

St Jude's Anglican Church Randwick

Annual Vestry Meeting – Sunday 17th March 2024

Agenda

1. Receipt of declarations of those present (*Parish Administration Ordinance, 3.1(1)(a)*)
2. Quorum (*Parish Administration Ordinance, 3.1(1)(b)*)
3. Election of Minutes Secretary (*Parish Administration Ordinance, 3.1(1)(c)*)
4. Appointment of Scrutineers
5. Apologies (*Parish Administration Ordinance, 3.1(1)(d)*)
6. Motion to authorise Parish Council to confirm the minutes of this meeting (*Parish Administration Ordinance, 3.1(1)(e)*)
7. Ministry Reports (*Parish Administration Ordinance, 3.1(1)(f)*)
 - a) Rector's Report
 - b) Other Ministry Reports
8. Churchwardens' Report (*Parish Administration Ordinance, 3.1(1)(g)*)
9. Financial Report (*Parish Administration Ordinance, 3.1(1)(h)*)
10. Appointment of Auditor (*Parish Administration Ordinance, 3.1(1)(k)*)
11. Election of Church Wardens
 - a) Rector's Warden (*Parish Administration Ordinance, 3.1(1)(i)*)
 - b) People's Wardens (*Parish Administration Ordinance, 3.1(1)(j)*)
Nominees: Philippa Skuja

12. Election of Parish Councillors (*Parish Administration Ordinance, 3.1(1)(l)*)
 - a) Resolution as to the number of persons to be elected (0, 3, 6 or 9)
 - b) Election
 - Nominees: John Bennett
 - Andy Gregory
 - Jacqui Guy Ben
 - Paxton-Hall
 - Bill Smallwood
13. Election of Parish Nominators (*Parish Administration Ordinance, 3.1(1)(m)*)
 - Nominees: Christine Alexander
 - Karen Calayag
 - Alan Clark
 - Edwina Hine
 - Philippa Skuja
14. Synod Representatives (*Parish Administration Ordinance, 3.1(1)(n)*)

Not required this year
15. General Business (*Parish Administration Ordinance, 3.1(1)(o)*)

ST JUDE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, RANDWICK RECTOR'S REPORT TO ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING, 2024

Since long before any of us were here, our church has had a boat as its logo. (Probably since before such things were called a "logo"!). We're told that the boat has some traditional connection with St Jude. But, since ancient times, the image of a boat has also been seen as a symbol of the church. Just like Noah's ark, which kept God's people safe from the flood, the church is a vessel which, by the word and Spirit, conducts God's people through this life and brings them safely to God's heavenly kingdom.

Unlike Noah's ark, the church does not have a closed door. There's plenty of room for those outside to be hauled up into the boat and be saved. As Jesus' disciples, we are all on mission, to make his name known to our community and the world. And so, to continue the boat analogy, we're to throw out the rope and the flotation devices, and haul as many people up into the boat as we can.

This is what the church does. We're on mission together.



Our mission has touched many people this year. The people who have visited a Sunday gathering. The people who've joined in an activity like ESL or the Ramble. The many who have attended a wedding or funeral. And of course, all those who've enjoyed Fireworks, a Concert or the Carols. There are other examples I could name. But especially, we've touched those whom you have invited along to St Jude's (whether or not they came!): they were made to feel that they were welcome here in Christian community.

Not only have we touched many – comfortably over a thousand people and probably two – but by God's grace, there are some who have been drawn right into our community. When I sat down and thought about it, I could think of at least fifteen people who, since roughly the beginning of 2023, have either become Christians, or started coming regularly here to church when they previously were not (not including those who moved to us from other churches). That is amazing! It is a wonderful work of God.

It was interesting to me, when I looked over the people who came to the Dedication Sunday service with Peter Jensen in June last year, that slightly over half of them have joined St Jude's in the last seven years. So, I'd like to say to everyone who's here, that this our church! Even if you don't feel like part of the old guard, I hope you feel that St Jude's is your church. Because it is.

At the same time, it is a grief to us when we have to say goodbye to people, whether it's because they move away or pass away or their health no longer permits them to come. And because of our demographics we have perhaps lost a few more than we've gained. It makes us sad, and it's also disconcerting. From a pure Sunday numbers viewpoint, in our morning services, it is possible that we will experience further drops before things improve.



But the health of our church is about more than Sunday numbers. Two important signs of vitality are:

- An increased proportion of our members in Bible study groups. There's nothing magical about Bible study groups, but membership of these groups is a measure of our desire to grow more like Christ through engaging with the world, and to get to know each other better. And on that measure, we have grown in strength.
- Also, as will be evident from Alan's report, our offertories, while not increasing, have held up well in the face of some structural challenges. That's a measure of people's engagement and support of the ministry here, and it's very encouraging.

Those signs of a healthy congregation put us in a better position to welcome new people and disciple them.

With all this in mind, I thank God for his work in us all, for our staff team, for our wardens and Parish Councillors, for those who lead ministries, and for everyone who uses their gifts to serve the work of Christ's body here in different ways.

The Christian life, and Christian ministry, is a long game. It's a marathon, not a sprint. It's a test match, not Twenty20. Without ruling out the need for new and possibly radical ideas, we clearly need to keep doing the basics of the Christian life: prayer, obedience, Christian fellowship, mission.

Here are some matters which have pressed themselves on my conscience lately, matters which we're prone to forget and which always require attention in church:

- The need for us to live distinctively holy lives. People need to see that our faith in Jesus makes a positive difference to our lives. Even more importantly, it honours Jesus when his love has really changed us.
- Every member ministry. The church is a body in which every member has a part to play in the work of Jesus' mission.
- Personal devotions. Personal Bible reading and prayer at least four times per week is a proven engine of Christian growth.
- "My Father will honour the one who serves me" (John 12:26). That is a wonderful promise. Life is all about being a servant of the Lord Jesus, who made himself our servant when he bore our sins.

Next year is the 160th anniversary of St Judes' church building. We will be making a joyful noise in the community about this. By God's grace, there will be plenty to celebrate.

Andrew Schmidt
17th March 2024



Appendix: Facts and figures

Average Attendances								
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
9.00 am combined svce (COVID)		51						
8.00 am	29	27	39	34	35	39	37	35
8.00 am online	6	7						
9.30 am	42	41	54	56	48	58	64	66
Sunday School (incl. Sun. Youth)	9	8*	8*	8*	7	10		
6.30 pm/6.00 pm/4.00 pm (including children)	27	23	18	14	20	21	13	15
Total adults (regular Sundays)	95**	98	111	104	103	118	114	116
Friendship Group	10*	10*	11*	13*	14	15	13	
Youth	12	13	15	15*	12	8		
Kids' Club	10	16	17	15*	13			
*Estimates. The Sunday School estimates include Youth Bible Study at least from 2020.								
** Children omitted from the 4 pm count to avoid double counting.								

Occasional Services								
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Baptisms	1	6	0	2	2	6	9	25
Weddings	6	7	7	2	4	5	6	1
Funerals	9	11	8	13	10	12	18	19
Confirmations	3							

The number of people we touched in some way (rough estimates)	
	2023
Attended church at least once (including Christmas and Easter)	250
Attended a wedding, funeral	500
We taught in SRE at Randwick PS	150
Came to a concert	60
Came to Fireworks or Carols	600
Came to any side activity (ESL, Playgroup, Kids' Club, Ramble, Youth, Classical Concerts, Craft, Bell ringing)	150
Early Learning chaplaincy	40
Total	1750

St Jude's Anglican Church, Randwick

Churchwardens' Report 2023

Buildings and Grounds

We now have brand new slate roofs on all the heritage buildings on the St Jude's site. This year we reroofed the Rectory, Parish Centre and the remaining slate roof at the front of the Hall. Together with the Church roof completed 2 years ago, they all look magnificent in Welsh slate and there are no leaks! In the course of the work we were advised that the Rectory chimneys should be rebuilt and the Parish Centre chimneys repaired, we took that advice thereby reducing the need for additional future expense.

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 continue to 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. Like all gardening, it is never ending and we strive to strike the right balance between appearance and cost.

Financial Condition

Together with offertories and donations, 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. The ELC continues to be run extremely well by the Director, Farah Messina and overseen by the Management Committee. The Parish achieved a surplus for the year which has added to its strong cash and investment balance.

Ongoing Restoration Work

The very generous support of the Restoration Fund this year and the previous year has enabled us confidently to undertake the roofing work. We will be engaging a heritage architect in the coming year to develop a new conservation management plan, as required by Heritage NSW, to guide future restoration work.

The Rector, Staff and Council

The Wardens are grateful for Andrew's continuing enthusiastic spiritual and other leadership during his seventh year as Rector. He continues to lead and encourage the many programmes and activities of this active Parish. We acknowledge the wonderful support he receives from Kathryn in children's ministry, playgroup, Kids' Club and also generously entertaining parishioners and guests in the Rectory. Our thanks to the Rectory family for tolerated the reroofing of the Rectory with good humour and without complaining.

We thank the ministry team and Parish staff for the professionalism, dedication and energy they bring to their roles, much of which is unseen by all

of us as they reach out to schools, care homes and those in need. 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 Report

Pastoral Care

17th March 2024

My pastoral work at St Jude's involves taking Holy Communion monthly to parishioners who, because of illness, are unable to attend church on Sunday on a regular basis.

Whenever parishioners are in the Prince of Wales Hospital, and time permits, I visit them. It is not always possible as most patients are in for a very short time, but I try to follow them up when they are discharged and may go home or to rehabilitation at Eastern Suburbs Hospital or Wolper Hospital.

It has been my privilege to visit people near the end of their life. Quite often I go to bring comfort and hope, but the reverse happens, and they bring comfort and hope to me.

We give thanks to God for the following parishioners who passed away last year:

- Gerard Manes
- Peter Wallington-Beddoe
- James Horsley
- Betty Denice Lane Holland
- John Dacres-Mannings
- Holly Forsyth
- Stephen McMorrow

I am grateful to God who, through the people of St. Jude's, has allowed me the joy of working as a pastoral worker in the parish.

Rev. J. R. Le Huray

Annual Vestry Meeting Report – Pastoral Care

I am very thankful to the members of St Jude's who are part of our Pastoral Care Team, Philippa Skuja, Lyn Stewart and Jacqui Guy, and the way they continue to care for so many of our members. A special mention must go to Jim who does such a wonderful job of following up and caring for so many parishioners who now find it difficult to come to church in person.

As I look around, I see lots of pastoral care happening, through Bible study groups, over morning tea on a Sunday and as members build friendships with one another. I am really encouraged by the way I see people caring for each other.

This has always been my goal for pastoral care: to have a pattern where members are caring for each other but also supported by me and the other members of our Pastoral Care Team. Over the last twelve months, we have continued our regular monthly services at both St Basil's and SummitCare. Unfortunately, in the second half of last year, the numbers at our SummitCare service have dwindled, and so it appears unlikely that we will continue that ministry this year. St Basil's continues to go well each month with about 10 attending; please be praying for more residents to come along and join that service.

As the number and needs of elderly people in our congregation increases, please pray for wisdom as to how best to care for them. I think Friendship group has been a wonderful way for some of our parishioners to stay connected to St Jude's and one another. I value and welcome your feedback and encouragement as I carry out this ministry.

In Christ,

Rev. Emma Little

Women's and Pastoral Care Minister

Annual Vestry Meeting Report – Kids' Club

Our weekly Wednesday afternoon Kids' Club is a great opportunity to share Jesus with kids who often don't otherwise have a connection with church. We had about 10 kids each week, although sadly at the end of last year we lost a few year 6 kids who had been with us for many years. But I am thankful for the new kids who have joined us over the last 12 months.

Please pray that God would continue to grow this group, both in number but also in faith. I give thanks for Andrew Goddard, Kathryn Schmidt and Josh Kellett and the gifts and skills they bring to running this group each week. I would also like to thank Philippa Skuja, Phillipa Clark, Jacqui Playfair, Julie Kup and Nansey Hong for providing afternoon tea each week; it is much appreciated by both the kids and leaders!

Over the last 12 months we have made some adjustments to the program, simplifying the teaching and reducing the amount of input each week. It seems to be working well but please continue to pray for wisdom as to how and what we should be trying to include each week.

In the past we have run all day programs on pupil free days and this year we will be running 3; one at the beginning of terms 1, 2 and 3. It would be great to get lots of kids from the local community along to these days. My goal for Kids' Club is for it to be a place where kids are introduced to Jesus, that through this we would be able continue to develop relationships with parents of Kids' Club kids and that we would have opportunities to invite them along to church and other events. It has been great to see this happening over the last year as families have joined us for events, but my hope is that they will eventually join us for church.

In Christ,

Rev. Emma Little

Women's & Pastoral Care Minister

Annual Vestry Meeting Report – Scripture

Last year we had the privilege of teaching 8 classes across two sessions at Randwick Public School with a total of 150 students enrolled in these classes. I love teaching Scripture, it is an amazing evangelistic opportunity as we help the kids to understand God's word but most of all His great love for them shown through Jesus' death on the cross. We're not only interacting with students each week but also their teachers, families and other staff around the school. SRE enables us to share the gospel and build connections across the whole school community.

At the end of last year, we farewelled one of our teachers, Cheryl Cartwright, who has been teaching Scripture at Randwick Public for 15 years. I am very thankful for her ministry over many years and I'm sure there are many students who have fond memories of being taught by 'CC'!

This year Andrew Schmidt, Andrew Goddard, Kevin Huynh and I are covering 7 classes over two sessions. Please be praying for us as we prepare and teach our lessons each week, that we would be engaging the kids and modelling what it looks like to be a Christian.

We have a great relationship with RPS and they have been very helpful in facilitating Scripture at the school. My goal is to continue growing relationships we have with parents and students around the school as I see Kids Club and Playgroup parents in the playground. It has also been really encouraging to see many of the students and their families attending church events throughout the year, particularly our Fireworks and Carols events. Please be praying for more opportunities to connect with these families and invite them to church and other events.

In Christ,

Rev. Emma Little

Women's & Pastoral Care Minister

Annual Vestry Meeting Report – Women’s Ministry

In my role as Women’s Minister, I want to teach, encourage and equip all women at St Jude’s to know and love Jesus, to have an ever increasing knowledge of God’s word and to have an understanding of what it means to live as a Christian in this world.

Over the last year there have been lots of ways this has been happening, through both regular Bible studies and one off events. As many of you would know I am passionate about Bible studies; I think they are a great way to dig deeply into God’s word with a small group, grow in our confidence to read the Bible for ourselves and encourage and pray for one another. I have the great joy of running two women’s groups, and I love opening God’s word with them each week.

We ran 3 women’s events last year, the first was a women’s brunch focusing on the topic of prayer. In June, a group of 12 women live-streamed the annual EQUIP conference, and it was a great day of teaching and fellowship. At the end of November, we ran a Christmas wreath making event that included a gospel talk. Around 30 women attended the day, including many visitors, and I hope to run this event again this year. My intention with these events is that not only will they provide ways for women to be built up and taught on a particular topic or section of the Bible, but that they would also be opportunities for us to be inviting women along to hear the gospel taught and come to faith.

Please continue to pray for me in this ministry, that I would always be seeking to spur women on in their faith and also be looking for opportunities to reach out to others with the gospel.

In Christ,

Rev. Emma Little

Women’s & Pastoral Care Minister

St Jude's AVM 2024

Reports Youth Ministry and Sunday School – Andrew Goddard

Youth Ministry

The mission statement of our Friday night Youth Group is that 'we want the youth in Randwick to know and love God as their father, Jesus His Son as their Saviour, and each other as their brothers and sisters.' This statement encapsulates our desire to introduce the youth to the family of the church and what we do each week is geared towards these ends.

The weekly attendance at youth in 2023 has been 12 with a total of 22 people involved at one time during the year. Over the last year the Youth Group teaching program has consisted of a different series each school term. The different series have been: 'The week that changed the world – Mark 11-16', 'A New Freedom – Navigating choices in life from the Bible', 'Ephesians – New Life in Christ' and 'Talking about Jesus – Sharing the good news' Through 2023 we had Nari, Josh and Ed continuing as leaders and the consistency of their leadership was a great blessing to the youth. In 2024, we have had some changes in leadership as Josh has moved to leading our Kids Club, and Bianca and Alan have joined us as leaders and have already built strong relationships with the youth.

Two highlights from 2023 were our first ever trip to KYCK (Katoomba Youth Convention) in April and 'Bring a Mate Night' in November.

It was a step in faith to go to KYCK with only 4 youth and the leaders, but the weekend was a huge blessing for everyone there as we were taught on Meeting Jesus in Mark (which fitted in nicely with our series on the end of Mark in term 1), and the friendships and faith of the group was strengthened over the weekend. We pray we'll be able to make this an annual event from now on and a bit thank-you to members of St Jude's who donated funds to keep the cost to a minimum to attend.

'Bring a Mate Night' was the brainchild of Ed and worked in well with at the end of our series on 'Talking about Jesus' as we could put it into practice straight away! 5 friends attended the night, and it is something we want to continue doing in the future.

Our Sunday youth Bible study group also continued throughout 2023. Ed was leading this ministry during 2023 with the assistance of staff, and the group has been continuing in providing extra input and fellowship to our youth that attend on Sundays during 2024. Recently, the group has moved from being during the 9:30am service to being a stand-alone event at 3pm before the afternoon service. We hope and pray that this change will enable more youth to be able to attend, and we look forward to welcoming Erin as a leader along with the staff.

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.

Sunday School

Sunday School is a key part of our 4pm Afternoon Service. It provides teaching, fellowship and fun to primary age children. The group has remained small yet consistent thanks to the efforts of our leaders. For 2023, the average attendance each week was 4 kids, with a total of 7 being involved at different times.

In 2023, we were very happy to welcome Ben Warren as our link with UniChurch, with his main role being the primary leader for Sunday School. This is a great blessing to the ministry as it allows other staff and parent leaders to be on less frequently and allows there to be more consistency in the leaders that the kids have week to week. In 2024, Ben has been succeeded by Theo Joliffe who has continued the roll of UniChurch link and leads our Sunday School.

During 2023, Sunday school has worked hard to follow the same teaching program as the main service as much as possible with positive results, that being Exodus in term 1 and John in terms 2-4. This has enabled kids and adults to be looking at the same part of the Bible more often and has contributed to the cohesiveness of our time together. A key part of Sunday school is the 'Something for Everyone' spot in the main service, where one of the leaders does a very short message on one aspect of the passage or topic being looked at that day. We hope this is as helpful and enjoyable for the adults at 4pm as it is for the kids.

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.

St Jude's Church Randwick

Mission Report 2023

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 to the world through the missionaries we support.

Church Missionary Society

As we commenced 2023, we still had not been allocated a new CMS family to support. Finally, in the middle of the year, through contacts Jacqui Guy had with her work in Vanuatu, we were able to get in touch with CMS, and link up with Joel and Tiffany Attwood and their three children Hosea, Timotheus and Zephaniah who are located in Vanuatu. Joel is training university students, planting new campus groups and supporting churches with theological training. Tiffany is reading the bible with young mothers and developing resources for Kids Club Ministry as well as looking after their three small children. We keep in contact via email and their regular Mission newsletter.

St Jude's donates each year to CMS from plate giving. We were not able to direct any extra financial support to CMS due to the late allocation of link missionaries. We will address that in 2024.

Bush Church Aid Society

Sadly, we had to say good bye to the Van't Spyker family as they left BCA and moved to All Saints Church, Moree.

During the first few months of 2023, BCA allocated new link missionaries to St Jude's, James and Charley Boardman, who are located at the Cathedral in Bathurst with their three children, Elijah, Joshua and Hannah. James has been given the opportunity to work at the Cathedral where he will develop his skills as a minister, run Kid's Club and, together with Charley, start a Playgroup.

St Jude's donates each year to BCA through giving from the plate, and we were also able to allocate the money raised on Mission Sunday (\$850) to the Boardmans to buy toys for their newly started Playgroup. We received confirmation by letter and photos that they were very appreciative of St Jude's support.

We support the Boardmans in prayer at Church, in Mission Prayer meetings, by email and by remembering each member of the family's birthday. We also receive their monthly newsletter.

Nungalinga College

St Jude's continues to support Nungalinga College prayerfully and financially (by plate giving). We keep up with Nungalinga news through their newsletter and pray regularly for them. We also received first-hand information when two of our parishioners, Jacqui Guy and Lyn Stewart, visited Nungalinga College, met the Principal Ben Van Gelderen and toured the College. We were delighted to have Ben visit St Jude's during the year. He ran a very informative evening seminar which

culminated in dinner. This was well attended by parishioners and other visitors, and the evening finished happily as conversation flowed around the tables.

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. Mission prayer date is placed in the Bulletin each month.

Samaritan Christmas Boxes

This was another successful year of box collection where St Jude's collected close to 30 boxes. We were also a collection point for other people to deliver boxes and we sent off, from our Church office, 200 boxes. It is interesting to know that from NSW 7,202 boxes were sent and worldwide 11.3 million.

Stamps for Mission

Thanks to the continuing support of parishioners, we were able to send off stamps to CMS, BCA and ABM. This is done in rotation. The stamps are sorted and sold to support missionaries overseas. We received a letter last year from CMS to say that the stamps from NSW and ACT raised \$26,000 which is a remarkable amount.

CWCI- Christian Women Communicating International (Worldwide Bible-based faith ministry)

Jacqui Guy continues to work with CWCI in Vanuatu 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 2023 Calendar Year

Organisation	Amount
CMS	\$4,036
BCA	\$1,345
BCA All Saints Cathedral Bathurst-Mission Sunday	\$850
Campus Bible Study	\$4,800
Nungalinga College	\$1,345
Bible Society	\$1,345
ABM	\$1,345
Anglicare	\$2,690
Anglican Aid	\$1,812
Generate Ministries	\$1,345
Total	\$20,913

Philippa Skuja

Mission Secretary

**Parish: St Jude's
Randwick**

Date:8/3/24

For the year: 2023

**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: 14

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

Essentials: 3

Refresher: 3

Junior Leaders: 0

Safe Ministry Checks (SMC)

Total number conducted in the year: 6

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:

-6 have been notified however none are over expiry date yet.

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.**

Yes Generic permission form

Yes Enduring permission form

Yes Activity Approval Form

2. **During this year, the parish has used the following policies in working with children and young people**

Church Leaders

Yes Safe Ministry Blueprint for Churches

Youth Ministry

Yes Safe Ministry Blueprint - Head of Youth Ministry

Yes Safe Ministry Blueprint - Youth Ministry Leaders

Children's Ministry

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 Description- Blueprint copies of Role Descriptions have been given to Volunteers to guide them in their roles and it has been noted down for 2024 to adjust them to the St Jude's context.

Application Form- St Jude's has their own application form however this will be reviewed in 2024.

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	3.00pm Wednesday	Children/Adults
Service	8am Sunday	Adults/Seniors
Service	9.30am Sunday	Children/Youth/Adults/Seniors
Service	4pm Sunday	Children/Youth/Adults/Seniors
Service/Friendship Group	10am Friday(monthly)	Seniors
Prayer for Mission	12pm Thursday (monthly)	Adults/Seniors
Youth Group	7pm Friday	Youth/Adults
Sunday School	4pm Sunday	Children/Adults
Creche	9.30pm	Toddlers/Adults
Craft Group	10am Wednesday	Seniors
KYB Bible Study Group	7.30pm Monday(fortnightly)	Adults/Seniors
Women's Bible Study group	10am Thursday	Adults/Seniors
Women's Bible Study group	Monday 7.30pm	Adults/Seniors
Mixed Bible Study group	Thursday 10.30am	Adults/Seniors
Mixed Bible Study group	Wednesday 7.30pm	Adults/Seniors
Bell Ringers	Thursday 6.30 Tuesday 9am Sunday	Adults/Seniors
ESL	10am Monday	Adults/Seniors
Morning Tea/Supper	9am, 10.45am,6pm	Toddlers/Children/Youth/Adults/Seniors
Choir	7pm Tuesday, 9.30am Sunday	Adults/Senior
Youth Bible Study Group	9.30am Sunday	Youth/Adults

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

Group/Activity	Meeting times	Age group
Ramblers	First Friday of each month	Adults/Seniors
Scripture	Wednesday at various times weekly in term time	Children/Youth/Adults
Mixed Bible Study	Tues 7pm	Adults/Seniors
Service- St Basil's	Thursday- monthly	Seniors/Adults

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

Name	Date	Company	Phone	Activity

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:

Completed in 2023-

- Role descriptions for each Staff member
- Checked by Staff 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, group leaders and sides people.
- Carry out practise evacuation in each of the above locations.
- Place signs in kitchen to prevent children under 10 from entering the area.
- Check to see if St Jude's Staff have adequate work stations at home.

To be completed in 2024

- Complete Role Descriptions for leaders for Kid's Club, Youth, Creche and Sunday School
- Offer First Aid Course to enable Staff ,Volunteers and Parishioners to update skills.
- Parish Council to Develop a Work, Health and Safety Policy.
- Scan all Past WWCC, Safe Ministry Certificates and SMC digitally in a safe place.
- Finalise and document process for storing Safe Ministry data.
- Install light on church to light the ramp into Rectory
- Lock to be fixed on outside toilet door

SAFE MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE:

Name: Philippa Skuja

Signed: _____

Date: 8/3/2024

St Jude's Church

Ramblers 2023

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 friendship and fellowship in a Christian group. It also provides opportunities for fitness and to discover more about our beautiful city. Moderate fitness is required and a willingness to get to know and enjoy the company of 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. It also creates an environment in which members of the group can be invited into other church activities, events and church services.

The Ramblers meet in the St Jude's carpark at 10am on the first Friday of each month bringing with them a packed lunch, water, Opal card and coffee money. The duration of the outings is usually between four to five hours. The Ramble destinations are advertised in the Church Bulletin and online several weeks before the due date. Information is available from the Church Office, Philippa Skuja or Alan and Phillippa Clark.

During 2023 the walks have been planned in two parts. The first part being a ride on public transport with morning tea at a café and chat. The second part is for those who want to have a good walk and see more which continues on for the rest of the day.

During 2023 an enthusiastic group of, on average, 10 participants (on occasions 8 and the maximum 15) visited the following places:

Month	Destination
February	Cancelled due to weather.
March	Walked from Jubilee Station and Tram Sheds along Harbour Foreshore to CBD
March	Held at the end of March due to Good Friday in April. Walked from Rhodes to Cabarita stopping at Kokoda Memorial Walk on the way.
May	Cancelled due to weather.
June	Ferry to Parramatta, walked to Hambleton Cottage, Elizabeth Farm, Experiment Farm and to Harris Park.
July	Train to Wollstonecraft Station, walked to Balls Head and viewed the Coal Loader.
August	Train to Waverton Station, walked to Berry Island through Waverton Valley.
September	Ferry to Rushcutters Bay, walked to Vacluse House and onto Watson's Bay.
October	Walked from Circular Quay across Harbour Bridge and to Wendy Whitely's Secret Garden.
November	Cancelled due to Betty Holland's Funeral.
December	Walked from Wolli Creek to Temple House the Magdelene Chapel and then along the Cooks River.

We welcome anyone who would like to join the Ramblers as it is a wonderful way to meet new people, make friends and contribute to one's good health.

Philippa Skuja

Bell Ringers' Report For Parish Council March 2024

Ringling has proceeded in a positive way since the last report in March last year. Numbers at Sunday Service ringling have averaged six each Sunday and 10 for Tuesday practices. Ringling has been such that no matter the standard of each ringer, our Ringling Master Richard Webster has ensured that each ringer was extended to the best of her or his ability and we have all benefitted from such oversight.

Jim Doyle and Rusty Walters have continued to maintain a close watch on repairs to, and maintenance of, the bells as needed. Thanks both.

Ringers were delighted last year when the Parish Council agreed to fund modifications to the Ringling Chamber. These modifications included installation of two very needed fans, removal of redundant woodwork in one corner, relocation of the Peal Board, the painting of the ceiling and steps leading up into the sound chamber (next level above the ringling chamber) and maintenance to the door leading to the upper balcony. Many thanks for this; it has provided more space for ringling and provided welcome cooling on hot days and nights.

During the year there were unfortunately few occasions for special ringling but on 6th May 2023 there was special ringling to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. One of the ringers at this occasion was Enid Roberts, a spritely ringer in her 90s, who also rang for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953 seventy years earlier – a remarkable achievement! This event was reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* and on Channel Nine news. A framed copy of the *Herald* article is in the ringling chamber.

We were also able to ring a Quarter Peal to farewell Johan Nash-Smith on his return to his home in Somerset. Johan is a regular visitor to St Jude's and plans to be with us again in April.

St Jude's regularly hosts a Sydney Ringers' Branch Practice and last year such practice was held on the October Long Weekend. At these practices, there is general ringling, followed by a quarterly branch committee meeting.

In February this year, Tom Goodyer, a doyen of Sydney ringling, died at the age of 96. Tom learned to ring on the old bells at St Jude's in 1947/48. A Quarter Peal was rung in Tom's memory by Randwick ringers on 10th February. The esteem in which Tom was held by Sydney ringers is such that over the weekend of Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd March, many Quarter Peals were rung in and around Sydney in

Tom's memory. Unfortunately, an attempt at ringing a Quarter Peal at St Jude's on Sunday 3rd March was unsuccessful.

Finally. Since the installation of the new bells in 2000, there have been only three full Peals rung on them. A full Peal involves continuous, non-stop ringing for around three hours, requiring considerable stamina and full concentration to achieve. On Saturday 23rd March, just before Palm Sunday and to mark the start of Holy Week 2024, there will be an attempt to ring the fourth peal at St Jude's. Ringing will start at 10:00 and finish around 13:00. Please come and listen to some of the ringing!

Once again, I wish to thank Rector Andrew Schmidt and the Parish Council for their on-going support to ringers and ringing at St Jude's.

Ross Langford-Brown.

Choir Annual Report 2023-2024

Angus Gilchrist - Organist and Choirmaster

Thursday choir practices have been running as usual through the year. There are roughly 8 choristers who regularly 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 9:30am communion services.

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 and help for this service.

We have also been able to hold two services of Choral Evensong during the year. These were an opportunity for the choir to sing some more challenging pieces from the repertoire, and were enjoyed tremendously by the choir and were well-received by the congregation who attended. Again, we benefitted from some additional choristers – thank you!

The organ has been working well throughout the year, helped by more moderate weather than we often get (sudden changes in temperature or humidity are difficult for the wood and leather parts of the organ). A proposal is being worked on for the next phase of maintenance and restoration, 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 coming to the end of its lifespan, 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. Bob has also skilfully accompanied the choir on various occasions. He also has been providing invaluable knowledge and experience relating to future renovation of the organ.

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, Parish Council and Rector 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 let me know!

Angus Gilchrist

Organist and Choirmaster

Craft Group Report

The Craft Group meets every Wednesday at 10 am in the Parish Room.
We exchange ideas, sometimes work towards a fund raising stall and also have an enjoyable time.
Crafters and non-crafters are all welcome to join.

Phillippa Clark

Bible and English Classes Report 2024

We are thankful that numbers have remained relatively consistent over the year. Special thanks to Joanna Warren (language teacher), and assistants Ann Anderson, Robin Shultz and Ping Kong who enable this ministry to continue. All these volunteers are external parishioners, who come to support our ESL ministry. The atmosphere is welcoming and there is a sense of belonging as we reach out to one another across language and culture.

Although numbers have fluctuated at times over the past 12 months, seven to twelve students have attended most weeks with numbers steadily increasing since commencement in February. We continue to facilitate two classes, one at Beginner (Level 1) and the other at Advanced Beginner (Level 2). We do have a need to extend a few students into an Intermediate (Level 3) class however, to do this, another teaching assistant is required.

Unfortunately, since recommencement of classes in February, our current helpers cannot commit to every week due to varying circumstances. A recent call out for additional help was posted in the Bulletin over the last few weeks. Sadly, there was no response. This is a concern as we are endeavouring to bring the good news of Jesus to persons from China, Iran, South America and Ukraine. Please be encouraged to join this team to offer hospitality and to encourage those who attend to develop confidence in communicating in English. We need volunteers from St. Jude's to help with setup and to stay to assist teachers and students as required. An immeasurable reward awaits!

The team is grateful for the excellent resources provided by the Parish and the ongoing support of Andrew, Andrew and Emma. We pray that as we teach English through life's everyday experiences and stories from the Bible, that men and women who attend classes will come to know God through Jesus. We are also blessed to have access to excellent teaching resources provided by the Anglicare Cross Cultural Ministry Team. We look forward to the year ahead knowing that the Lord will continue to bless this ministry at St Jude's.

Facts and Figures Summary

Average Weekly Attendance	10
Church Attendance (previous)	3
Church Attendance (current)	1
Attendance at Church outreach activities with family	2-3

Lyn Stewart,
Coordinator, March, 2024

Flowers Report

We continue with our silk flowers with willingness and enthusiasm.
But we are a sparse team of two and would love additional help.
A commitment of as little as twice a year would be wonderful. Any more would be a blessing.

Phillippa Clark and Jacqui Playfair

Friendship Group Annual Report 2024

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The friendship group meet regularly on the third Friday of the month in the parish room. The group has been running for over 25 years. The group, set up by Dr Ruth White, provides an opportunity for the senior members of St Judes to get together and to share fellowship and have some fun.

The Rev Jim Le Huray continues to provide us with spiritual leadership and, together with Andrew Schmidt, gives us an opportunity to worship together. This has been very important for members as many have not returned to Sunday church. Jim keeps us up to date with members of the group who are unwell and hospitalised. The chair exercise and relaxation sessions continue followed by a quiz and some health promotion ideas. Carole Kerr provides us with a lovely morning tea and dessert. We are back to having a full lunch which is subsidised by donations from attendees.

We celebrated Christmas with our usual lunch

Future Plans: the group is available to everyone in need of fellowship and the support of a community group. We hope to welcome new members who have joined the church community or are thinking about joining the church.

Membership: Approximately 15 people Average attendance 10 people

Lunches Served 16-20 including Staff.

Juliette Russell

March 2024

KYB Report

Every second Monday evening at 7:30 pm, there is a women's Bible study group held in the Parish Room. This Bible study is a little different to other Bible studies as each woman uses Know Your Bible (KYB) Bible study booklets to learn God's Word. The group then discusses the chosen booklet with leaders. The current list of attendees has 14 women including women from St. Jude's and sometimes from other churches. Many women in the current group have been coming to Bible studies for a long time and find it very helpful in their lives.

We encourage you to come and try.

Leaders of this Bible study are:

Jacqui Guy (0414362406) and Philippa Skuja (0415544277)

St Jude's Playgroup

Report to the Annual Vestry Meeting 2024

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. This past year has been a wonderful year of consolidated growth following the previous years interrupted by Covid. This has allowed us to connect better with the local families and to spread the word that we exist. As a result, most weeks the Parish room is full of excited little children playing and their parents and carers chatting and connecting.

At the time of writing my report for the 2023 Vestry meeting, we had about 20 people regularly attending each week. We are thankful that numbers and community contacts have continued to increase so that now our average attendance over the year is 29. This is a huge answer to prayer after the few years with very low numbers around COVID times. Our peak week last year was our end of year Christmas celebration where 46 people attended. (it was a very noisy and fun week!)

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 mothers' groups. We also have a couple of nannies who enjoy bringing their charges along. We now have so many contacts that I struggle to remember everyone's name! 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. Although this time is a challenge, often due to the increased noise level of carers talking and tired little children, 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.

A fun addition to our weeks has been the visits from the Year 5 girls at St Catherine's who have had fun playing with the children, organising a craft, song and story to share as well. It has been so lovely seeing the girls connecting with the children and learning the confidence to play with them. It has also been good for the older children to have the input from a group of older girls. This has also been another opportunity to connect with the St Catherine's community which has been a very positive connection.

The task of setting up, welcoming people, getting contact details and completing a roll is a not insignificant task. I've greatly appreciated Emma Little joining me in leading playgroup this past 12 months, especially helping me with these tasks. It is so nice to relax knowing that as people arrive they will be greeted with a friendly smile from Emma, and Emma is so good at remembering names of everyone. It has also been lovely to not only have Emma help me with the set up, but to also have the help of Andrew.

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.

It was a joy to see many of the playgroup families join us at the church Christmas carol picnic. A few of the carers were our keenest store holders and had a very positive time, telling me often how much they loved it. We are hoping to see some of the families join us for our family service on Easter Sunday and would love to see this connection with the church grow.

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
9th March 2024

Report on the St Jude's Classical Music Series 2023 'A program of light classical music concerts for the community'

In 2023, we ran two more St Jude's Light Classical Music Concerts, bring our total to five over the past three years.

The first concert in 2023 was held from 4pm to 5pm on Saturday 17 June. It was entitled '2023 Strings Showcase' and consisted of 7 performances by the various string groups from St Catherine's School Waverley. There were over 70 performers and an audience of around 80, including the Headmistress and senior staff from St Catherine's.

The second concert was held from 4pm to 5pm on Saturday 14 October. The performers for this one were the Music Scholars and Small Ensembles from St Catherine's. There were 8 performances involving 16 students. It had an audience of around 65.



The entry fee for these concerts is \$10 for Adults. School Students & Children are free. Under our agreement with St Catherine's School, all money raised goes to charity. St Catherine's also assists by printing the programs for these events and advertising it among the school community.

This has been a great partnership between St Jude's and St Catherine's over the past two years. It builds on the historical connection between St Jude's and St Catherine's. We are very grateful to William Martina, David Gresham and other staff from St Catherine's, for all the work they have put in to organising their side of these concerts. It has been wonderful seeing the students from St Catherine's getting so much pleasure and excitement out of performing in such a lovely venue. From St Jude's point of view, it is a wonderful way of reaching out to the wider community.

Thought has gone into slightly increasing the number of concerts we run in future years, and involving other schools or groups of musicians and this may yet happen, but the simple and minimal cost model we have developed with St Catherine's works very well. Were we to organise a concert where we paid the performers we would need to spend more money on advertising it to increase the audience numbers, and increase the entry fee significantly, so that we do not incur a loss.

Dr John Bennett AM
1 March 2024