



Annual Meeting & Reports  
for the Year Ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017



19<sup>th</sup> November, 2017

## AGENDA

1. Prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of 2016 AGM
4. Reception of Parish Electoral Roll
5. Senior Minister's Report
6. Reports of various ministries
7. Budget for 2018
8. Elections
  - wardens, parish council, auditor, parish nominees to the incumbency committee
9. Prayer

All reports except the Financial Report and Budget are to be taken as read.  
Please bring this booklet with you to the AGM.

St. Mark's Church Emerald  
Annual General Meeting  
Held on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2016

The meeting started at 11.45 am in prayer

**1. Present**

Fifty six members who were on the Electoral Role including Locum Tenens, Richard Temby

Apologies

Ed & Suzie McNabb, Wayne & Karen Collins, Ray de Jager, Tony & Kyria Perry, Ian Johnson

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of the 2015 AGM held on 15 November 2015 were received as an accurate record of that meeting. Prop. Graeme Legge 2<sup>nd</sup> Magda Lane. Carried.

**3. Reception of Electoral Roll**

The Parish's Electoral Roll was received by the meeting.  
Prop. Peter Crafter 2<sup>nd</sup> Colin Lane

**4. Vote of thanks**

Special mention was made of Gail Pinchbeck, Sue Bluett and Wayne Collins for their contribution during the year.  
Prop. Richard Temby 2<sup>nd</sup> Irene Soderlund

**5. Reports**

The reports in the meeting booklet were received by the meeting.

- Senior Pastor's report – no questions
- Warden's report – no questions
- Synod report – no questions
- Growth – Sue Bluett spoke briefly, mentioning the highlights of her report
- Signpost Magazine – No questions but there was thanks for the dedication of Dianna and her team.
- Children's Ministry – no questions
- Playgroup & SRI – Hollie spoke briefly about the report highlights
- Powerhouse Kids – no questions
- Youth ministry – no questions
- Small groups – Richard emphasized the importance of this ministry – no questions
- Pastoral care – Janice spoke briefly, thanked the team and Heather spoke briefly about the bereavement ministry with special thanks to Anne Bates, Joan Pascoe and Chris Grogos.

- Shine – Anne Benc spoke briefly and thanked the team
- Opp Shop Q1:- “where do the proceeds go?”
- A1:- “Mentioned in the report”
- Maintenance – Richard highlighted the importance of the property looking well cared for. No questions.
- Sale of 11 Church St – Russell, aided by Narelle Cosstick and Courtney Clowes explained the need for this sale. There was clarification about why ECHO’s name was on the title rather than St Mark’s. (St Mark’s cannot own property in its own right)

Q1:- “Won’t we need to use this property for our incumbent until the proposed vicarage is complete?”

A1:- “Because Peter Crawford has left and Wayne is stepping down as Director of ECHO it is felt that the original understanding between ECHO and St Mark’s about ownership and usage might get forgotten. Also given the timing uncertainties it is more efficient to sell now and rent somewhere else for a short time until the vicarage is complete”

Q2:- “What will be the process?”

A2:- “We know the market value, before offering the place on the open market, it will be offered to the congregation using a system of sealed bids, to be opened on a set date. We already have one bid”

Q3:- “Please can we have a status report on the progress of the new vicarage?”

A3:- “At council now for required permits”

Q4:- “Is the diocese entitled to claim anything from the sale?”

A4:- “Not as far as we know. Because the funds will come to St Mark’s in the form of program funding with contractual obligations to run community outreach for the next several years”

Q5:- “Please can you summarise St Mark’s property ownership”

A5a:- “No 1, 3, 5 Church St and 8 Westlands are owned by the Melbourne Diocesan property trust on behalf of St Mark’s. 12 Westlands is owned and operated by ECHO, 11 Church is owned by ECHO in the sense that ECHO’s name appears on the title but was purchased by St Mark’s members for ministry usage – as we said earlier, St Mark’s cannot own property in their own name.”

A5b:- Richard explained that, whilst the diocese owns the property they cannot dispose of it or mandate usage without consultation with the parish.

Q6:- “What lies behind the plan for ECHO to fund St Mark’s community?”

A6:- The funding will be non-assessable and will also ensure that it is used for true ministry purposes rather than be dissipated in organizational overheads.

Q7:- “Will there be implications in our dealings with the diocese?”

A7:- “Unlikely”

Q8:- “Will St Mark’s outreach programs be autonomous?”

A8:- “The contractual conditions associated with the funding will be positive rather than negative and we will be able to include overt gospel content as appropriate. All stakeholders feel this is a good approach”

- ECHO Report – taken as read, no questions
- Flower ministry – Jan Aylott reinforced the need for new members.
- Finance report – Courtney Clowes spoke briefly about the report highlights including the need to update the budget part way through the year as timelines for the property sale, new incumbent and other factors become clear.
  - Q1:- “Is the thanksgiving money shown in the finance report”
  - A1:- “Yes, in the section ‘Other Income’”
  - Q2:- “Why is there no expenditure of these funds shown?”
  - A2:- “Because they fall into the next financial year”

It was moved that the reports be accepted.

Prop. Narelle Cosstick 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesley Ryder

It was moved that the budget be approved.

Prop. Peter Crafter 2<sup>nd</sup> Magda Lane

## **6. Elections**

### **Wardens**

Nominations have been received for N. Cosstick and R. Soderlund. These two were elected and Gill Birkett is appointed by the locum.

### **Parish Council**

Re-elected, unopposed were David Bunn, Joe Verrill, Anton Benc, Sandra Millard, Magda Lane and Adam van Leeuwen.

Appointed by the locum were Courtney Clowes and Iain Johnson with one position remaining vacant.

### **Incumbency Committee**

The existing committee remains in place until the incumbent is found. Re-elected for the next term of office were Courtney Clowes, Barry Ryder and Russell Soderlund

### **Auditor**

Mike Gill was elected. A. Walker moved a vote of thanks to Mike which was carried by the meeting.

## **7. Other Business**

➤ There was question regarding the position and status of the memorial garden.

Russell Soderlund advised that the garden was located adjacent to the front entrance of the church and a small plaque, would be placed there shortly, there were also some minor administrative details remaining to be settled.

8. The meeting closed at 13.05pm with prayer and the laying on of hands for the newly elected office bearers.

## Senior Minister's Report

I write my first report to an annual meeting at St. Mark's with a strong sense of thankfulness. Thankfulness to God for his call to serve him as a leader in the Church, for those who shared the Gospel with me when I was young, and who have encouraged and supported me in the last twenty years of learning, growing and equipping for ministry. I am grateful to the members of St. Mark's for their faithfulness in following Christ in this place for many years and for putting their trust in me as the leader of this parish for this next stage of our church's life.

All of us live from what has been handed down to us, and I am blessed to receive the care of this Parish from the hands of three locums – Graeme Sells, Gail Pinchbeck and Richard Temby, who have all had their impact on the growth and development of St. Mark's in the past couple of years. I particularly thank Richard for his enthusiastic, prayerful and humble method of handing over leadership to me.

St. Mark's is a distinctive community among the Anglican churches in Melbourne. It has long been known for an entrepreneurial approach to mission and a passion for engaging the community with the Gospel in a relevant way that was fostered by the leadership of Peter Crawford and his partners in ministry, including the influential work of ECHO among the youth of Emerald and the Hills. St. Mark's is a church with a reputation! When I was asked to consider applying to be the new minister of St. Mark's it was with this in mind that I approached the process. What I found was a bit different to what I expected—a humble church that is seeking a new season of life and a new direction after years of change and struggle. In many ways St. Mark's approaches 2018 as more of a local church among others in the area and less of the regional ministry centre that it was a decade ago. I believe that what we need then is a renewed vision that addresses where we are now and how we can be faithful to our calling into the future. I began my time here by setting up 'signposts' for the future that express my deepest convictions about the Christian faith. These were that 'grace comes first', that 'we are always being transformed', that we should be 'doing things Jesus' way', and to judge our success by 'the tests of truth and love'. I pray that the heart of these statements will become clearer as the years go on.

Our primary task in 2018 is to discern our future together, and this will be a process that will take care, prayer, and the involvement of all of our community. A church's 'vision' is not merely a list of goals to be achieved or strategies to pursue, but a reflection on the purposes that God has for the church and what he is calling us to be and to do in this particular place and time. This means wrestling with deep questions of theology and how to interpret the Bible. We have spent a Term already discussing what it means to 'be the church', looking at Paul's letter to the Ephesians. We saw that the church is meant to be 'the fullness of him who fills everything in every way', bringing together all things in heaven and earth under Christ. This is a big picture and a big calling, leading us to think deeply about our entire lives and the life of our community and how God is at work among and around us. Thinking about how this

looks for us at St Mark's will be an exciting time and I am looking forward to seeing where God leads us.

In order to be the Church in an authentic way we all need to develop our own life in Christ. My strong belief is that our calling in the next stage of our life at St. Mark's is to engage with how we grow as disciples of Jesus. This is a difficult thing, involving 'taking up our cross' and challenging many of the ways that we have learnt to live since the day we were born. The life of churches is often shaped by the culture and our world as much as or more than it is by the Way of Jesus. This can be seen particularly when we struggle to relate to each other in love and forgiveness, and to be willing to serve with the gifts God has given us. When we come to set the vision of the future of St. Mark's we need to come to terms with this. To 'build' the Church without being built up ourselves will not work. To share the Gospel in words without living it out in deeds will not draw people to a living relationship with Jesus. So I will be inviting our members to start engaging with more intentional discipleship pathways in 2018.

### **Ministries at St. Mark's**

Much of my efforts in my first few months of my time at St. Mark's has been in developing our capacity to set our vision and to make necessary changes in the future. In the past couple of years we have accrued 'deficits' in many areas with regards to the infrastructure that supports contemporary styles of ministry. I was faced even before I began at St. Mark's with the challenge of recruitment of new staff, and corresponded with the Parish Council about how to respond to Christina Diemar's retirement. I am extremely happy with the outcome of our recruitment process with regards to new support staff for St. Mark's. We are very blessed to have Tanja Ungerer as our new Office Administrator and Ally Lord van Leeuwen as our Communications Director. I have given both of them many projects designed to improve the processes of our organisation. These include the adoption of contemporary church management software, a renewed engagement with social media and other communications channels, our policies around facilities hire and how we interact with other groups and organisations in the community. These projects will bear fruit in the year to come with regards to our ability to build sustainable ministries that have the biggest possible impact.

Our office also benefits from the volunteers who do so many things during the week – Shelley Conway, Jeanette Bunn and Jill Johnston have been a warm and supportive presence to care for those who work and visit the office. Jean Baya has done an amazing amount of voluntary caretaking around the site in the past few months, including significant painting works.

I have also tried in this early period of my ministry here to listen and to understand how things at St. Mark's work now and the various kinds of ministries that we currently conduct. There are many strong ministry teams that are doing excellent

work and we have many wonderful leaders who give of their time and energy with great dedication. There are teams who are also asking me, in a spirit of great humility, about their place in St. Mark's in our new season and what I would like them to do. It is not my intention to make drastic changes to our ministries without a clear purpose. What I hope is that we are all open to discussion about why we are doing what we do and how it relates to the rest of our mission and ministry. All of us have a common mission and different gifts and passions to bring to our ministry together.

A word of sincere thanks needs to be given for our lay leadership teams. Our parish cannot operate without people who serve as our Parish Councillors, Wardens, Treasurer and the other committees that govern our church. I have appreciated the dedicated service of Narelle Cosstick, Russell Soderlund and Gill Birkett as Wardens, and thank Russell and Narelle particularly as they step down for a sabbatical year. The Parish Council this year has been well served by the participation of Iain Johnson, Dave Bunn, Courtney Clowes, Sandra Millard, Barry Ryder, Magda Lane, Adam van Leeuwen, Anton Benc, and Joe Verrill. Thanks also to those who are finishing up or stepping down for a year on Council. I also thank Andy Walker for his work as Treasurer and overseeing our property and IT systems. Andy is a particularly dedicated servant of this parish and gives freely of his time and gifts to do many things around St. Mark's that may go unseen but which make life easier for us all.

I would like to highlight the important ministries of the Pastoral Care Team led by Janice Winter and Di Hoare, the large variety of small groups co-ordinated by Russell and Irene Soderlund, the 10am and 8am Sunday and 11am Wednesday service teams with their many volunteers, the ministry to women carried out by Shine, the Opp Shop team led by Magda Lane, Christina Diemar and Colin Millard, the team at Signpost led by Dianna McMahan, and the prayer ministry team facilitated by Mark Cosstick. To list everyone involved in our ministries would be almost to print the parish database in full!

We are also blessed with a dedicated team of ministry staff in Naara Foots, Hollie Boniface and Anne Benc. I am thankful for the foresight of previous Parish Councils in negotiating the sale of 11 Church St in order to redeploy the proceeds in partnership with ECHO for the purpose of funding our ministries and outreach to children and young people. Without this we would have struggled to re-establish a strong and independent ministry in this area. Our team who carry out these various programs and activities are gifted and passionate about what they do. I have undertaken substantial work in negotiating with ECHO about the scope of this project and we are now in a place to reflect in 2018 about the model of ministry in these areas that is appropriate for St. Mark's at the moment. In the next two years we will come to the point of reflecting on the kind of ministry that we are willing and able to resource in the long-term. Our ongoing relationship with ECHO is also developing in a positive direction as Nicole Lane as Executive Manager leads a process of discernment for the future of this mission partner. I am pleased as President of ECHO to look forward to how we can work together on the future of service and mission in the Hills.

## **Conclusion**

We are approaching Christmas now, a time when the message of Jesus is spoken about widely in the community but also a time of great distraction, busyness and opportunities to overspend and overindulge. We will be trying to focus ourselves on the heart of Christmas at St. Mark's, and celebrate God's grace to us in Jesus that allows us to rest and know that we are loved by Him.

The Bowles family has been very well welcomed into the life of this church in the past five months. Camille, Ethan, Finn and I are looking forward to many years at St. Mark's and in the Emerald community. Please pray for us, as we settle in as a family and learn the rhythms and people of this place, that God will open up opportunities to witness to Christ to those we live and work with.

## **Emerald Services 2016/2017**

Attendances – 6758

Communion – 4426

Weddings – 0

Funerals – 10

Baptisms – 0

Confirmation – 4

Reception – 0

Christmas Services – 265

Easter Day – 150

## Warden's Report

2017 has been a year of many challenges, a few good-byes and a few hellos and lots of answered prayers and blessings.

God has been so good to us with some of the highlights of the last 12 months being:

- We were blessed by the leadership and ministry of Richard Temby as our third Locum in what turned out to be a 2 year and 4 month vacancy
- We farewelled Sue Bluett as our Assistant Minister as she took on the role of Priest-In-Charge at Chelsea and Long Beach
- After much prayer and a significant search process, Andrew Bowles was commissioned as Priest-In-Charge of St. Mark's in June
- Getting to know Andrew, Camille, Ethan and Finn as they begin life in the Emerald community
- Celebrating the ministry of Christina Diemar as our long-term Administrator and sending her off to retirement
- We welcomed 2 new staff in Tanja Ungerer as our Office Manager and Administrator and Ally Lord van Leeuwen as our Communications Director
- The progress on the building of the new Vicarage has progressed at a steady pace
- Our Parish Council have been a constant and reliable source of wisdom and steadfastness
- Alpha (lead by Richard) was a significant time of growth for many and saw a number of people impacted in significant ways
- The continued development of policies and procedures to see us comply with our requirements of Occupational Health and Safety, Child Safe Standards and other reporting requirements. This has included the implementation and fine tuning of our Emergency Evacuation Plans and practices of these
- Property Development including the addition of a Defib and more first aid kits, much overdue painting, upgrade to the foyer area and verandah on the office and Op Shop

We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to:

- Richard and Sue Temby for their sacrificial and passionate leadership over the 9 months that Richard was our Locum
- Andrew and Camille as they have obediently followed God's leading on their life
- Sue Bluett for her leadership, wisdom and care for us
- Andy Walker who while insisting he is retiring has continued to lead our finance ministry, take care of our IT requirements and MANY other tasks that come his way. His dedication, generosity and 'Can Do' attitude are truly remarkable
- Christina Deimar as she retired as our Office manager and Administrator after decades of faithful ministry and service to St. Mark's

- The staff team who have had to navigate multiple changes in leadership and have done so with grace, professionalism and dedication while continuing to grow and develop their ministries and be a blessing to many
- Parish Council members, particularly those who are retiring after MANY years of service
- The members of St. Mark's – for your faithfulness in times of change and uncertainty, for your generosity in giving, for your sacrifice in servicing and for your love in all that we do
- To the Incumbency committee who had a mammoth task that was demanding beyond anyone's expectations. God has been so good!

While there has been no shortage of challenges we are grateful for the opportunity and privilege to service God through this role. We are excited about the future and wait expectantly for where and how God will lead us in the next chapter of life for St. Mark's.

Blessings,

Gill Birkett, Narelle Cosstick and Russell Soderlund

In Addition:

Due to a regulatory requirement in the Parish Governance Act, Narelle and Russell are required to step down as Churchwardens after many, many years in this role. Over the years they have each given so much to this role, often at great personal cost. Words cannot describe my appreciation for their faithfulness, strength of character, tenacity, courage, passion for our community, example and love for our awesome God.

Well done good and faithful servants!

Gill

# **Children's & Youth Ministry Report**

## **Playgroup**

At the end of 2016 I really wasn't sure we would have enough numbers to run two playgroups in 2017. Almost one entire group was moving on due to the age of their children and I was opening up playgroup on a Thursday as a new day. In God's faithfulness both the Thursday and Friday groups have been completely filled to overflowing. Each week is a wonderful opportunity to connect with mums, dads and grandparents as well as some lovely little children. We've had good discussions about faith, parenting and life in the hills, with families coming to make connections in the local community. I have really appreciated the pastoral care freezer supporting our playgroup families in times that are a bit hard. Tears have flown many times as I've handed a meal over at the end of playgroup; such a small act of kindness yet a huge blessing!

## **Mainly Music**

After quite some time planning, Mainly Music began in May this year. Again, the group has been very popular with children, mums and grandparents. The session begins with a music time which includes movement, rhyming, instruments and other fun things. Then we enjoy a yummy morning tea and have some social time. Similarly to playgroup, Mainly Music is a strong support to families who need connection, relief and support. It is wonderful to see friendships building and children growing in confidence. It's also great to be able to have an open door to singing and talking about faith. Many of our "God songs" have become family favorites, and we know that seeds of faith are being planted in this way.

## **Parenting Toolbox**

A 6 week course for parents of 0-6 year olds was run in Term 3. The assistance of Stephen Mayes from Endeavor Hills Uniting Church and the support of the wider church community were very much appreciated. The course itself was very well received and again I was amazed at God's faithfulness in gathering participants and giving Stephen and I wisdom, peace and joy in presenting the material.

As I reflect on these outreach ministries, I very much continue to see the need for them in our community. Parents need a safe place where they can be supported and encouraged. It is a joy to be able to provide this at St Mark's. And to not just provide these opportunities because they are good to do, but to continually acknowledge that we serve a living God who provides real hope, love and joy for everyone

## **Kidschurch and Sparklers**

Kidschurch and Sparklers have continued to provide age appropriate learning to our kids on a Sunday during church. At the end of 2016 we stopped running Sparklers due to low numbers, it has been great to see this ministry booming again and a huge

THANKS belongs to Shelley who comes up with ideas, welcomes our small children and their families and gives them value in the way she not just provides child minding but actively seeks to engage their minds and hearts with a knowledge of God.

Similarly, none of these ministries could run without our wonderful volunteers who joyfully serve on a Sunday morning. An area for prayer is that God would raise up more leaders in these ministries, Christians who see the value in walking alongside children as they grow in faith.

In closing, a big thanks to St Mark's for valuing and supporting our children's ministries and also me personally. It means a lot to me to have your encouragement, words of affirmation and willingness to support where you can. I feel very blessed to be able to serve here.

– Hollie Boniface –

### **Power House Kids**

As we approach the end of another year I can see God's guidance and provision in our Children's and Families Ministry this year.

We have had a wonderful committed team serving our Lord faithfully each week to bring this program to children who may never hear about God.

There have been different themes taught throughout the year including:

- The Wordless Book
- You are Special
- Fruit of the Spirit
- Faith is stronger than fear.

We have enjoyed many games nights, craft and cooking, song and dance, stories, memory verses and plenty of prizes each week.

The favourite night for the children seems to be the last week each term where we share and fellowship in the family meal. Most of these nights have seen up to 100 people attend and parents get to join in with the games and enjoy watching what their children are learning. Many thanks of course to the wonderful and generous volunteers teams who are able to make these nights happen!

We have seen our numbers grow as the year has progressed with our flagship 'Walking Bus' still very popular from Emerald Primary School. There are children from Macclesfield, Monbulk, & Mountain district schools attending. We have had a fabulous 36 families registered in the program with 6 of these being St Mark's families.

Several children have special needs and find our program to be a safe and caring environment which is wonderful. Even having one of those children ask for a Bible one week which we were delighted to provide.

It's been a lovely to see how many parents enjoy chatting in the foyer with not only other parents but our team members as well. God has blessed our leaders with many meaningful conversations with these families who come through our doors each week and I am sure the Lord is smiling as His Love is shared through these gifts of service....

### **Holiday Program**

We have had holiday programs during the end of Term 1 & Term 3 this year.

There was a great opportunity to share the Easter story with children during our Term 1 program. The theme was about the true meaning of Easter. With our activities also having an Easter theme, we did the 'Stations of the Cross' being interactive at each post.

Our term 3 program was a 'Lost & Found' theme. The program gives a chance to spend 2 days really getting to know the children and put some simple biblical teaching into the program with lots of fun activities.

We have had several new families come along to our holiday program that haven't been to other programs before. Some of these have now joined our After School program. It's been beautiful to see our teenagers getting to develop Leadership development skills through serving in this program.

Your prayer for these Outreach programs in our community is truly appreciated. Many thanks and blessings for your ongoing support, as we see 'first hand', what God is revealing to us in the midst of our local community. – Anne Benc –

### **Youth@StM**

The Friday night activity for all high school ages has been running in its current format for 5 terms. The number attending has been consistently growing. Activities continue to be chosen to facilitate opportunities for meaningful conversation and relationship building. The format is predictable and we have tried to work alongside families and students busy schedules to encourage regular participation. We have fun and it is a place where young people can come together at the end of the week, invite friends along and either run off steam or wind down for the weekend. We are also trying to establish strong connections with the parents of the students and seek opportunities for parents to connect with each other.

Sunday morning Life Group for high school ages continues to be an intentionally discipleship focussed time every Sunday except the first of each month. We have been aligning the teaching and discussions with the preaching at 10am. Many of the young people have been getting involved in the life of the church by volunteering to go on rosters at the 10am service.

I have continued to be part of the Student Focus team that goes into Emerald Secondary College most Fridays at lunchtime during the term. This continues to be a

time of working collaboratively with the team from St Luke's and representing St Mark's in that school community.

The hope of seeing age specific Life Groups find a shape and grow has been slower than I had hoped. I have seen the need to spend more time sharing the vision with St Mark's and encouraging potential leaders for these groups.

I continue to pray that our youth will grow in their love for God and each other and that, St Mark's will challenge, encourage and support each of our young people to live authentic, God honouring lives.

### **AllStars 5/6@StM**

Our program for Grade 5 &6 students started in term 2 of this year. We have had consistent numbers and good connections with parents of the students that regularly attend. We run games in the hall after school on Fridays and have afternoon tea together. We will be transitioning our Grade 6 students into our Youth@StM Friday program later this term and hope that we will be able to do this well, to build on these relationships in 2018. – Naara Foots –

## **Opp Shop Report**

The Emerald Opp Shop has been running since 1990, originally as a partnership between the Emerald Hospice and St. Mark's with the proceeds being distributed to community organisations. At present we donate money to the Clematis CFA, Emerald CFA, Emerald SES, Signpost Community Magazine and the St Mark's children's ministry.

The Opp Shop provides a great service to our community with some customers coming almost daily. We praise God for always supplying a great group of volunteers whose hard work sorting and serving makes the running of the shop possible and enables people to purchase goods at a greatly reduces price to normal retails prices, and this in turn helps with recycling and reducing of waste.

Each year we honour our volunteers with a special lunch to say thank you for all the hard work they do. Many of them spend more hours than they have to, helping customers and in keeping the shop clean and tidy. You will have noticed a new entrance and verandah to the shop. This has enabled goods to be left in a more secure and dry area.

The committee thanks God for his guidance and provision this year.

– On behalf of the Emerald Opp Shop Committee –

## **Echo Partnership Report**

The past year at Echo Youth and Family Services has been one of great change with Wayne's retirement at the end of 2016 and my appointment as Executive Manager in June this year. Since I took over I have been continually impressed by the dedication of our staff and volunteers, who tirelessly work to support people through our various programs.

It is still a time of change for Echo, with uncertainty about the future of some of our programs and exciting new opportunities arising to show God's love to more members of the local community. Please pray for our Management Committee as they continue to seek God's will for the future direction of Echo Youth and Family Services.

As an independent charity Echo has a broad scope to be involved in a range of projects, however it is our connection to the local churches that makes us a Christian charity. The support of St Mark's members over the past 30 years has helped Echo grow into a nationally-recognised charitable organisation and it is my prayer that we can continue our partnership into the future.

Thank you for your prayers and support – *Nicole Lane* – Echo Executive Manager

## Financial Report

It's been a busy year at St Mark's, in terms of its finances as well as everything else. Given the uncertainties of timing when the budget was created in October 2016, the budget figures were 'tweaked' at the end of the first half year as foreshadowed at last year's AGM, in order to align them with reality by which time, all the major uncertainties were known.

Apart from Andrew's very welcome arrival in June, two other major items impinge on the figures. Both of these stemmed from the sale of 11 Church. One allowed us to undertake some property improvements whilst the other allowed us to boost our outreach programs into the local community. This seems an appropriate place to underline the fact that 11 Church was originally donated to St Mark's by a handful of generous-minded individuals and no general parish funds (i.e. regular giving) was used. For this reason, with the original donor's approval, the Parish Council felt it appropriate to tackle some capital projects that would otherwise be beyond us.

Whilst regular giving was behind budget the total operating income was very close to plan. Operating costs were behind the forecast, mostly because the Diocesan assessment was less than anticipated. The fact that we decided to defer the annual Thanksgiving Event until a more opportune time, of course, impacted this year's result quite considerably and resulted in a small deficit as against the forecasted surplus.

Our usual auditor, Mike Gill, was unable to undertake the audit this year, due to ill health, and so W.A. Nutton and Associates, of Berwick, were engaged to check our figures. Fully accredited auditors are a Diocesan requirement for a church of our size and so this change is likely to continue into the future. Your prayers for Mike would be appreciated. – Andy Walker –

## Statement of assets & liabilities – Sep 30<sup>th</sup> 2017

### Assets

Cash at Bank	
NAB chq account	\$32,217
NAB CM account	\$120,299
ANZ Cheque Account	\$4509
ANZ Bus Premium A/C	\$295
UCA Cash Management	\$30,279
Shares (bequest)	\$169,270
ADF Building fund	\$82,142
UCA VR Fund	\$10,218
Contra Accounts	\$14,337
Prepayments	\$2096
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$465,663</b>

### Liabilities

Current Liabilities	\$13,055
Other Liabilities	\$118,459
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$131,515</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$334,148</b>

## Income and costs - FY2017

	Selected Period	Budgeted	Difference	Difference
<b>Operating income</b>				
<b>Offerings</b>				
Offerings - 8am	\$11,002	\$10,911	\$91	1%
Offerings - 11am Wed	\$4,261	\$3,638	\$623	17%
Offerings - 10am	\$50,798	\$58,976	-\$8,178	-14%
Offerings-Direct Debit/Plastic	\$161,909	\$160,905	\$1,004	1%
Offerings - Christmas	\$685	\$1,365	-\$680	-50%
Offerings - Good Friday	\$358	\$460	-\$102	-22%
<b>Total Offerings</b>	<b>\$229,013</b>	<b>\$236,255</b>	<b>-\$7,242</b>	<b>-3%</b>
<b>Donations</b>				
Donations - General	\$3,212	\$3,750	-\$538	-14%
Donations - Parish	\$0	\$4,800	-\$4,800	-100%
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$3,212</b>	<b>\$8,550</b>	<b>-\$5,338</b>	<b>-62%</b>
<b>Property Income</b>				
Rental - Property	\$17,219	\$12,420	\$4,799	39%
Rental - 11 Church St	\$0	\$400	-\$400	-100%
<b>Total Property Income</b>	<b>\$17,219</b>	<b>\$12,820</b>	<b>\$4,399</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Other Income</b>				
Ministry Income	\$48,441	\$43,500	\$4,941	11%
Interest	\$2,576	\$1,600	\$976	61%
<b>Total Operating income</b>	<b>\$300,460</b>	<b>\$302,725</b>	<b>-\$2,265</b>	<b>-1%</b>

<b>Operating expenses</b>				
Donations (Missions)	\$29,469	\$26,855	\$2,614	10%
Total Salaries and Allowances	\$143,388	\$152,598	-\$9,210	-6%
Property Costs	\$32,026	\$15,200	\$16,826	111%
Ministry Costs	\$16,801	\$18,300	-\$1,499	-8%
Office costs	\$20,069	\$17,500	\$2,569	15%
Other costs	\$44,003	\$70,446	-\$26,443	-38%
<b>Total Operating expenses</b>	<b>\$285,755</b>	<b>\$300,899</b>	<b>-\$15,144</b>	<b>-5%</b>
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>\$14,705</b>	<b>\$1,826</b>	<b>\$12,879</b>	<b>705%</b>
<b>Other Income</b>				
Carols By Candlelight	\$1,000	\$2,000	-\$1,000	-50%
Approved property fund	\$210	\$0	\$210	NA
TGW - 2017	\$526	\$50,000	-\$49,474	-99%
ECSI Funding	\$85,000	\$80,000	\$5,000	6%
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$86,736</b>	<b>\$132,000</b>	<b>-\$45,264</b>	<b>-34%</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>				
Alpha course	\$4,410	\$1,800	\$2,610	145%
Vicarage costs	\$7,657	\$1,573	\$6,084	387%
TGS16 Distribution	\$0	\$25,000	-\$25,000	-100%
Carols By Candlelight	\$1,095	\$1,100	-\$5	-1%
Exhaust fan kitchen	\$2,050	\$2,050	\$0	0%
Freezer	\$1,699	\$1,699	\$0	0%
ECSI - ASLM Salaries	\$79,012	\$72,896	\$6,116	8%
ECSI - Non Salary	\$9,820	\$9,920	-\$100	-1%
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$105,742</b>	<b>\$116,038</b>	<b>-\$10,296</b>	<b>-9%</b>
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>-\$4,301</b>	<b>\$17,788</b>	<b>-\$22,089</b>	<b>-124%</b>

This report would be incomplete without sincere thanks to our trusty band of volunteers, Sandra Millard, Paul Emms and Carol Copley.

Income summary		Commentary	
<b>Core operations</b>		Income	
Giving	\$3,680	\$4,000	11am - static
""	\$11,000	\$12,000	8am - some growth
""	\$59,000	\$50,500	10am - 5% growth
""	\$161,000	\$165,000	Elec - 5% growth
""	\$25,000	\$25,000	Thanksgiving
""	\$5,000	\$3,000	Donations
Rental properties	\$4,000	\$3,750	8 Westlands
Opp shop	\$44,000	\$44,000	Total received
ECHO cost share	\$6,000	\$10,000	
Funded programs	\$1,000	\$162,500	50% year 1 + 50% year 2
<b>Core income sub-total</b>		<b>\$479,750</b>	
<b>Other income</b>		Income	
Bequest		\$0	
<b>Other income sub-total</b>		<b>\$0</b>	
Expenses summary		Commentary	
<b>Core operations</b>		Costs	
Tithing on giving	\$23,468	\$23,150	10% regular giving
Organisation costs	\$90,550	\$101,000	From detail
Staff salaries		\$191,880	Core cost staff
Ministries (non-sal)	\$10,200	\$18,350	From detail
<b>Core costs sub-total</b>		<b>\$334,380</b>	
<b>Funded programs</b>			
Staff costs		\$110,813	From detail
Non-sal costs		\$15,000	Estimate
<b>Programs sub-total</b>		<b>\$125,813</b>	
<b>Other costs</b>		Costs	
Tithing on bequest in 2018		\$11,500	Remaining for distribution
Tithing on property sale in 2018		\$6,000	1/3 of total pa
Property improvements		\$0	From detail
Loan costs		\$2,000	9 months only
<b>Other costs sub-total</b>		<b>\$19,500</b>	
<b>Operating surplus/deficit</b>		<b>\$56</b>	

For further Ministry reports please follow the link on our webpage:  
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