Refresher: 0 _____

Junior Leaders: _____

Safe Ministry Checks (SMC)

Total number conducted in the year: 0 _____

Volunteer Recruitment – the following documents/processes were given/used in the recruitment of volunteer workers in children’s and youth ministries:

- Job/Role description (<https://safeministry.org.au/resource-docs/>)
- Relevant Blueprint document (<https://safeministry.org.au/blueprints/>)
- Faithfulness in Service code of conduct
(<https://safeministry.org.au/faithfulness-in-service-code-of-conduct/>)
- Safe Ministry Check Clearance (<https://safeministry.org.au/safe-ministry-check-information/>)
- Application form (<https://safeministry.org.au/resource-docs/>)

Safe Ministry Compliant (as per Safe Ministry to Children Ordinance 2020)

Number of people in roles requiring WWCC/SMT/SMC at time of report: 3

POLICIES (Faithfulness in Service 5)

1. **During this year the parish has used the following permission notes for activities undertaken by the church with children and young people.**

Available here: <https://safeministry.org.au/resource-docs/>

N/A as parents were present at all activities.

- Generic permission form
- Enduring permission form
- Activity Approval Form

2. **During this year, the parish has used the following policies in working with children and young people** (All available at: <https://safeministry.org.au/blueprints/>).

Church Leaders

Yes No

- Safe Ministry Blueprint for Churches

Youth Ministry

Yes No

- Safe Ministry Blueprint - Head of Youth Ministry
- Safe Ministry Blueprint - Youth Ministry Leaders

Children's Ministry

Yes No

- Safe Ministry Blueprint - Head of Children's Ministry
- Safe Ministry Blueprint - Children's Ministry Leaders

If you answered 'no' to any of the above policies being used in the parish, please explain why:

GROUPS/REGULAR ACTIVITIES (Faithfulness In Service 5.26ff)

During the year the following activities were run on church property:

Group/Activity	Meeting times	Age group
Welcome Picnic	March 20 at 3-4pm	0-18, mainly 4-8
Family Fun Services	June 19, August 21, October 9 in morning service at 10-11am	0-18, mainly 4-8

During the year, the following activities were run away from church property:

Group/Activity	Meeting times	Age group
None		

During the year, the following external service providers were engaged (Faithfulness in Service 5.24):

Name	Date	Company	Phone	Activity
None				

During the year, the following incidents and health & safety concerns were identified:

Date	Reported by	Nature of incident/Action taken
None		

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES:

Although all Parish Council members have a verified WWCC (Working With Children Check) which is required, it is recommended that they also consider completing Safe Ministry training. It would also be of value for any additional Parishioners, particularly those involved in Pastoral Care, to complete Safe Ministry training as it is not just applicable to children but also to vulnerable people of all ages.

Note that in 2023 Face to Face Safe Ministry training is now more readily available for those that find the online training more challenging.

SAFE MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE:

Name: Diane Joester

Signed: *Diane Joester*

Date: 31.12.2022