

ST JUDE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, RANDWICK
RECTOR'S REPORT TO ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING
19TH MARCH 2023

Vision: To fill the church with disciples of Jesus Christ

What are we aiming for?

As you'll know if you've been around St Jude's for a while, the vision I've urged us to embrace is to "fill the church with disciples of Jesus Christ". It's a vision which I believe is easy to get behind, because all of us want to see our beautiful building packed, and with the new slate roof being lifted by voices singing to God.

It's a vision which, humanly speaking, seems impossible.

It's a vision which God can fulfil, through our prayers, if he so chooses.

It's a vision which requires patience, faith, hope and love.

It's a vision which needs to encompass all the tribes, languages and nations of Randwick.

What have we done?

As I think about what we're doing here in the ministry, perhaps it can be summarised this way:

- Make connections
- Love people
- Bring the word of the gospel in at every opportunity
- ... all undergirded by prayer.

We make connections both through our Sunday gathering and our many side activities. We endeavour to love all those with whom God grants that connection. And we try to make sure Jesus is never out of the conversation for too long.

The gospel is how people are saved – by believing it! – and it is also how Christians grow. This is because the word of God is the "spiritual milk" which we are to crave in order to grow up into our salvation (1 Peter 2:2).

How has it gone?

There is a vitality about our congregation from which I draw a lot of encouragement. I think that the emphasis on bringing the word of the gospel in at every opportunity is bearing fruit as we see a steady – not overwhelming, but steady – increase in the numbers of people who want to be part of a Bible study group, both for personal Christian growth and to support others in their growth.

We see that vitality show through in that:

- We have new members in the congregation

- There are new initiatives in our ministry program, for example, monthly services both at St Basil's and at Summit Care
- ESL having gathered a great core again after COVID.
- Special services and new initiatives are well supported: everything we have done from the Exodus movie nights, to the Hymn Fest and mini-fair, to our classical concerts, to the Queen's memorial service, have been well supported.
- Offertories holding up even with congregation numbers dropping a little.
- The ongoing strength of our big community events, Fireworks and Carols.

I want the whole congregation to know how valuable and encouraging your support is.

Of particular encouragement was how many people came along to the prayer meeting which we held in early February when I'd specifically said that I was a little worried about our numbers, and that my heart was burdened for the thousands of people in Randwick who do not know the Saviour. And you came here to pray for them. That was so good. And God heard our prayers.

I'm still a little worried about our Sunday numbers. You can see from our facts and figures that we're stable enough at 8 am and 4 pm, but just losing our mojo a bit at 9.30 am.

While it is sad to see numbers dropping, and to feel it on Sundays, it's important not to take it personally, as it is a natural effect of having an older congregation in which people do die or become unable to make it. (I am hoping to add to this comment on Sunday with some more number-crunching analysis.) The bigger issue is that there are still thousands in Randwick who desperately need to hear the gospel: we must be earnestly praying for them.

I would like to acknowledge our great team. Jim is tireless in his Sunday ministry and loving follow-up of congregation members, particularly where they cannot come on Sundays. Andrew G always has a can-do attitude when asked to make something happen, quietly working away in many areas of youth, children's and adults ministry, as well as having become the go-to person for tech. Emma's loving and pastoral connection into the congregation continues to grow (she's been with us a little over one year). Angus has willingly served in new ways, such as providing music for our Lenten Evening Prayer services, as well as all he usually does. Our recent Choral Evensong featured a splendid contribution from the choir.

Our wardens, Alan, Philippa and Diane, are sage sources of advice as well as being "happenators" of so much that goes on in the parish, not to mention being carers, recruiters and inviters. They are a wonderful gift from God.

I also want to acknowledge my own family and particularly my wife Kathryn, who, as is well known, provides a huge amount of loving support and ministry power, both in our household and through activities such as creche, Kids' Club and Playgroup. It has been very pleasing to see Playgroup burst into life again during the second half of 2023.

What is left to do

Quite a lot, obviously! First of all, we must pray.

As always, our connections are plentiful. We are blessed with good connections into the community (although it still must be admitted that the many hundreds of people with warm connections to St Jude's are probably dwarfed by thousands in Randwick without even a casual connection to church).

It has always been my aim to be more deliberate about using our connections to offer people an opportunity to meet Jesus close-up. Let us pray for this to take place.

Vision Prayer

Glorious God and Father, heaven and earth are full of your majesty. It is right for all people to praise you, and yet so many do not. In your grace, enlighten blind eyes, and pour your love into cold hearts by your Spirit. Show your power and mercy to our community, and fill this church with people to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Andrew Schmidt
19th March 2023

Appendix: Facts and figures

Average Attendances							
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
9.00 am combined svce (COVID)	51						
8.00 am	27	39	34	35	39	37	35
8.00 am online	7						
9.30 am	41	54	56	48	58	64	66
Sunday School (incl. Sun. Youth)	8*	8*	8*	7	10		
6.30 pm/6.00 pm/4.00 pm	23	18	14	20	21	13	15
Total adults (regular Sundays)	98	111	104	103	118	114	116
Friendship Group	10*	11*	13*	14	15	13	
Youth	13	15	15*	12	8		
Kids' Club	16	17	15*	13			
*Estimates. The Sunday School estimates include Youth Bible Study at least from 2020.							

Occasional Services							
	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Baptisms	6	0	2	2	6	9	25
Weddings	7	7	2	4	5	6	1
Funerals	11	8	13	10	12	18	19

St Jude's Anglican Church, Randwick

Churchwardens' Report 2022

Buildings and Grounds

With the Church roof replacement project completed in 2021, this year we have been able to focus our attention on a number of maintenance projects such as continuing the stonework repair of the Church, improving the drainage around the Rectory and the Townhouses and replacing the lights outside the Parish Room.

Preparation for the replacement of the Rectory and Parish Centre roofs is well underway with Heritage and Council approvals in place, tenders complete and the contract in the final stages of signing. We expect work to commence soon after Easter. As was the case in the Church roof, the replacement will be on a like for like basis using Welsh Penrhyn slate.

Maintaining the grounds is always a challenge for a property this size and it is through the dedication of volunteers at work bees and at other times that we have been able to keep them looking good. We employ a gardener to do the major work on a regular basis and our thanks also goes to Crispin who has devoted many hours on a paid basis to mowing and keeping the edges looking neat throughout the property. We asked the gardener to spend an extra day every second month in the cemetery to improve its appearance and preserve the historic graves which can become overgrown. This has further improved the appearance of the cemetery, but like all gardening, it is never ending and is difficult to strike the right balance.

Offertories & Donations

The level of offertories increased this year compared to last year, which was a Covid effected year. It is pleasing to see they are returning to pre Covid levels and that many parishioners are setting up regular bank transfers. This helps enormously with cash flow and budgeting.

Financial Condition

Together with offertories, the continued success of the Early Learning Centre has maintained the financial health of the parish and enabled the continuation of the many programs run by the staff and volunteers. It continues to be run extremely well by the Director, Farah Messina and overseen by the Management Committee.

Ongoing Restoration Work

The very generous support of the Restoration Fund this year has enabled us confidently to progress with the renewal of the remaining old slate roofs on the property. There will be a shortfall between the balance of this fund and the cost of the roof work, which will be covered by savings put aside by the Parish Council from Early Learning Centre surpluses of previous years. The plan is

to limit other restoration and maintenance work to essential work only while we manage the cash outflow during the coming year.

The Rector, Staff and Council

The Wardens are grateful for Andrew's continuing enthusiastic leadership during his sixth year as Rector. The challenges for the ministry team of encouraging parishioners back to Church following the Covid shut down while continuing to provide online services have not daunted the team and we appreciate the considerable additional efforts they have made.

Andrew continues to lead and encourage the many programmes and activities of this active Parish. He has been ably supported by Kathryn particularly in children's ministry, playgroup and Kids' Club.

We thank the ministry team and Parish staff for the professionalism, dedication and energy they bring to their roles, particularly again this year due with the extra difficulties presented by the changes as we move on from the pandemic.

Our thanks also go to the Parish Council, for generously giving their time and guidance in overseeing the many aspects of the parish.

Alan Clark
Rector's Warden

Diane Hill
Warden

Philippa Skuja
Warden

Annual Vestry Meeting Pastoral Care Report 19th March 2023

It has been a sad year from one point of view, because we have lost quite a number of our very faithful parishioners.

We give thanks for the lives of the following parishioners:

Robert Wilson

Gwen Rose

Mavis Matthews

Edmy O'Hearn

Anne Giles

Dorothy Pearson

Fred Orr

Roma Parmenter

It is sad for us, however we rejoice because they are safe in God's care and keeping.

It is rather difficult visiting nursing homes in that you have to phone first and when you arrive it is necessary to have a COVID test. However, we are able now to visit regularly Summit Care and St Basil's.

During the month I normally take communion to four to five parishioners.

Phoning people is still an activity I find helpful in that it keeps you up to date with parishioners.

I give thanks to God for being part of the Ministry Team at St Jude's.

Rev. Jim Le Huray
Assistant Minister

Annual Vestry Meeting Report - Pastoral Care

Our Pastoral Care Team involves Jim Le Huray, Philippa Skuja, Jacqui Guy and Lyn Stewart. The team has worked hard in the last 12 months caring for many members of the congregation who have been unable to come to church or are struggling with illness or other issues. They have cared for them through phone calls, visits and practical assistance.

The team also implemented a monthly transport run for those who find it difficult to get to church, however after several months, it was decided not to continue with the program due to the expense, administrative load and small take up rate.

I am so encouraged by the way the team continues to care for and support those in need. It is such a privilege to be involved in pastoral care and to be able to think through how we as a church can be helping people to connect and feel cared for.

During the last year we have also had the opportunity to commence monthly services at two local aged care facilities; SummitCare and St Basil's. Jim and I run the monthly Tuesday morning SummitCare service. It has been well received by the staff and residents and has seen an increase in the numbers attending each month. We recently began a monthly service on a Thursday afternoon at St Basil's and Andrew Schmidt and I have enjoyed getting to know the residents who attend and being able to minister to them through the service.

Please be praying for us that we will care for people well, encouraging them to persevere in their faith in hard times and continue to trust in God and His goodness to them. Pray that we would be aware of those in need of pastoral care, that no one would 'fall through the cracks'.

Pray that God would give us wisdom to keep thinking through how best to run pastoral care here at St Jude's.

In Christ,

Rev. Emma Little

Women's & Pastoral Care Minister

Annual Vestry Meeting Report - Kid's Club

Our Wednesday afternoon Kid's Club runs from 3-5pm each week and follows on from our Scripture classes and Randwick Public School. We are able to pick the kids up after school and walk them back to the Parish Room for the program. Andrew Goddard, Kathryn Schmidt and Samuel Pietsch all do a wonderful job in helping to run this ministry each week. I am also very grateful to Philippa Skuja, Phillippa Clark and Jacqui Playfair for providing afternoon tea for the kids each week.

The first few weeks of Kid's Club in 2023 has seen a decline in attendance. Last year we averaged around 16 kids each week however this year usually sees about 8 attending on a Wednesday.

Last year we spent a term focussing on heroes of the faith from the Bible, one term in the gospel of Matthew and one looking at a gospel outline in the lead up to Christmas. This term we are looking at the book of Isaiah. I really enjoy engaging in God's word with the kids and helping them to understand how the Bible fits together and what God has done for each of them in Jesus. It's a real joy to see the kids engaging with the Bible, asking questions and thinking through what it means for them.

Please pray that more kids would come along each week, that we would teach them in a way that is faithful and engaging and that the kids would understand the gospel and put their trust in Jesus.

Give thanks for all the families connected to Kid's Club. Please pray that we would be able to engage with the families and continue to build relationships with them as we run this ministry each week.

In Christ,

Rev. Emma Little

Women's & Pastoral Care Minister

Annual Vestry Meeting Report - Scripture

Each week we teach 8 Scripture classes across two half hour blocks on a Wednesday afternoon at Randwick Public School. It is such a great opportunity to be able to go into the school and teach the kids about Jesus. Andrew Schmidt, Andrew Goddard, Kevin Huynh and Cheryl Cartwright make up our team of teachers and I'm very thankful for the time and effort each of them put into teaching the students. I love being involved in Scripture each week; interacting with the kids and helping them to understand God's great salvation plan in his word.

As we have begun a new year of Scripture at RPS many of us have been able to continue teaching the same classes we had during the previous year. It has been great to have many of the same students again and for the kids to have familiar faces teaching them each week.

CEP (Christian Education Publications) provides us with a great curriculum and resources to use with our classes and our half hour lessons go by very quickly!

Please be praying for all of the kids that come to Scripture each week, that they would grow in their understanding of God and his word and put their trust in Jesus.

Pray that we would be able to share our faith with the kids and model what it looks like to live as a Christian.

Give thanks for the good support we receive from the school for this ministry, that we would continue to have good communication and good relationships with the teachers and families at Randwick Public.

In Christ,

Rev. Emma Little

Women's & Pastoral Care Minister

Annual Vestry Meeting Report - Women's ministry

A large part of my role at St Jude's is to teach, train and disciple the women of our church. I am very thankful for the many opportunities I have to do this each week through a variety of different ministries. The Tuesday night Bible study has recently changed to Thursday night which has meant we have been able to welcome a couple of new members to our group. The Thursday morning group has seen a few changes over the last year but has also welcomed new members. I love being able to dig into God's word with these women each week, to encourage and pray for each other, it's such a joy!

Last year some of the St Jude's women attended the EQUIP conference via livestream and the KCC One Love conference in person. These days are great opportunities for teaching and fellowship with one another. We will be holding our own women's brunch on March 25. I am hoping it will be a great morning to spend time with women from across all our congregations and think about prayer in the Christian life.

In the last twelve months I have also had the opportunity to speak about singleness at a Moore Women evening and to give a gospel talk at two other churches for their women's Christmas events. I am looking forward to us holding an evangelistic women's event for Christmas this year at the end of November.

Please pray for wisdom about the best way to care for, teach and encourage the women of St Jude's, what that might look like week to week and also throughout the year.

Pray that I would watch my life and doctrine closely (1 Tim. 4:16) as I serve and minister and live out my own faith.

In Christ,

Rev. Emma Little

Women's & Pastoral Care Minister

St Jude's AVM 2023

Report on Sunday School, Youth Group and Evangelism & Outreach – Andrew Goddard

Sunday School

The St Jude's Sunday School is a key part of our Afternoon Service, providing teaching, fellowship and fun to primary age children. In terms 2 and 3 of 2022 the Sunday School followed 1 Corinthians along with the preaching calendar, and in term 4 we did a series on Matthew chapters 1-7, 'God With Us.'

The group has remained small yet consistent thanks to the efforts of our leaders. In 2022 the leaders were a rotation of staff and parents, so that everyone would get an opportunity to be in the service. In 2023, we are very happy to welcome Ben Warren as our new link with Uni Church, with his main role being the main leader for Sunday School. This is a great blessing to the ministry as it allows other leaders to be on less frequently and will allow there to be more consistency in the leaders that the kids have week to week.

Please pray for the growth of this ministry, and that it will be a welcoming place for children of all ages as we seek to reach families in the community with the Good News of Jesus.

Youth Group

The Friday night Youth Group's aim is to encourage the youth of St Jude's in their relationship with Christ and to reach out to youth in our community with the Gospel. The weekly attendance at Youth Group has gone down this past year, from an average of 13 to 8, but we have also seen new members join us and a continued growth in the number of girls. The average age of the group has gone down, indicating that this is a time of transition and rebuilding for the ministry.

Over the last year the Youth Group teaching program has consisted of a different series each school term. The different series have been 'Fear and Freedom' Matthew 8-12, 'Homeward Bound' 1 Peter, and 'One Great Story' looking at all the different genres in the Bible and how they point to Jesus. Our current series is in 'The Week that Changed the World' looking at Mark 11-16 in the lead up to Easter. It has been a great blessing that the leadership of the group has remained consistent, with Ed, Nari and Josh all continuing. This has enabled them to deepen the relationship that they have formed with the youth and be able to teach and pastor them well.

Our Sunday youth Bible study group also continued throughout 2022. Ed and David shared the leadership of this ministry in 2022. At the end of the year David stepped down as his time with us came to an end, and Ed has taken on the main leadership of group in 2023, with the assistance of staff when needed. The group currently has an average of 4 participants per week.

Please pray for the ministry to youth in our area, that we will continue to form relationships with them and have opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with them too.

Evangelism & Outreach

Over the past year there have been a number of outreach opportunities at St Jude's. These range from events that are more focussed on creating connections with members of our community, to courses that are more evangelistic in nature. Some notable events have been: the Easter Picnic, Fireworks, Hymnfest, Carols and Christmas Markets, and Lessons and Carols. Hundreds of people have come onto the grounds of St Jude's as a result of these events, and have experienced the welcoming community that we are. We continue to pray for them, that God will bless them again in the coming year, and that we will continue to find ways big and small to share the Good News of Jesus at each of them.

A number of Evangelism courses have taken place of the past year as well. In 2022, Andrew S and Emma co-hosted the video based 'life of Jesus' course which was well attended. This course was helpful for those who might already have had a basic understanding of the Gospel. Currently, we are running another Simply Christianity course, which investigates the claims Jesus makes about himself in the Gospel of Luke. Please thank God for everyone who has attended these courses or expressed an interest to do so. It does seem that the greatest growth comes through individual relationships, and when God uses them to bring people into the St Jude's community and into a relationship with His Son.

St Jude's Church Randwick

Mission Report 22

The mission of St Jude's Church is to bring Christ's joyful message of hope and redemption to Randwick through local outreach, to the wider Australian Community and the world through the missionaries we support.

Church Missionary Society

We were very sad to hear that our link missionaries with CMS, Jerome, Indra, Elijah and David, who had been in Malaysia for four years, decided, after their 6-month home leave, to depart from CMS and pursue other areas of mission. It was wonderful partnering with them while they trained and during their work in Malaysia. We also really enjoyed the week they spent with us in February 22 where we heard Indra speak to a small group of women at a morning tea and Jerome speak on Science and the Bible to a quite large mixed group. Indra attended KYB Bible Study and they both attended all three Sunday Services, staying to chat at Morning Tea and enjoying a relaxed Pot Lunch dinner with the 4pm Service. We do pray that their new path will be fulfilling and that God will bless them in their work.

At present we have put a request in with CMS to assign us a new link missionary and are waiting to hear back.

St Jude's donates each year to CMS, from plate giving.

Bush Church Aid Society

St Jude's has continued to support Philip, Jessica, Jasper, Tabitha, Otto and Corin Van't Spyder during 2022. Philip continued to fulfil his work at the Anglican Church in Yeppoon and Jessica worked as the school chaplain at the local primary school.

We were very pleased that during the year Jessica and Philip were able to come to be with us on our **Mission Sunday** in August. We gained a better insight into their work by being with them and sharing morning tea and meals with them. We were pleased to be able to raise \$700 dollars (on top of our regular plate donation) for BCA, at the Mission Sunday Morning Teas.

Sadly, a portion of the money that was being used to support the Van't Spyners, through BCA, was not able to continue and towards the end of 2022 the family had to leave Yeppoon. They are no longer with BCA and Philip is working at All Saints Church Moree, as an assistant minister. We do pray that their new location will be suitable for the family and pray for God's continued blessing on their new work in Moree.

We have contacted BCA to allocate us a new link missionary and are waiting to hear back.

Nungalinya College

St Jude's continues to support Nungalinya College financially and prayerfully. We keep up with their news via the newsletter and with prayer points.

At our Hymn Fest in November 2022, we raised \$1400 (on top of our usual yearly plate donation) from the Devonshire Tea, stalls and via donations. A wonderful effort.

Anglican Aid

The wonderful concert in October featuring students from St Catherine's College, Waverly raised \$ 730 for the Anglican Aid Pakistan Flood Appeal.

Mission Prayer

A small group of faithful staff and parishioners meet monthly for an hour to have a light lunch and pray for local and overseas mission. We continue to encourage others in our congregation to join our group.

Samaritan Christmas Boxes

During 2022 St Jude's Church was again a collection point for boxes from our congregation and for others in the local area. We had an excellent response from both sources. It is wonderful to know children overseas are receiving useful gift with a Christian Christmas message and an opportunity through ongoing lessons to find out more about Jesus.

Stamps for Mission

Thanks to the continuing support from parishioner's, we are able to send off stamps each year to CMS, BCA or ABM. This is done in rotation. These are sorted and sold to support missionaries overseas.

Christian Women Communicating International (World wide Bible-based faith ministry) Jacqui Guy continues to work with CWCI in Melanesia helping train and set up KYB Bible Study Groups. We pray for this work each month.

Giving to Mission

Below are the amounts given to Mission in the 2022 Calendar Year

Organisation	Amount
CMS	\$4,216.26
ABM	\$1405.42
BCA	\$1405.42 Plus \$860 for Devonshire Tea
Anglicare	\$ 2810.84 Plus \$475 Anglicare North Coast for Floods
Bible Society	\$1405.42
Nungalinya College	\$1405.42 Plus \$475 from Devonshire Tea and Stalls at Hymn Fest
Campus Bible Study	\$4,800(400 per month) Plus \$20,000 Donation towards new premises
Anglican Aid	\$730 raised from concert for Pakistan Floods
Generate Ministries	\$1405.42 Supports chaplaincies in Public Schools
Anglicare	\$604.20 Raised at Cemetery Carols to be decided which area
Total	\$41,998.40

Mission Secretary

Philippa Skuja

This is a template for reporting to a parish council. The information in the report should be to the calendar year specified below.

Parish: St Jude's

Randwick

Date:

For the year: 2022

8/3/23

Safe Ministry Rep: Philippa Skuja

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: 6

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: 4

Junior Leaders: 0

Safe Ministry Checks (SMC)

Total number conducted in the year: 2

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

- No Job/Role description (<https://safeministry.org.au/resource-docs/>)
- Yes Relevant Blueprint document (<https://safeministry.org.au/blueprints/>)
- Yes Faithfulness in Service code of conduct (<https://safeministry.org.au/faithfulness-in-service-code-of-conduct/>)
- Yes Safe Ministry Check Clearance (<https://safeministry.org.au/safe-ministry-check-information/>)
- No 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: 18

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/>

- No Generic permission form
 No Enduring permission form
 No 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

- Yes Safe Ministry Blueprint for Churches

Youth Ministry

Yes No

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

Children's Ministry

Yes No

- Yes Safe Ministry Blueprint - Head of Children's Ministry
 Yes 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:

Job/role descriptions- this is a continuing work in process and should be completed in 2023

Application Forms- St Jude's has their own application forms. The generic form needs to be checked to see if anything needs to be added.

Generic Permission, Enduring Permission and activity approval forms- St Jude's has their own forms. The generic forms need to be checked to see if anything needs to be added.

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
Kids Club	3.00 pm Wed	Infants and primary
Service	8am Sun	Adult and senior
Service	9.30am Sun	Children, youth, adults, senior
Service	4pm Sun	Youth, children, adults, seniors
Service/Friendship group	10am Fri (monthly)	Seniors
Prayers for Mission	12pm Thurs (monthly)	Adults, Seniors
Youth Group	7pm Fri	Youth, Adults
Sunday School	4pm Sun	Children
Crèche	9.30am Sun	Toddlers. adults
Craft group	10am Wed	Seniors
KYB Bible Study	7.30 (Fortnightly)	Adults, Seniors
Women's Bible Study	10am Thurs	Adults, Seniors
Women's Bible Study	7.30pm Thurs	Adults, Seniors
Mixed Bible Study	7.30pm Wed	Adults, Seniors
Bellringers	6.30pm Tues, 9am Sun	Youth, Adults, Seniors
ESL	10am Mon	Adults, Seniors
Morning Tea/Supper	9am, 10.45am, 5pm Sun	Toddlers, Children, Youth, Adults, Seniors
Choir	7pm Tues, 9.30am Sun	Youth, Adults, Seniors
Youth Bible Study	9.30am Sun	Youth, Adults
Playgroup	9.30am Tues	Adults, Toddlers, Babies

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

Group/Activity	Meeting times	Age group
Ramblers	10am Fri (Monthly)	Adults, Seniors
Scripture	Wed at various times (weekly in term time)	Children, Youth, Adults
Mixed Bible Study	Tues 7pm	Parishioner's House

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

Name	Date	Company	Phone	Activity
Nil				

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

Date	Reported by	Nature of incident/Action taken
Nil		

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES:

Changes Completed in 2022

- SAMRO record keeping for WWCC, Safe Ministry Training and Safe Ministry Checks operating well
- Locks on Parish Room are working efficiently
- Increased hours of lighting in church grounds established
- Information about Children's\Youth severe allergies and other information collected by Group Leaders is stored in a safe location
- Regular checks (in accordance with Maintenance Schedule) of AED and First Aid Kits taking place
- There were no incidents of Health and Safety Concerns noted in the Risk Assessment Book located in Parish Offices.

For 2023

- Complete job descriptions for each staff member
- Complete role descriptions for leaders of Kids Club, Youth, Creche, Sunday School
- Check St Jude's Application, Permission, Enduring Permission and activity approval forms against generic forms provided by the Diocese to make sure they contain all needed information
- Review evacuation procedures in Church, Parish Room and Church Offices and check to see if signage is adequate
- Review evacuation procedures with staff, wardens, parish council and group leaders, sides people.
- Carry out practise evacuations in each of the above locations
- Offer First Aid Course for those who need to update and any other Staff member or Parishioner who would like to gain skills
- Investigate availability of Safe Food handling Courses and offer it to staff and Parishioners
- Parish Council to Develop a WH and Safety Policy
- Place signs in Parish Room Kitchen preventing children under 10 from entering
- Review that all hazardous substances are labelled or out of reach of children
- Scan all past WWCC and Safe Ministry Certificates digitally
- Finalise process for storing Safe Ministry data safe
- check to see if staff have adequate work stations at home

SAFE MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE:

Name : Philipa Skuja

Signed: _____

Date: 9/3/23

Ramblers

2022

The Ramblers is a walking group for parishioners and any member of the community who would like to join. The aim of the group is to promote fellowship, fitness and to discover more of our beautiful city. Moderate fitness is required and a willingness to get to know and enjoy the company of the fellow Ramblers. The Ramblers provides opportunities to bring people into a church activity where they can meet Christians and discuss many topics including the Christian Faith.

The Ramblers meet in the St Jude's carpark at 10am on the first Friday of each month taking with them their own packed lunch, water and opal card. The duration of the outings are usually four to five hours. The Ramble destinations are advertised in the Bulletin several weeks before the due date. Information is also available from the church office, Philippa Skuja or Phillipa and Alan Clark.

During 2022, where possible, the walks were planned in two parts. The first part a ride on transport or a short walk with morning tea at a café and a chat. The second part for those who would like to have a good walk and see more continue on for the rest of the day.

During 2022 an enthusiastic group of eight to ten participants each month visited the following and more:-

- Coogee with return walk via Gordons Bay and Fred Hollows Reserve
- Bundeena by Train and Ferry and walk on arrival
- Little Bay and walk to La Peruse
- Commenced at Waverly and completed the Bronte Historic Walk
- Bi Centennial Park Circuit
- Wolli Creek and Cooks River

We welcome anyone who would like to join the Ramblers as it is a wonderful way to meet new people, make new friends and contribute to your fitness.

Philippa Skuja

BELLRINGERS' REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCIL 2023

Ringling returned to its pre-COVID level last year. Numbers at our regular Tuesday night practice sessions range from 6 to 12, while numbers at Sunday Service ringing average around 6 to 8 as a number of ringers who come to Tuesday practices ring at other towers on Sunday mornings. We are fortunate in that five of our ringers are regular attendees at church – these are the three Gilchrists (Angus, Alexander and Andrew), Diana Whitton and myself.

We often ring for weddings, with such ringing occurring in January, March and November 2022.

Also, during 2022 there was a number of occasions when special ringing was carried out.

- On 15th January, a quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor was rung to farewell Kate Simms and husband Xiang on their move to Newcastle. This was also a farewell ring to Johan Nash-Smith on his return home to Ilminster in Somerset. Johan is a regular visitor to Randwick.
- On 6th February, rounds and call changes were rung to mark the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth 11.
- Rounds and call changes were again rung on 5th June to mark Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee as Queen.
- The half-muffled tenor was tolled 96 times on 9th September in memory of Queen Elizabeth. This was then followed by half-muffled general ringing.
- On 13th September, a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in memory of the Queen – this was also rung half-muffled.
- On 17th September, a half-muffled full peal of Bristol Surprise Major was rung in memory of the Queen. This was only the third full peal rung on the current bells installed in 2000, and took just over three hours to ring.
- Half-muffled tolling of the tenor 70 times followed by ringing of rounds and call changes occurred on 22nd September as part of Australia's National Day of Mourning for Queen Elizabeth.
- A quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung on 12th October, in memory of Ian Langford-Brown, Ross's brother.
- The tenor was tolled at the completion of Fred Orr's funeral service on 11th November.

Ringers would appreciate fans on the walls of the ringing chamber for cooling purposes and updating of lighting around the peal board.

New ringers are always welcome and practices on a Tuesday night are from 18:30 to 20:00. No special skills (apart from a wish to enjoy oneself and become involved in a very open and welcoming society) are needed and there is a number of trained ringers who can teach you the art of campanology – bellringing.

I wish to again acknowledge the on-going support provided to St Jude's bellringers by our Rector Andrew Schmidt and the Parish Council.

Ross Langford-Brown

Choir Annual Report 2022-2023
Angus Gilchrist - Organist and Choirmaster

With the lifting of the remaining COVID singing restrictions in Nov-2021 we have enjoyed our first full year of singing more or less as we were pre-pandemic. It has been good to be able to practice and sing during services normally without having to be distanced, and facing particular directions at particular times so as to stay within the health restrictions!

Thursday rehearsals returned more or less to normal at the end of 2021, and there are roughly 9 regular choristers who attend. At the practices we run through the hymns for Sunday, as well as rehearsing the music that the choir sings on its own during the communion.

We were fortunate again to have some additional visiting choristers for our Nine Lessons and Carols service at Christmas. Having a few additional voices in the choir makes a big difference and I was very pleased with how the choir sounded on the night. We again scheduled some additional Saturday rehearsals to ensure that we were well-prepared. Thank-you to all who were involved with this hard work for and help with this service.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the two Choral Evensong services that were planned in 2022. Although there weren't COVID restrictions preventing these services, on both occasions we had several choristers who had caught COVID and who then weren't able to come to the service. However, our most recent Choral Evensong service (held just last week) was able to go ahead. It was a great success and was enjoyed by all who came, both choir and congregation.

The organ has been working well throughout the year, helped by less severe weather than we usually experience (sudden changes in temperature or humidity are difficult for the wood and leather components of the organ). Peter Jewkes, whose company maintains the organ, is still working on a proposal for the next phase of maintenance and enhancements, and hopefully we can table this proposal with the Parish Council this year. The most important maintenance item is the replacement of the Swell Oboe soundboard. This soundboard is at the end of its life, and has been causing some notes to stick on from time to time (thankfully not frequently).

I would like to thank also Bob Hall and Alexander Gilchrist for their organ voluntaries which they have played this year after the 9:30 morning services, and also after Choral Evensong.

Thank you to everyone who sang with the choir during the year, including the regular and guest choristers who have sung with the choir at various times. I'd also like to thank the congregation for their support. Advertisement: we are always looking to recruit new choir members, so if you know of anyone who can read music and is interested in joining the choir, please do put them in touch with me!

Angus Gilchrist

Organist and Choirmaster

CRAFT REPORT

During the year we had a break in meeting. We have now resumed our meeting and we meet on a Wednesday morning for a couple of hours. Would be pleased if anyone would like to join us.

Dorothy Cohen
On behalf of the group.

Bible and English Report (ESL)

March, 2023

I write this report with thanks for answered prayers!

The remaining months of 2022 continued with low numbers, however the teaching team focused on the people who came, rather than numbers. We continued to pray for more students and our prayers were answered as numbers increased significantly when we resumed classes in February 2023.

Previous students have returned from China and it was a joy to reconnect. We now average 8-10 students each week, from China, Iran, Hungary, Sth America and Mongolia. Sadly, our most committed student Nancy has returned to China temporarily and we miss her very much.

We continue to have two classes, (beginner, advanced beginner/elementary) each Monday morning during school terms. Classes are relaxed, and interactive with a short morning tea break. We are planning to add a multicultural sharing exercise post morning tea prior to our Bible story segment within the next few weeks. This will encourage further use of language and allow each participant to share something about their country of birth. We anticipate that both staff and students will benefit from this information sharing.

We are thankful for the ongoing support of the ministry team, parish council and parishioners in both prayer and provision of resources, such as additional bilingual Chinese/English new testaments that were recently purchased for our Chinese speaking students. Currently, all participants attend the short Bible story segment that is part of the lesson. We are also grateful for the availability of high-quality Anglicare resources that minimise teaching preparation each week.

A special thanks to Joanna, a trained language/ ESL teacher and Ping who travels a significant distance to assist as a translator for beginner Chinese students. We are also thankful for Ann and Robin who assist students to complete worksheets and help in so many ways. We continue to give thanks for each person's expertise and commitment in supporting this ministry as we look forward to sharing the good news of Jesus, with our multicultural community through teaching English.

Lyn Stewart, Coordinator

Friendship Group Report 2022

There is very little to report from the friendship group. We are meeting regularly once a month and have 12 members with an average attendance of 10. We lost a few members last year and have sadly not added any new friends.

Carole Kerr and Marie Scrope have been generous and reliable helpers and recently we have appreciated Lyn Stewart assisting with transport.

St Jude's Playgroup

Report to the Annual Vestry Meeting 2023

Playgroup is a group of carers of young children who meet each week on Tuesday morning for 1 ½ hours with our 0 – 5-year-olds. We are thankful that this calendar year has not been interrupted by Covid lockdowns. This has allowed us to connect better with the local families and to spread the word that we exist. This in turn has led to a healthy growth in numbers so that the Parish room is often a bustle of activity on a Tuesday morning.

At the time of writing my report for the 2022 Vestry meeting we had a small but faithful group attending each week and were praying for more contacts. We are thankful to God for the way he has brought us in contact with so many local families often just through word of mouth at the playground or even on the bus! We now have so many contacts that I struggle to remember everyone's name! Not everyone comes every week, but we regularly get between 16 and 30 people, (and we have over 50 names of people on our roll) for which I am very thankful.

The task of setting up, welcoming people, getting contact details and completing a roll has been an increasingly difficult task when I'm also trying to get to know people and make sure they are properly cared for. I have been very thankful that Amelia, from the office has helped me out with this job. It is so nice for people to arrive to a friendly welcoming face especially if it is their first time. I also really value having the support week by week.

Word of mouth appears to be one of the best ways to promote this ministry as often the people who come, have heard about us from a friend, a neighbour or from a person at a playground; however, a few have found us on the internet. Most of our contacts are from the local suburbs and are from a diverse cross section of ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds. The majority of the families who attend have no other connection with church, so it is a joy to be able to share the message of Jesus with them each week as we sing songs and read stories.

Our time together includes free play, craft, morning tea and a singing and story time. We include Christian songs and Bible stories into our singing and story time to introduce Jesus. It has been encouraging seeing the children learning the songs and engaging with the stories more and more as they get older and look forward to that part of playgroup.

Morning tea is a special time, seeing the children enjoy their fruit and each other's company around the table. We are all so thankful for the friendly face and the help that Ruth contributes each week in the kitchen and also in conversation with us all.

My prayer is that through this ministry, many children and their families will come to know God's love and forgiveness for them and will follow Jesus for the rest of their lives.

Kathryn Schmidt
19th March 2023

Report from the Flower Ladies

I'm sure you are all enjoying the wonderful arrangements in the church each Sunday. We love choosing and putting together flowers to enhance the worship experience of St Jude's.

We are always hoping to increase our numbers as there are only two of us and though it is a thoroughly rewarding experience we worry about not always being able to fulfil this enjoyable task.

It is not hard to do and of course we will always guide any newcomer who decides they could take a turn.

Contact Jacqui Playfair or Phillippa Clark to find out more. Happy to change the heading of this report if any gentlemen would like to join us.