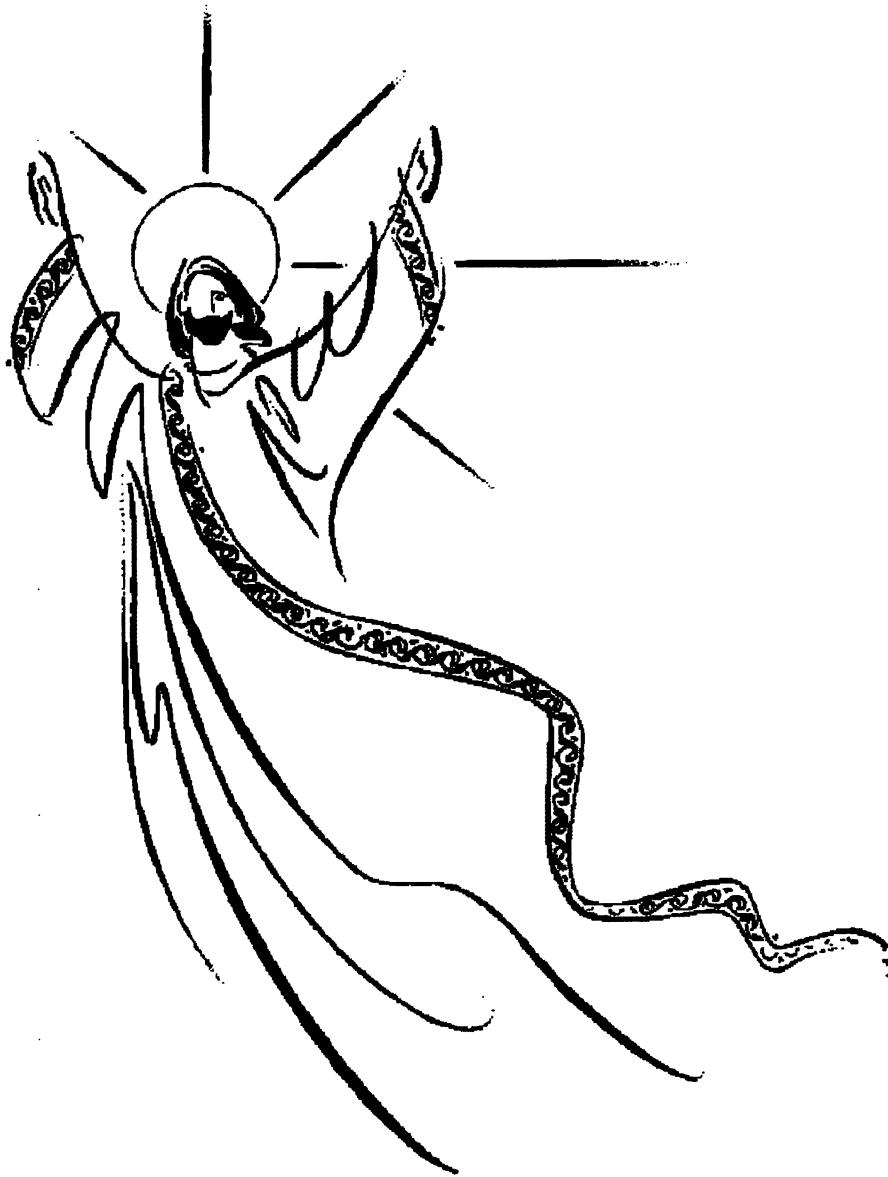


ST. JAMES'



ANGLICAN CHURCH, MORPETH



"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you."

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 16th March 2025

ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH, MORPETH ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF NEWCASTLE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SUNDAY MARCH 16, 2025

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Acknowledgement of Country
3. Opening Remarks from the Chair
4. Attendance and Apologies
5. Notice for items for closure of Agenda
6. Minutes of the AGM (10/3/2024) as ratified by Parish Council Pages 30 – 34
7. Reports:
 - a. Incumbent's Report Pages 3 & 4
 - b. Treasurer's Report and Budget for 2025 Pages 5 – 14
 - c. Wardens', WHS & Safe Ministry Officer's Report Pages 15 – 18
 - d. Parish council Report Page 19
 - e. St James Guild Report Pages 20 & 21
 - f. Morpeth Combined Churches Report Page 22
 - g. Special Religious Education (SRE) Report Page 23
 - h. Events – Fundraising Report Pages 24 & 25
 - i. Op Shop Report Pages 26 & 27
 - j. Environment Officer Report Page 28
 - k. Mission Report Page 2
8. Elections
Guidelines: Size of Parish Council in accordance with Administration of Parishes Ordinance 2010 section 6 (b) (reviewed April 2022)
 - i) The Incumbent and any associate or assistant clergy licensed to the Parish
 - ii) The Officers of the Parish being
 - (1) A Churchwarden appointed by the Incumbent
 - (2) 2 Churchwardens elected by the members of the Parish and
 - iii) no more than 3 people elected by the Parish Annual Meeting and 2 people appointed by the Incumbent within 21 days of the annual meeting
 - iv) the Mission Secretary
 - a) Appointment of Rector's Warden (by the Incumbent)
 - b) People's Wardens (2)
 - c) Mission Secretary
 - d) Parish Councillors
9. General Business Items (which have been notified seven days prior)
10. Items from Closure of Agenda
11. Closure of Meeting

St James' Morpeth: Annual Parish Meeting, 16 March 2025: Incumbent's Report

We have now been with you for eighteen months, and I am delighted to submit this report for the Annual Parish Meeting. I offer grateful thanks to all in this parish, for support and encouragement, and the diligence and hard work required to keep an enterprise such as this going. We have continued to offer quality liturgies and social events, and I am pleased that all areas of parish life and responsibilities are being handled appropriately, including addressing the need for future financial security. As I am still very new to this role, I very much appreciate your patience and forbearance as we move forward together.

St Luke 5:3-6

Jesus got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.

We are blessed by God to have the opportunity to carry out God's mission in this part of the world. Although our resources are limited, the spirit of St James' Morpeth is so encouraging, with many willing to go the extra mile to help us thrive. We are called by Jesus to go into the deeper waters—to inspire, encourage and love all who seek us out and others nearby. Although many of our congregation are weary, and feel they have 'worked all night', it is encouraging to see a continued willingness to keep fishing. The opportunity to catch 'so many fish' is with us, meaning we can be conduits for the Lord to touch many lives, in deep and life-changing ways.

Our people

- Our pastoral care routine has changed, with the incumbent taking most of the responsibility, as is right in a parish of this size. The work of the pastoral volunteers is greatly appreciated, and each continues to contribute in some way as required.
- Social events and fundraisers have continued well this past year, with many highlights we aim to replicate in the coming months.
- The seriousness with which we all discharge our need to keep everyone safe is very much appreciated, especially the role of our Safe Ministries Officer, Ross. In the coming months there will be many forms and checks to complete.
- Ministry to children continues well, with fortnightly Sunday School, and we hope to run an *Alpha Course* for youth in the coming year.
- We continue to support St Christopher's emergency pantry generously.
- We have lost some members of our congregation—some in anger, some through a kind of spiritual drift, some who have fallen asleep, and others through moving away, all of whom we miss and yet respect and accept the events.
- New members have arrived, and plenty have appeared for a single service or event (such as the Nativity Play and the new Christingle Service), and erstwhile members have returned, for which we give thanks.
- We have experienced some relationship endings among our members: we continue to pray for those affected and offer as much support as needed, in any way we can help.
- Our multitude of volunteers are continuing well, although declining in numbers and in some cases ability to keep up their accustomed pace.
- Thank you to our Servers, Organists, Assistant Clergy, Sunday School & Family Service Helpers, Op Shop volunteers, Guild Members, Morning Tea People, Welcomers, Readers, Intercessors, Cantors, Pastoral Workers, Flower Arrangers, Counters, Key Officer, Cleaners, Gardeners, Cessnock Correctional Centre Garden Workers, Linen Cleaner, Seamstresses, Maintenance Volunteers, People Who Give Lifts, Visiting Preachers, Occasional Singers, St Christopher's Liaisons, Environment Officer, Parish Councillors, Hall Bookings, Treasurer, Secretary, and others I may have neglected.

Liturgies

- Our parish comes together to celebrate the Eucharist on Sundays at 9am, which is the highlight of our communal life, complemented by the popular post-Mass morning tea. This and our other liturgies have been events of beauty and holiness, where we have experienced glimpses of heaven through the mystery of the Lord's Sacraments.
- We have welcomed some excellent guest preachers, and r
- Revelled in honouring the church's seasons and festivals (notably a Choral High Mass for St James' Sunday),
- Continuing some local customs and introducing some traditions not seen here for a while.
- Choral Evensong has become a regular monthly feature, and this year we welcome a diverse list of guest speakers.
- After a break of a few weeks, we are about to re-start with weekly Tuesday and Thursday Masses, both livestreamed which I hope will be well appreciated and important additions to our mission.
- We have maintained a good number of baptisms, and rejoiced in having four confirmed.
- The number of funerals and weddings has declined.
- Numbers of attendees at all services has been fairly constant.

Community

- Our Op Shop has maintained an excellent level of service to our parish and the local community, of which we are all proud.
- That some op shop volunteers are not part of our worshipping congregation shows how our parish life extends beyond the pews, and may present a model for the parish's future survival and growth. We might harness non-church people's desire to help, even though they are not seeking to exercise a conventional model of faith.
- Through events such as our planned Grand Auction, and Traditional Parish Fete, and the return of the wonderful *Morpeth's Got Talent*, the wider community may come to play an important role in our life.
- Many people, otherwise not connected to our community, visit the church for prayer and peace during the week, and express their gratitude.
- I hope our connections with other denominations will continue to grow, as seen in the past year's joint Advent Study Group and ecumenical Holy Rosary on Fridays.
- Our buildings—church, hall and rectory—are vital parts of our identity, and we seem to be maintaining them well.
- Some minor re-orderings in the church (notably the establishment of a chapel-area with transverse pews near the baptistry) and new furnishings (including a new small altar, and altar-rail kneeler) have added to our rich experiences.
- Our beautiful gardens are developing and thriving, thanks to a boost this past year in donations and planned plantings, led by Peter and the Dunns.
- We are delighted with new, temporary toilet near the church, although we note there are some maintenance issues being addressed.
- The future of the hall, in particular the subsidence, is being addressed through the diocese and our professional partners.
- Hinton Cemetery still needs work, but is progressing.

The Future

Echoing my words from last year's report, our future looks positive, as we all continue to give in generous ways to this precious parish. It is my wish that we maintain and develop what we have, adjusting and improving where needed. A pressing priority is shoring up our financial position, which ought to involve a renewed connection with our local community.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
Fr Nicholas Edwards

ANGLICAN PARISH OF MORPETH

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2024

Presented to the Annual General Meeting, held on March 16, 2025

Let's get straight into it...

Looking at the income and expenditure for 2024 you will see that the result for the year was that the parish's expenditure was \$201,105.48 and its income was only \$180,959.67 which means the parish has to deal with a deficit of \$20,145.81!

This means that in January 2025 the parish has \$20,000.00 less in their bank account than January last year.

This is not sustainable.

You can read through all the items on both of the income and expenditure spreadsheets and there are some arguments that can be put forward as to why income was less... like we only had one wedding in the parish for the year, or the Guild didn't make the anticipated contribution to the parish budget that I calculated as part of last years budget, or the use of the Parish Hall did not realise its predicted potential as the dancers cut back from 3 nights to 1... but all of this was offset by the hard work of the Op Shop !

What is hard to look at is that again this year giving has dropped in real terms to a point where our parish may find itself in a position of being unable to provide full time ministry to itself and the community.

Those who have been round a while have often heard me say that if we want a priest we have to be prepared to pay for them – to literally meet the costs of employing a priest through 'the offering'. Last year that cost was \$95,111.18, but our total offering was only \$73,761.30 - \$21,349.88 short!

If we had of continued to meet this cost then we would have had a balanced budget.

I believe this is where we are at...

In 2020 the parish, the country, the world stopped with COVID 19. The diocese set very strict rules on expenditure and many parishes were suffering from a loss of income, especially from offerings due to church closures, reduced numbers sitting 1.5m apart, first in the hall and then in the church and continuous lockdowns for many months and years.

Through the diligence of a VERY prolonged parish council (remember we couldn't gather to have an AGM in 2021?) the directions from the diocese were adhered to and expenditure virtually ceased.

Through a plea to parishioners, some changed a habit of a lifetime and many moved their offerings from the plate or envelope to internet banking, ensuring that even with the church closed or people unable or unwilling to gather in groups the income stream of the parish had been secured! You did that!

We then went through several periods of being led by locums from 2021 through to late 2023, so the financials as presented were skewed, because even though we showed large totals for locum costs (stipend, travel, accommodation etc) the full time clergy costs were not expended.

Then there is the 'Direct Debit' effect.

As I said you saved the parish during COVID by embracing electronic giving with the same enthusiasm as Zoom services, Zoom morning teas, pastoral phone calls and sitting 1.5m apart, but one of the key side effects of setting up an automatic direct payment is that you tend to forget that it is happening.

In looking at pledged and electronic giving since 2021 the following information can be offered:

In 2021, there was 31 pledged offerings, that represented 40 parishioners

In 2025, there was 24 pledged offerings, that represented 32 parishioners – showing a 20% decrease in five years

Last year, from January 2024 to January 2025 only 3 parishioners increased their pledge (not all the same as those who increased the year before), and 3 parishioners who were pledging left the parish or died.

From January 2023 to January 2024 only 3 parishioners increased their pledge (not all the same as those who increased the year before), and one parishioner who was pledging died.

From January 2022 to January 2023 only 4 parishioners increased their pledge, 1 parishioner decreased their giving and 3 parishioners who were pledging left the parish or died.

SUMMARY

Of the 24 pledges that are currently
10 pledges have not changed their giving in 5 years,
5 pledges have only increased their giving once
2 pledges have increased their giving twice
only 2 pledges increase annually
2 pledges are new
3 have decreased

All financial decisions are dependant on the national Consumer Price Index (Cpi) – this is a measure of how, simply, the cost-of-living increases and is calculated on the 2011 basis 'Australian Statistical Geography Standard' (ASGS).

This is a summary of those increases since 2021:

2021	2.1%
2022	4.5%
2023	3.8%
2024	3.6%
2025	(predicted at 4.1%)

So it can be safely said that as this is a compounding increase the cost of living has increased 20% over the last 5 years.

This shocked me! I was one of the majority of parishioners who had not increased their pledge (until I did these figures). This was not intentional, I have had a lot going on, I forget that the money even comes out of my account, and when I did think of it I probably thought something is better than nothing.

Well, that is not the case.

If current giving trends continue by Easter this parish will be unable to meet its financial obligations without bring long held funds in term deposits back into the main account to just pay expenses.

We currently have \$125,000.00 in a term deposit which is the sum and total of our surplus funds that have been squirrelled away since 1994 (when we paid off the parish hall extensions), but at the rate that expenses are outstripping income this will only last us till this time next year.

So, it is up to us.

If you believe, like I do, that this parish needs to continue in its current way, so that it can continue to minister not only to its generations of parishioners, but to the wider community, then our attitude to our giving needs to change.

Firstly, retired or not, EVERYBODY has an income, and there is a decision to be made by each and everyone of us... it this somewhere you want to belong? And if so what am I able to contribute?

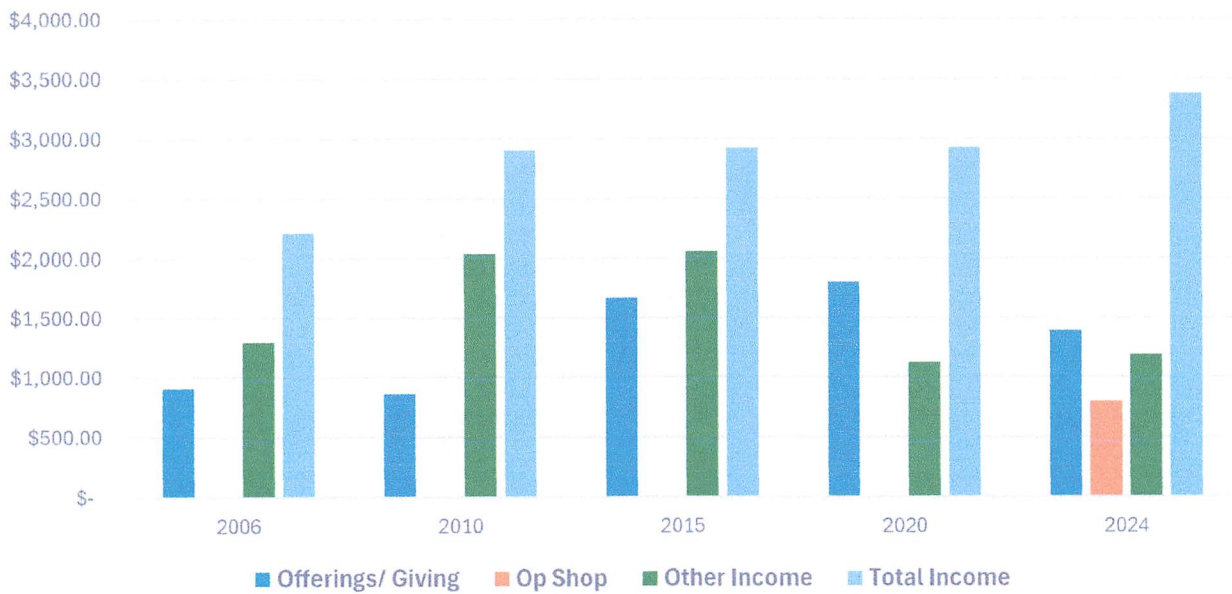
Last year it cost over \$540.00 a day to maintain St James and keep the doors open. How many days did you pay for in the whole year?

There will be some who read this who will be surprised at what I have outlined above, and others will be angry at my suggestion that they need to reconsider their giving. If I have introduced these emotions or others then I apologise, but putting it on paper is not an easy task, and it is done with the knowledge that you have always supported the parish with a sense of ownership, purpose and pride, and with this information I believe this time it will be no different.

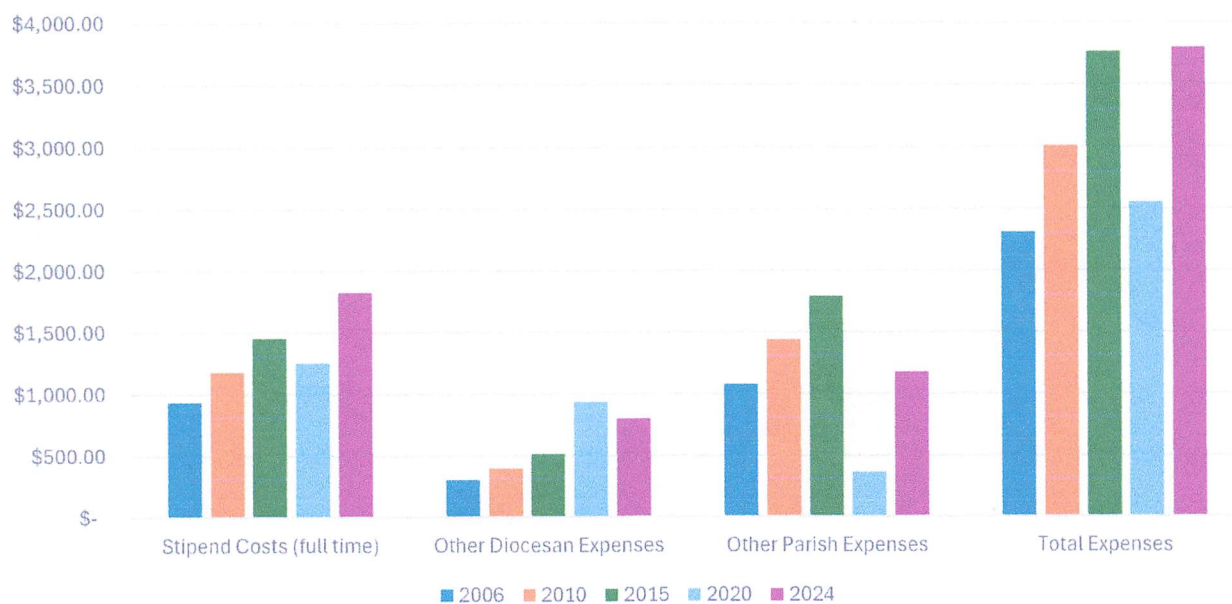
Thankyou.

	2006	2010	2015	2020	2024
Offerings/ Giving	\$ 911.67	\$ 862.54	\$ 1,671.34	\$ 1,798.94	\$ 1,393.87
Op Shop					\$ 795.29
Other Income	\$ 1,299.37	\$ 2,039.16	\$ 2,057.75	\$ 1,123.78	\$ 1,188.39
Total Income	\$ 2,211.04	\$ 2,901.70	\$ 2,920.29	\$ 2,922.72	\$ 3,377.55
Stipend Costs (full time)	\$ 933.95	\$ 1,179.05	\$ 1,454.08	\$ 1,252.04	\$ 1,829.06
Other Diocesan Expenses	\$ 303.28	\$ 398.78	\$ 512.35	\$ 936.53	\$ 796.09
Other Parish Expenses	\$ 1,076.86	\$ 1,435.60	\$ 1,797.40	\$ 364.13	\$ 1,174.96
Total Expenses	\$ 2,314.09	\$ 3,013.43	\$ 3,763.83	\$ 2,552.70	\$ 3,800.11

Weekly income



Weekly Expenditure



2024 – A Breakdown...

Income and Expenditure

Income

I am not going to repeat my comments on giving or income in general, other than to draw your attention to two specific line items:

The first is interest earned from our Permanent Trusts held with the Trustees of Church Property.

A side effect of cost-of-living increases is that interest rates have continued to increase, slowly but surely and 2024 saw the Trustees recommence twice year dividends on the money held, therefore increasing our budgeted income on this line item by some \$10,000.00. This twice a year payment is hoped to continue in 2025.

The second is the Op Shop.

2024 was the first full year of operation of the Op Shop in the hall. We had limited history with daily takings, and I felt that the 2024 target of \$670.00 per day of trading in last years budget was ambitious, but through a lot of hard work by a few amazing people the daily average for the year's trading was \$919.00! I truly believe that the ministry to the community is its biggest success but imagine what a mess we would be in if we didn't have that income line last year.

Expenditure

The two (2) page expenditure summary of the expenses for 2024 show that in general the result of minor variances online expenditure items resulted in an actual expenditure of \$97,605.48. One of the landmark expenditure items in last years budget was to install Solar panels to the rectory to help offset our carbon emissions as well as reduce ever rising power bills. Unfortunately, we could not get a panel system for the amount budgeted so the Parish Council decided to isolate the budgeted amount of \$3,500.00 to be used in 2025 with additional funds from the 2025 budget to complete this programme.

Taking this into account the calculated expenditure for 2024 was \$201,105.48. This represents a 5.3% over run on the accepted budget. A significant portion of this is in 'Miscellaneous' but when comparing the various expenditure items covered under this heading and then look at the 'Donations' list on the income spreadsheet you will recognise that many items were funded by donations specific to those expenditure items.

Trusts and Monies held

Internal Trusts.

In addition to the budgeted income, we hold within our main parish account a number of isolated 'Internal Trusts' which are set aside for specific use and are controlled by the Rector and Parish Council. This saves the parish from establishing multiple separate accounts which would create not only a bookkeeping mess but added expense in fees from banks and auditors.

The following is a summary of the balance of each internal trust as at 31/12/2024.

Mission Funds

Mission giving does not form part of our Budget as the money we offer to our mission projects is raised directly for that purpose. At the end of 2024 the parish held **\$1,657.45** for this purpose in the main account.

Porch Refurbishment

At the end of 2024 the parish held **\$2,451.27** for this purpose in the main account.

Church Stone Repairs

At the end of 2024 the balance of money held in trust for this is **\$553.11**

Peacock Bequest

At the end of 2024 the balance of money held in trust for this is **\$18,802.65**

Columbarium Trust

Income and expenditure costs relating to the columbarium and memorial garden are recorded and isolated through the year with a diocesan requirement that all monies generated by a columbarium or cemetery not be used as income for a parish and be isolated in a separate account for the sole purpose of ongoing maintenance of these assets. A working balance of \$4,307.57 is held in the main account as at the end of 2024.

Permanent Endowments

A summary is shown below:

P0223	St Johns Hinton Sale Proceeds	128,753.05 units
P0225	All Saints Woodville Sale Proceeds	179,858.11 units
P0491	The Morpeth Ministry Trust	29,774.07 units

Other money held by the Trustees is shown below. This remains a Permanent Trust and the value shown is correct as at 31/12/2024

P0492	The Morpeth Graves Trust	\$388.39
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Term Deposits

As part of the parish council's strategy to maximize the use of surplus funds the following monies are placed on term deposits with the asdf and the balances shown are as at 31/12/2024:

Account 435040184 (St James Morpeth Organ Fund) \$19,694.58

This account is to ensure any future repairs on the parish's Heritage listed William Davidson Pipe Organ can be met with less impact on the parish budget. Any interest this generates is returned to the organ fund to assist in offsetting the effects of inflation against the principle.

Account 435040213 (Term Deposit - 6 Mths) \$125,000.00

The interest generated by this account is returned to the parish's main account as part of budgeted interest income.

Working Accounts

The following are accounts held with asdf, managed by the Parish Council to allow the parish to pay all expenses and the balances shown are as at 31/12/2024:

Account 00040913 Anglican Parish of Morpeth	\$29,045.74
Account 00041124 (Cemetery & Columbarium Account)	\$9,326.70

2025 - The Budget

You will find the Proposed Budget Figures for both income and expenditure listed in the right hand 'Yellow' columns found on both the coloured work sheets

The percentage change that is shown on the right-hand side of the work sheet is a comparison to the 2024 **Actual** figures.

Notes:

- o The budget being presented has been calculated with all costs associated with a full-time rector's stipend and all oncosts and with minimal locum expenditure associated with full time clergy annual leave.
- o **The budget being presented is a BALANCED Budget of \$207,400.00 and has been ratified by Parish Council in February 2025**

Income

Loose and pledged

Giving:	I have allowed an average of 8.7% increase in giving, which includes donations or thank offerings from baptisms.
Donations:	Donations has been set to \$4,820.00 (without any special purpose giving – ie: gifts, parish support etc)
Funerals:	This income has been based on offering six (6) funerals during 2025 – although we will not be actively seeking out people to reach this target!
Transfers:	As well as contributions from the Guild and interest from the Term deposit an amount of \$13,136.00 has been 'borrowed' from the Peacock Bequest to offset the pre-GST value of the costs associated with the purchase and installation of the new temporary toilet for the church. It is hoped that this can be returned in the future.

Op Shop:	I have increased the income value of income from this by Cpi (4%) which will be easy for the ladies who have already this year broken single days taking records.
Fundraising:	Looking at the model of some major fundraising events in the parish this line value has been increased by almost \$5,000.00 for the year.
Weddings:	This figure is based on only one (1) wedding for 2025.
Hall Use:	Due to a lack of evening hall hire this figure has been substantially reduced for 2025. This can always change if new bookings are received.

Expenditure

Stipend and Associated on costs :	All figures shown for the 2025 Budget are set by the diocese. As stated earlier it is based on a full 12 months.
Insurance:	This figure for 2025 is unknown at the time of writing this report as it is not often received by the diocese till April of each year which makes it difficult to budget. If you look at last years figures I allowed an 6.39% increase to our 2024 premium.
Parish Contribution & Parish support Levy:	these figures are also set by the diocese and are based on previous years income.
Locum:	set at the prescribed four (4) Sunday services which would be expected during rector's Annual leave.
Church Supplies:	The allowance for this item has actually decreased from the 2024 actuals.
Wedding Expenses:	As in income this figure is based on the one (1) wedding for 2025.
Electricity:	The budgeted figure of \$4,360.00 remains unchanged from the 2024 budget allowance, even though the 2024 actual cost was more. It is hoped that the acceptance of the budget and the installation of Solar panels will assist in this cost saving.
Water Rates:	Have been adjusted to the actual utility costs from 2024.
Council Rates:	Have been increased by 6% on 2024 payments.
Rectory Telephone & Internet:	Although shown as a 15% increase to the 2024 actuals Parish council for 2025 will investigate carrier and other savings options.
Repair & Maintenance of Buildings:	R&M has been reduced to essential expenditure generally to buildings with exceptions for the installation of Solar panels to the Rectory and an initial \$10,000.00 for works in investigation, professional fees and the like to the structural concerns of the 'old' hall.
Repair & Maintenance of Grounds;	Includes money for path improvements around the temporary toilet and pedestrian access to the front of the church from the drive,
Accounting and Bank Fees:	This is mainly accounting fees to undertake work to upload all accounting information (income and expenditure) into our Xero accounting software. This work is becoming more streamlined as I have a better understanding of what is needed.
Safe Ministry:	Thanks to the hard work and generosity of Ross Whybin this item has not been claimed against in 2024, so I have left it unchanged.
Stationary/ Journals/ Postage:	This amount has been increased to allow for additional stationery and postage to assist in new ministries.

Summary

It is really important that if this budget is accepted by the parish then it is done so particularly understanding your role and commitment to the income of the parish as outlined in the first pages of this report

I present the 2025 budget to the meeting and will move for the acceptance of this ratified budget as presented.

Thank yous...

The Wardens

The workload undertaken by Ross, Helen and Jim is constant and overwhelming at times and frankly it is a time consuming, difficult and it is all done in a voluntary capacity, in addition to their other roles in the parish.

The Parish Council

The Parish Council in this place is small by diocesan standards and is very hard working. Their assistance to me personally through last year was invaluable to me and the parish and we owe them a vote of thanks for what they do and how they do it.

The Volunteers of the Op Shop

I want to try to thank everyone knowing that I will probably miss someone, so my apologies in advance. Kathy for her leadership and vision, Judy, Dianne, Pauline, Chrissy, Pam and ??? for their hard work, commitment and good humour! The parish is grateful for your energy to this new ministry. Kathy is always looking for more hands to help so if you want to support the parish in a really nice way have a talk to her after the service or at morning tea.

Weekly Counting Counters

It is such a drag to be shut away counting money when the morning tea and the hospitality are happening at the other end of the hall, so thank you to everyone who takes the time to be on the counting roster. Unfortunately with the weekly offerings getting less and less in the plate it doesn't take that long to count anymore but we have diocesan processes to comply with, so thank you to all who are rostered.

Thankyou too to Ross who had diligently undertaken the banking every week last year, and continues this task. So frustrating and time consuming sometimes, you would not believe, but done with an exactness and care that is essential.

The Lawn Mowing Crew

Led by Ray Wilson & Peter Taylor they work very hard to keep our grounds looking loved. Assisted by the inmates from Cessnock corrective Centre once more, and fellow parishioners. This is not easy work and know that your labours are appreciated.

Accountant for 2025

For lots of reasons it is better to have a practicing certified accountant to submit our paperwork, forms and calculating the government tax, and if we do realise our budget we will require our books to be audited once more.

I would like to seek permission to continue to engage Tumbers and Associates, Church Street, Maitland (Principle: Linda Kowalki) as the Parish accountant for assisting in the preparation of the Xero Accounts and government BAS statements.

Respectfully Submitted



Phillip G. Weston OAM

Hon Treasurer

Anglican Parish of Morpeth

2025 Parish Budget as ratified by Parish Council - February 2025

March 16, 2025

2024 Accepted Budget and Actual income

2025 BUDGET DRAFT

INCOME

ITEMS	Accepted Budget 2024	ACTUAL INCOME 2024	2024 ACTUAL TO BUDGET	PRESENTED 2025 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET TO 2024 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET NOTES
Loose giving	\$ 31,400.00	\$ 21,087.50	67.2%	\$ 23,200.00	10.0%	Offerings must be increased to allow parish to continue to be viable.
Baptisms	\$ 1,920.00	\$ 1,280.00	66.7%	\$ 1,500.00	17.2%	
Pledged giving	\$ 56,900.00	\$ 51,393.80	90.3%	\$ 55,484.00	8.0%	
envelopes		\$ 4,058.80		\$ 3,270.00	-19.4%	
electronic		\$ 47,335.00		\$ 52,214.00	10.3%	
	\$ 90,220.00	\$ 73,761.30	81.8%	\$ 80,184.00	8.7%	
Donations	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 6,141.78	175.5%	\$ 4,820.00	-21.5%	
Baptismal Candles		\$ 40.00				
Craft Group		\$ 90.00				
Donation Box		\$ 683.45				
Votif Candles		\$ 28.35				
Guild Catering		\$ 1,362.30				
Hall Cleaning		\$ 550.00				
Jinny & Joshy		\$ 150.00				
Lectonaries		\$ 32.00				
PayPal		\$ 0.08				
Rectory Gardens		\$ 1,525.00				
Study Group Literature		\$ 561.60				
General		\$ 1,119.00				
Funerals	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 5,300.00	176.7%	\$ 4,200.00	-20.8%	Based on six (6) funerals
Transfers	\$ 12,030.00	\$ 6,894.45	57.3%	\$ 27,236.00	295.0%	Parish must receive money from Guild in 2025
St James Guild	\$ 9,000.00	\$ -		\$ 7,000.00		
Term Deposit Interest	\$ 3,030.00	\$ 5,327.06		\$ 5,500.00		
Internal Trusts		\$ -		\$ 13,136.00		offset purchase of temporary toilet for church (pre GST)
Discretionary Fund		\$ 1,567.39		\$ 1,600.00		
Op Shop	\$ 27,550.00	\$ 41,355.17	150.1%	\$ 43,000.00	4.0%	2024 averaged \$919.00 per day of trading
Fundraising	\$ 3,850.00	\$ 3,035.32	78.8%	\$ 8,000.00	163.6%	
General	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,035.32				
Repertory	\$ 350.00	\$ -				
Weddings	\$ 5,750.00	\$ 1,550.00	27.0%	\$ 1,550.00	0.0%	Based on one (1) wedding
Interest (Trste & asdf)	\$ 11,300.00	\$ 21,124.15	186.9%	\$ 24,405.00	15.5%	
Trustee Interest		\$ 15,396.53		\$ 17,895.00		
ASDF Interest		\$ 5,727.62		\$ 6,510.00		
Hall use	\$ 32,450.00	\$ 19,993.50	61.6%	\$ 10,900.00	-45.5%	
General	\$ 7,390.00	\$ 3,446.50				
YFDC Debt 2024	\$ 11,312.50	\$ 11,312.50				
YFDC	\$ 13,747.50	\$ 5,234.50				
Sundries						
GST Refund	\$ 4,350.00	\$ 1,804.00	41.5%	\$ 3,105.00	72.1%	
	\$ 191,000.00	\$ 180,959.67	94.7%	\$ 207,400.00	14.6%	

Anglican Parish of Morpeth

2025 Parish Budget as ratified by Parish Council - February 2025

March 16, 2025

2024 Accepted Budget and Actual Expenditure					2025 Draft Budget	
EXPENDITURE	Accepted Budget 2024	Actual Expenditure 2024	PRESENTED 2025 BUDGET	2024 Actual v's 2025 Budget	2024 ACTUAL NOTES	2025 BUDGET NOTES
ITEMS						
Stipend	\$ 69,736.00	\$ 69,736.68	\$ 72,665.00	4.20%	Should have been claimed when leave taken - carry over to 2025	Set by Diocese
Holiday leave loading	\$ 939.00	\$ 419.18	\$ 1,497.82	59.51%		Includes un claimed leave loading from 2024
Long Service Leave	\$ 1,716.00	\$ 1,716.00	\$ 1,764.00	2.80%		Set by Diocese
Car Depreciation	\$ 9,048.00	\$ 9,048.00	\$ 9,048.00	0.00%		Set by Diocese
Superannuation	\$ 12,901.00	\$ 12,901.32	\$ 13,951.00	8.14%		Set by Diocese
Professional Development	\$ 948.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,050.00	0.00%		Set by Diocese
Parental Leave	\$ 240.00	\$ 240.00	\$ 240.00	0.00%		Set by Diocese
	\$ 95,528.00	\$ 95,111.18	\$ 100,215.82	5.37%		
Insurance	\$ 22,985.57	\$ 22,479.90	\$ 23,905.00	6.34%	Set by Diocese	premium will be adjusted in April 2025
Parish Contribution	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 8,092.68	\$ 11,995.70	48.23%	Set by Diocese	Set by Diocese
Parish Support Levy	\$ 900.00				Set by Diocese	Set by Diocese
Copyright - CCLI & CAL	\$ 191.06	\$ 155.07	\$ 191.06	23.21%	Set by Diocese	Set by Diocese
Synod Printing & Postage	\$ 200.04	\$ 200.04	\$ 200.04	0.00%	Set by Diocese	Set by Diocese
Workers Comensation Ins Levy		\$ 500.66	\$ 500.66	0.00%	Set by Diocese	premium will be adjusted in July 2025
Cyber Liability ins Levy		\$ 42.19	\$ 42.19	0.00%	Set by Diocese	premium will be adjusted in July 2025
Locum	\$ 532.33	\$ -	\$ 624.00	17.22%		
Allowed 4 sundays	\$ 448.00	\$ -	\$ 524.00			Set by Diocese
Locum - Superannuation	\$ 84.33	\$ -	\$ 100.00			Set by Diocese
	\$ 126,337.00	\$ 126,581.72	\$ 137,131.62	8.54%		
Travel - CLM	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,400.00	9.09%		
Church Supplies	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 4,331.13	\$ 3,600.00	-16.88%	includes Gospel purchase	
Children's Ministry			\$ 1,000.00			
Children & Youth SRE	\$ 500.00	\$ 965.01	\$ 850.00		what a good problem to have	
			\$ 150.00			
Wedding Expenses	\$ 2,250.00	\$ -	\$ 450.00			Based on one (1) wedding for 2025
Hall expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,304.10	\$ 2,000.00	53.36%		includes cleaning
Electricity, Gas & EV Charge	\$ 4,360.00	\$ 5,483.13	\$ 4,360.00	-20.48%	under estimated electrical charge of two cars and no solar panels	Rectory costs should reduce with Solar Panel installation
Water	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,791.26	\$ 1,841.08	2.78%		
Council	\$ 2,110.00	\$ 1,456.82	\$ 1,544.30	6.00%		
Telephone & Internet	\$ 2,743.00	\$ 2,434.94	\$ 2,813.00	15.53%		
Rectory	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,067.44	\$ 1,200.00			
Mobile	\$ 420.00	\$ 315.00	\$ 490.00		10 months - not 12.	14 months - not 12.
Hall WiFi	\$ 1,123.00	\$ 1,052.50	\$ 1,123.00			

EXPENDITURE	Accepted Budget 2024	Actual Expenditure 2024	PRESENTED 2025 BUDGET	2024 Actual v's 2025 Budget	2024 ACTUAL NOTES	2025 BUDGET NOTES
ITEMS						
R & M Buildings	\$ 27,600.00	\$ 27,396.43	\$ 28,000.00	2.20%		
Church	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 19,232.95	\$ 5,000.00	-74.00%	Includes New temporary toilet for church	Essential works only
Hall	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,079.76	\$ 3,000.00	-2.59%	includes Stormwater Inspection	Essential works only - Does not include any costs associated with subsidence
Hall Restoration/ Repairs			\$ 10,000.00			This is to allow planning and development of repair methodology, Grant Applications and the like
Rectory	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 5,083.72	\$ 10,000.00	96.71%		Includes \$6,500.00 to complete Solar panels to Rectory
R & M Grounds	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,517.71	\$ 6,000.00	138.31%	includes Rectory Garden works	Includes \$4,000.00 for path work to driveway to toilet and front paving TBC
R & M Plant & Equipment	\$ 2,750.00	\$ 5,283.40	\$ 2,750.00	-47.95%		
	Parish Printer	\$ 3,328.40			purchased printer as leasing did not work	
	Organ Tuning	\$ 1,078.00			2 Tunings	
	Defibrillator	\$ 264.00			new battery and pads	
	Church PA (2020)	\$ 613.00			Account from 2020	
Equipment Renewal	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 3,276.20	\$ 2,500.00	-23.69%		
	New Lawn mower	\$ 759.20				
	Clergy Computer	\$ 1,977.00				
	Steam Mop	\$ 540.00				
General						
Bank & Accounting Fees	\$ 3,350.00	\$ 1,309.16	\$ 1,500.00	14.58%		
Hospitality	\$ 600.00	\$ 197.70	\$ 600.00	203.49%		
Website/ Advertising	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,109.00	\$ 1,500.00	35.26%		
Funerals			\$ 2,400.00			
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 8,026.21	\$ 2,300.00	-71.34%		
	Disc Account - Funerals	\$ 2,000.00				
	Anglican Women	\$ 25.00				
	Clergy Retreat & Study Leave	\$ 1,917.39				
	Peter Guy Fee	\$ 240.00				
	Pre Paid M'Card (Fr Nick)	\$ 1,000.00				
	Reimb Fr Nick	\$ 27.95				
	Study Group Books	\$ 305.87				
	Refund of offerings	\$ 2,510.00				
Safe Ministry	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00			
Enviromental Education	\$ 500.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 400.00	33.33%		
Pastoral Care	\$ 200.00	\$ 208.04	\$ 200.00	-3.86%		
Fundraising	\$ 200.00	\$ 293.65	\$ 310.00	5.57%		
Stationary/ Journal/ Postage	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,139.87	\$ 1,200.00	5.28%		
	\$ 191,000.00	\$ 197,605.48	\$ 207,400.00	4.96%		
In addition to this recorded expenditure we have isolated the original allowance of \$3,500.00 for Solar Panels to Rectory.						
		\$ 3,500.00				
Total 2024 Expenditure		\$ 201,105.48				
					Based on six (6) funerals	

WARDENS', WHS AND SAFE MINISTRY OFFICER'S REPORT TO AGM 16 MARCH 2025

WHS

The ramp to church was to be used in accordance with signage by persons on walkers, persons in wheelchairs and children in prams, however others were found to be using the ramp to enter the church. To reduce the risk of trips and falls it was decided that the ramp would only be put down on request and taken up immediately after use.

St Johns Cemetery, Hinton is maintained by St James. A trench was dug by persons unknown through the cemetery to drain away excessive water from a neighbouring property. This has created a hazard. The cemetery was inspected by a Diocesan Infrastructure Services Building Compliance Inspector in April. The Parish was advised that the gate must be locked and a sign erected advising visitors to the cemetery to contact the Parish to gain access. After permission from the Diocese was received Parish volunteers resumed mowing the cemetery. Palings of the cemetery fence were removed by persons unknown. A hazard was reported in R3 as instructed by Diocese. Palings have since been reinstalled. A safety barrier has been erected by volunteers and the gate left unlocked. Mowing of the cemetery by Cessnock Corrections recommenced 19 Dec 24. At the time of writing this report the drainage issue has not been resolved.

Risk assessments were created for volunteers working on lawns and in the garden, cleaning of the Church and the Church Hall, participants and attendees to "Morpeth's Got Talent" in October and volunteers working at the Car Wash, Sausage Sizzle and Morning Tea in October.

Four incidents in the church were reported to the Diocese in R3. These included 2 incidents of trips and falls by visitors leaving the pews in November, a rotator cuff injury to a volunteer assisting the moving of a cupboard in November and a volunteer cutting an arm on the vestry door mechanism in December.

The yearly fire protection service was done in April.

A bollard was installed to protect gas cylinders at the church hall.

SAFE MINISTRY

As part of Parish's plan for continuous improvement, Parish Council members viewed videos on the OCG website.

Parish Council members also reviewed the Volunteers and Church Workers Policy and Procedure, and the Parish Safety Policy as required by the Diocese.

Ross Whybin was appointed and approved by Parish Council as Safe Ministry Officer for 2024.

A group safe ministry training session for new volunteers was conducted in April.

Litmos

Litmos is an on-line training program designed by the Diocese for all volunteers. Most volunteers had their Litmos username and password reset. The Diocese has advised that Bishop Peter is reviewing Litmos and for us to “refrain from completing training” until this review is complete. At this stage volunteers can proceed with the “Faithfulness in Service” module. Bishop Peter’s review of Litmos had not been completed at the time of writing this report. The Diocese has not yet sent out monthly reports on Litmos participation of volunteers.

“Being Together”

The “Being Together” document and its contents has been referenced in each monthly Parish Newsletter as required by the Diocese.

Volunteer Register (R3 Diocese – “Raise, Report, Respond”)

There were 41 safe ministry compliant volunteers in the Parish Volunteer Register at the time of writing this report.

There were 6 volunteers withdrew from some of their volunteer roles. 1 volunteer chose to be terminated from all volunteer roles. There were 5 new volunteers who became fully safe ministry compliant in 2024 while 3 volunteers are in the process of completing safe ministry compliance.

4 volunteers updated their WWCC,

The safe ministry training of 20 volunteers will expire in 2025. The agreement forms of 24 volunteers will expire in 2025.

R3 Audit

The “Plan for Continuous Improvement – Audit non-conformities” document was received. The non-conformities were addressed. The responses to 31 internal audit questions and an update of the Parish Continuous Improvement Plan were submitted in Sept 2024. Although Lindy Dunlop was satisfied with the Parish’s responses, no written report has been received to date as Bishop Peter is reviewing the Parish’s responses.

Still to be considered is the need for the Parish to provide a welcoming environment for parishioners and visitors. The Diocese has suggested symbols, flags, etc.

Child Safety

No issues were reported.

Buildings and Plant

3 pews were relocated east to west across from the St James' altar.

A Bissell Cross Wave Hydro Steam Professional Hard Floor Cleaner was purchased for cleaning the church hall floors. 4 quotes were received from professional cleaning companies however these were cost prohibitive. 2 volunteers are currently cleaning the church hall alternating weekly.

The lamp on the City of Manchester light pole was replaced. Thanks to the generosity of Ken, Husky Demolition who left a cherry picker on site. Westminster City Council in London offered a correct replacement for the lamp.

Quotes from Diocesan recommended contractors for the cleaning of the gutters of the church were received. The quotes were cost prohibitive. Gutters of the church were cleaned by volunteers using the lent cherry picker.

A quote from a Diocesan recommended contractor for tree removal was received. It was cost prohibitive. A dead tree was removed in the grounds of the rectory and a tree trimmed on the northern side of the church by volunteers using the lent cherry picker.

A quote from a Diocesan recommended contractor for gutter guard installation on the church was received. It was cost prohibitive. Gutter guard was installed by volunteers using the cherry picker lent to the Parish.

The air conditioning in the rectory was serviced/repaired.

3 fireplaces in the rectory were cleaned by a chimney sweep.

Maitland City Council gave away young trees to ratepayers in the middle of the year. Numerous parishioners donated their trees to the Parish These were planted in the grounds of the Rectory.

A pest inspection and treatment of the Rectory, the Church Hall and the Church as well as maintenance to the termite traps were done in October. The contractor returned in January to repeat treatment with a different formula.

The subsidence of the church hall is being investigated and a solution to be decided.

A check of fire extinguishers and fire blankets was done.

A new wireless microphone was installed on the mobile lectern for notices and intercessions. The amplifier in Church Sound System was repaired while a new battery was installed in the smoke alarm at the organ.

A temporary toilet was installed next to the rectory garage for the use of parishioners and visitors to the church. It is now connected to water, power and sewerage. The ramp and

railings have been installed. Water damage of the floor by an overflowing cistern is being followed up.

Parish Returns

Parish Returns 2024 were submitted in May.

Church Inventory

An electronic inventory of church supplies has been compiled. Supplies to be checked bi-monthly and orders sent to Cathedral Shop.

Parish Website

Angela Hardy found no issues with the Parish website in her quarterly reports. She has suggested a review of the website for accuracy.

The wardens take this opportunity to acknowledge Ray Wilson, Peter Taylor and Grant Killen for their work in and around the Parish.

L R Whybin on behalf of Parish Wardens and Safe Ministry Officer

ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH, MORPETH
Annual General Meeting Sunday 16 March 2025
PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Parish Council 2024

The Parish Council of 2024 comprised:

- Father Nicholas Edwards
- Rev'd Narelle Riley
- Father James Hudson, Rector's Warden
- Ross Whybin, People's Wardens
- Helen Priestley, People's Warden
- Ron Hacker, Parish Councillor
- Rev'd Sheila Bourne, Parish Councillor
- Helen Priestley, (Hon) Parish Secretary
- Phil Weston, (Hon) Parish Treasurer, and,
- Patsy and John Carpenter, Mission Secretaries.

Clergy 2024

Reverend Narelle continued as our OLM. Our thanks go to her for her love and support, and for her sermons that have given us hope, guidance and courage for our daily living.

Our Incumbent, Father Nicholas Edwards, has been tireless in his efforts to ensure that our Calendar contains numerous options for worship, fellowship and entertainment for parishioners, their families and friends.

In 2024, Parish Council:

- Our thanks to the Op Shop Team for their tireless efforts that made 2024 a successful year. Their support to St James financially and the ministry offered to those in need was greatly appreciated.
- Installed a Temporary Toilet in the Rectory grounds near the garage
- Commenced preliminary communications with the Maitland City Council to have signage for the Church erected at the corner of Swan and Tank Streets, opposite Campbell's Store. It is anticipated that talks on this will take place shortly.
- Further to preliminary communications with the Maitland City Council regarding a pedestrian crossing in High Street to ensure the safety to pedestrians, advice received included that this was a State Government issue and to contact the Minister for Transport, Ms Jenny Aitchison, MP. This is being progressed.
- Hall foundation failure - since this was brought to the Council's attention, Fr Nicholas and the Wardens have met with representatives from the Diocese to discuss the preferred option to manage this matter. The Diocese suggested that St James submit an application for a Heritage grant to address the hall foundation failure and repointing of the Church. The application process included quotes and background/rationale for the work. The application was submitted at the end of January 2025.

Parish Council

Parish Council continued to support the operations and work of St James in 2024 and ensured that they were carried out in accordance with Diocesan regulations and directions. In addition, various tasks were undertaken and completed by Parish Council in 2024. You will find these in the reports presented in this booklet.

On behalf of Parish Council, thank you to all for your prayers and support in 2024.

Submitted to the Annual General Meeting 16 March 2025.

Helen Priestley
(Hon) Parish Secretary
02 February 2025

ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH, MORPETH
Annual General Meeting Sunday 16 March 2025
ST JAMES' GUILD REPORT

FEBRUARY TO SEPTEMBER 2024

My report this year is from February to September 2024, after which I handed over to Robyn Carroll.

Our first meeting for 2024 was held on 14 January to plan for the Pancake night on 14 February. On the 10 March there was a "bring and share" gathering. Father Nicholas agreed to provide a sheet where people could add their names.

In February we held a meeting at which we discussed that future of the Guild and how best it could function. I include the result of the discussion

We looked at the possibility of closing the Guild down but Father Nicholas felt that a more realistic way was to reduce the responsibilities which the Guild had taken on in the past as our numbers were now so small. One member also indicated that she would have to cease membership of the Guild, because of her husband's health and the care he needed.

Consequently, we decided that we could no longer cater for funerals unless it was for a close member of the parish.

Future social gatherings could be more in the line of "bring and share" rather than the Guild providing the meal. We hope this does not sound like the voice of doom, but rather how best we can function in the future.

The Guild would continue providing morning tea on the first Friday of the month while the Op shop is open as it has become quite popular.

We also catered for the Patronal Festival on Sunday 25 July.

My thanks to all for your support over the years.

God bless.

Jan Garnsey
Guild Secretary

ST JAMES' GUILD REPORT

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2024

My introduction to working with the Guild came in September after I was asked to take on the duties previously provided by Jan Garnsey. Jan's leadership made my job easy. The Guild operates as a well-oiled machine. I simply slotted in to the team and took on what needed doing.

The challenge that faces our church is an ageing population. How long can our hardworking team keep up the provision of catering to the parish? This is the question many of us ask. The solution seems to be to simply push on and do what we can.

October's meeting saw us thanking Jan for her leadership and hard work, presenting her with a Certificate and a gift from a grateful parish.

Occupational, Health and Safety concerns raised during this period resulted in the provision of a sign requesting that only Staff enter the kitchen. This has proven successful in keeping children and vulnerable people safe. Volunteers are urged to continue to use this sign at the kitchen entrance. Also a child proof lock was fitted on the kitchen cupboard after the previous one was damaged.

We catered for the following activities and functions up to the end of 2024:

- **Morpeth's Got Talent 26 October**, Supper.
- **Car Wash 9 November** Morning Tea
- **Confirmation Service 23 November**, Cheese platters and Nibbles, and fairy cakes for the youngsters.
- **Organ Recital 24 November**, Quiche and Salad lunch
- **Advent Carols 1 December**, Supper.
- **Nine Lessons and Carols 20 December**, Christmas Cake and Punch.
- **BBQ Brunch-** Salads.

The Guild held a wonderful Christmas get together for volunteers and spouses on the 18th of December 2024 on at the Bank Café, Paterson. The delicious lunch was followed by gifts and prizes with bon bons topping off a joyous celebration.to end the year's activities.

The Guild looks forward to being a caring and loving service to our Church and our parish in 2025.

Robyn Carroll
Guild Coordinator

MORPETH COMINED CHURCHES COMMITTEE
Report to Annual General Meeting, St James' Church.
Sunday 16 March 2025

St John's Gospel, Chapter 17 records Jesus praying to the God whom he calls Father that all his followers may be one, that the world may believe.

It is very clear that the world needs Jesus Christ and the gifts he gave us of: peace, joy, hope and love.

We, the Church, are the People of God, the Body of Christ, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Christ calls the church to make those gifts real in the lives of the world's people

St James' Church Morpeth, together with our fellow Christians at the Uniting Church and the Church of the Immaculate Conception, are responding to Christ's call by praying and working for the unity of the Church, that together our mission to our contemporaries may be more effective.

The Combined Churches Committee met several times during 2024, enjoying and appreciating the hospitality of our Uniting Church friends, Robin and Charles Pope.

Our friends at the Church of the Immaculate Conception hosted the World Day of Prayer on Friday 1 March. We met at St James' for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Wednesday, 17 May and the three churches ran the Annual Carols at Closebourne on Friday 6 December. This followed closely the Advent Carol Service and the lighting of the Advent Candle at St James' on the first of December.

The Committee's first meeting for 2025 will be held on Wednesday 29 January. There is a very healthy spirit evident in the life and work of our three churches and we look forward to deepening and strengthening that spirit through 2025.

George Garnsey
Chairman,
Combined Churches Committee

ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH, MORPETH
SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SRE) REPORT
Annual General Meeting 16 March 2025

Special Religious Education (SRE) classes were held at the Hinton Public School in 2024 with our Roman Catholic colleague and friend, Mrs Christine Eager, and I representing the Roman Catholic Church and St James, Anglican, respectively. Mrs Eager taught classes year 3 to 6 and I had classes 1 and 2, and kinder, eighteen (18) students.

Our Curriculum and teaching resources "Godspace" were provided by the Presbyterian Church and included activity books for the children.

The curriculum included stories from the Old and New Testaments God's world and how he looks after us in the good and the bad times.

The children participated class discussions and activities including role plays of Moses at the burning bush and parting the red sea, Jesus in the temple and Jesus with the rich young man.

Hinton Public School celebrated its 175th birthday in October 2024 and the children were very excited and proud of their school. The weekend of celebration included Art exhibitions of the children's art, games, sporting activities and a display of the school's history in the Library

My thanks to the school staff for their welcome, support and willingness to be in class with us. I am also grateful to the children in my classes for giving me the opportunity to bring the word of God to them at their level so that they had a better understanding of the scriptures and had fun while learning.

SRE resumes at Hinton Public school on Monday 10 February 2025.

Submitted to the Annual General Meeting, St James, 16 March 2025.

Helen Priestley

01 February 2025

ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH, MORPETH

Annual General Meeting 16 March 2025

EVENTS – FUNDRAISING REPORT

I am delighted to present the Event's and Fundraising report for 2024 to you. Our Events and Fundraising Calendar for 2024 was very busy and included something for all parishioners, families and friends of St James.

Highlights of 2024 included:

- A Mission Morning Tea with our very own speakers, Fr James Hudson and Ms Robyn Carroll.
- A beautiful spring day, perfect for parishioners to take a stroll around the Church and Rectory grounds with Fr Nicholas and share stories and ideas. Thank you to all who worked hard on the day to ensure that the grounds were looking their best.
- Afternoon teas that as well as raising funds for St James, were an opportunity for parishioners and friends to enjoy fellowship, have some fun and interesting conversations.
- "Morpeth's Got Talent" commenced at 5.00 pm with a complimentary drink for patrons. The hall had been turned into a glamorous theatre and guests were treated to an amazing evening of song, dance, recitals, canine tricks and supper. This event was well attended and very successful.
- On Mission Sunday, parishioners enjoyed a lovely morning tea. The Rev'd Gary Dodd, who is very involved with the Mission to Seafarers, gave us an insight to his work with sailors on merchant ships and assistance provided to them by the Mission.
- The Grand Auction scheduled for November was replaced with a car wash, Op Shop book stall, BBQ and morning tea. This was a very successful morning.
- In November, parishioners, friends and visitors were treated to an organ recital by Evanne Sheringham and family instrumentalists. The morning of beautiful music was followed by a light lunch in the hall.
- The services of nine (9) lessons and carols in December and the Family Nativity Play were a great beginning to Christmas.
- The Christmas spirit continued in December with the combined Festive Season Table and Christmas Brunch BBQ. Thanks to a Parishioner for his generosity in providing and serving the brunch. The Festive Season Table was successful with items not sold during morning tea offered as lucky door prizes. Our thanks to Campbell's Store for their generous donation of items for the table.

Close

It is pleasing to report that the Events and Fundraisers held in 2024 were successful and funds raised supported the ongoing operations of St James, and special projects approved by Parish Council. Their contribution to the budget can be found in the Treasurer's Report in the Business papers

Events and Fundraisers not only assist St James financially, they also provide an opportunity for parishioners and visitors to "Be together", enjoy fellowship and have fun.

In conclusion, "Thank you" to Parish Councillors, parishioners, their families and friends, for their support, generosity and willingness to assist with events and fundraisers in 2024.

Submitted for inclusion in the 2025 Annual Report, Annual General Meeting, Sunday 16 March 2025.

May God bless you all.

Helen Priestley
Events and Fundraiser Coordinator
31 January 2025

**ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH, MORPETH
OP SHOP (JOY ON HIGH) REPORT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 16 MARCH 2025**

Our Aims

- To provide financial support for St James
- To support the Guild in their fundraising
- To use our expertise and experience to build a successful op shop
- To support the local community through the opportunity to purchase affordable clothing and household goods
- To assist other local charities
- To build team spirit and form a group of committed volunteers

Achievements and the best of the past year

- A strong, cooperative, enthusiastic team
- Financial support to the church
- Growth of the op shop
- Support of the local community

Highlights of the year

Financial achievements

At the start of 2024 our goal was to realise \$40,000 by years end. Whilst this may have been an optimistic target given we were only trading Fridays, we managed to surpass that goal by achieving \$41, 355.19, with only 45 days of trading. An amazing result!

The Op Shop opened for the 'Car wash and BBQ' fundraising event on a Saturday morning. This proved hugely successful. We ran a book stall in the grounds which was most popular, with many sales. Interest continued after the event.

This year we have had a large volume of donations which has resulted in having many discount sales and specials. Needless to say our customers are very happy!

Customer relationships

Comments from our customers on the quality and affordability of items are both rewarding and encouraging.

As expected, we have many conversations with customers. Most importantly, we see our role as that of a listener when needed. Most of the time we laugh a lot.

We can now identify our regular customers and their purchases. Having this knowledge stock is kept aside to suit. This applies to customers requiring plus size clothing, this consideration of their needs ultimately results in sales. The same applies to our fine china collectors. Any new stock that has arrived we bring to their attention, again, this usually results in sales.

We actively promote the 1st Friday Devonshire tea which continues to grow in numbers. Small groups from as far as Stockton and the Central Coast are visiting. Several people from aged care facilities enjoy a morning out with a carer. It has also become popular with our many regular shoppers. The socialisation is robust!

Community service and outreach

The Team have been humbled by several donations brought in by widowed men who wanted to help dispose of partners' clothing. We acknowledge these donations with care and compassion. We consider it a privilege to help at a difficult time of loss.

We now collect and donate all underwear items to the CWA who collect for a local charity which distributes to families and persons in hardship and the homeless.

Without the quality donations, we wouldn't be as successful. Many thanks to our parish family for their continued support with donations of saleable items, including the delicious homemade jams and pickles by one of our hard working and unstoppable Guild members. Other homemade items include the ever popular scones the Guild ladies provide each month. All this assistance keeps the Op Shop invigorated and pulsing with enthusiasm, these combined efforts reinforce our commitment to inclusivity, fundraising and community outreach.

Moving into 2025,

We remain committed and enthusiastic with new changes and ideas currently being implemented to support the physical aspects of operating the Op Shop.

The Op Shop Team.

ENVIRONMENT OFFICER

REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

Highlights since the last annual report include:

1. Fifty native shrub seedlings collected by various members of the congregation from the Maitland City Council seedling giveaway in late May were planted as a clump in the front yard of the rectory. This form of planting, rather than straight lines, should create a good microenvironment for birds and other biota. A few seedlings have been lost but overall, the planting was a success and will enhance the rectory environment in years to come. Plans to plant some native grass seedlings on the adjacent embankment have not yet progressed.
2. Parishioners were reminded of Plastic Free July, and encouraged to re-commit to reducing plastic usage, with a pew sheet notice. According to the Plastic Free July website, the biggest sources of plastic pollution are still plastic bags, plastic water bottles, takeaway coffee cups and plastic straws. In Australia we've made notable progress on some of these but we still have a way to go.
3. A major part of the Plastic Free July celebration was to be a visit to the Resourceful Living plastic recycling factory in Kurri Kuri on 12 October (an earlier visit was not possible due to the installation of new machinery). Tragically, this visit was cancelled due to a fire which gutted the premises on the night of 10-11 October. Prayers for the owners and staff were included in the Intercessions on Sunday 13 October. I advised the owners of this and they were most grateful. They intend to rebuild and will re-schedule a visit when the plant is again operational. We have already paid \$300 for the visit (basically to cover the firm's insurance premiums for conducting such tours) so should incur no cost when the visit finally takes place.
4. I organised a stand for Anglican Ecocare as part of the Cooks Hill Parish's Eco Fair on Saturday 28 September (2.00 – 5.00 pm).
5. Parish Council has agreed to support a project to renovate the lawn area outside the hall, commencing in autumn 2025. This will involve several rounds of selective chemical control of the bindii which now dominates the area from autumn to spring, top dressing (probably), and replanting of couch runners in early spring. Working bees will be arranged as required to implement this program. (Success of this project may be limited by the extent to which the trees have grown in recent years but an effort is at least required to control the bindii).
6. There is potential to recycle clothes which are surplus to the Op Shop's requirements through a recycling centre in Newcastle. This option will be further explored in the next few months.
7. I have initiated action to apply for a Basic Certificate under the Five Leaf Eco-Awards scheme, in recognition of St James' environmental activities over the last six years. This is an Australian ecumenical environmental change program designed for churches and religious organisations.

Ron Hacker
Environment Officer
1 February 2025

ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH, MORPETH

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 16 March 2025

MISSION REPORT

We have had another successful year with our missions. Our goal for 2024 was the Nungalinya College in the Northern Territory which prepares students for work in their own areas with many different languages and cultures.

The goal for 2025 will be to support the Solomon Islands in their management of Climate Change and Sustainability.

We have had several interesting Guest Speakers at our morning teas, and a good amount of money was raised. Please refer to the Treasurers Report for amounts.

We had invited Rev'd Aunty Di Langham to our first morning tea, however, as she is a very busy lady, she couldn't make it. Fortunately, two of our own parishioners gave us very interesting accounts of their lives in the church. Fr. Jim Hudson spoke of his time in Far North Queensland, and Robyn Carroll told us of her time working in Alice Springs, both speakers received many thanks.

We also had Fr. Rod Bower, always welcome to St. James, and Fr. Gary Dodds, from the Mission to Seamen at Wickham.

None of these morning teas would be possible without the generosity of so many of our parishioners with their cakes, slices and physical help in the kitchen. Thank you all so very much.

We pray that, with God's help, we may have another successful year supporting those who are needing help so much.

God's Blessings to all.

Patsy & John Carpenter

Mission Secretaries

***Annual General Meeting - St James Anglican Church,
Morpeth Sunday 10th March, 2024, 10.35 am***

Opening prayer: Father Nicholas Edwards.

Acknowledgement of Country: Father Nicholas Edwards.

Opening remarks: Father Nicholas welcomed parishioners to the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and thanked them for their attendance. He thanked the outgoing Parish Wardens and Councillors for their commitment and support in 2023 that enabled the parish of St James to continue God's work in the local and greater community of Morpeth.

Attendance: Father Nicholas Edwards and twenty-seven (27) Parishioners attended the 2024 AGM. The signed Attendance Sheets are attached at TAB's A and B.

Apologies: Ron Hacker, Fay Beavis and Richard Harris.

Notice for items for Closure of Agenda — nil.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19 March 2023 - ratified at the first meeting of the new 2023 Parish Council on 30 April 2023.

Reports

Priest-in-Charge

Presented by Father Nicholas Edwards on pages 3 and 4 of the AGM Report booklet.

In addition to his report, Father Nicholas informed the meeting that he and his family were delighted to be at St James and are grateful for the continued welcome and support given to them. He is looking forward to developing family and children's Ministries to bring more people into our lovely parish and Church.

Motion before the Chair:

"That the Priest-in-Charge's report be accepted".

Moved by Father Nicholas, seconded by Rev'd Sheila Bourne. All in favour. Carried.

Treasurer

The Treasurer, Phillip (Phil) Weston, presented his report on pages 5 to 15 of the AGM booklet. Phil spoke to his report and stated that, since Reverend Jaqui Drewe left us, we have had a number of Locums and Covid and many parishes have suffered and not survived. St James has survived but has not moved forward. He didn't want talk about last year and believed that the Parish Council had steered St James amazingly and the Newcastle Diocese has been very kind to us. In concluding, Phil advised that the proposed Income Budget, and proposed Expenditure for 2024, matched and looked good even though offerings had decreased over the last few years.

In concluding, he encouraged parishioners to pray for increased giving and the growth of the congregation.

Motion before the Chair:

“That the Treasurer’s report be accepted as ratified by Parish Council 2023”.

Moved by Phil, seconded by Ross Whybin. All in favour. Carried.

As Phil is taking a break from Church duties for a while, Fr Nicholas presented him with a framed photograph with a “young” and “more experienced” Phil at work on the Church Hall to show our gratitude for all the work he done over the years.

Wardens/Work Health and Safe Ministry Officer

Presented by Ross Whybin, Church Warden on pages 16 and 17 of the AGM Report booklet.

Father Nicholas - hoped that all had read this report as it contained some interesting information on what had been achieved in 2024, and thanked Ross for all the effort he has put in his role.

As no questions had been received on this report, the following motion was put to the Chair:

Motion before the Chair:

“That the Wardens/Work Health and Safe Ministry Officer’s report be accepted”. Moved by Ross, seconded by Phil. All in favour. Carried.

Parish Council

- Presented by Helen Priestley, Parish Secretary, on pages 18 and 19 of the AGM Report booklet. Two (2) amendments were required – date of Extra Ordinary meeting 26 March, not November, and Ron Hacker’s congratulations should have read primary conservation, not conversation. These were noted and amended.

- As no further questions were received on her amended report, Helen moved that it be accepted. Seconded by Fr Jim Hudson. Carried.

St James’ Guild

Presented by Jan Garnsey, Guild Secretary, on page 20 of the AGM Report booklet.

As no questions had been received on this report, the following motion was put to the Chair:

Motion before the Chair:

“That the St James Guild report be accepted”. Moved by Jan Garnsey, seconded by Elizabeth Archer. All in favour. Carried.

Father Nicholas thanked the Guild for it’s fundraising efforts in 2023.

Combined Churches of Morpeth Committee

Presented by Fr George Garnsey on page 21 of the AGM Report booklet.

As no questions had been received on this report, the following motion was put to the Chair:

Motion before the Chair:

“That the Combined Churches of Morpeth Committee report be accepted”. Moved by Fr George Garnsey, seconded by Kathy Pearson. All in favour. Carried.

Father Nicholas thanked Fr George his continuing work on this committee in 2023.

Special Religious Education (SRE)

Presented by Fr George Garnsey and Helen Priestley on page 22 of the AGM Report booklet.

As no questions had been received on this report, the following motion was put to the Chair:

Motion before the Chair:

"That the Special Religious Education report be accepted". Moved by Helen Priestley, seconded by Fr George Garnsey. All in favour. Carried.

Father Nicholas thanked Fr George and Helen for their work with SRE at the Hinton Public School in 2023.

Events/Fundraising

Presented by Helen Priestley, Coordinator, on pages 23 and 24 of the AGM Report booklet.

As no questions were received on this report, the following motion was put to the Chair:

Motion before the Chair:

"That the Events/Fundraising report be accepted". Moved by Helen Priestley, seconded by Rev'd Sheila Bourne. All in favour. Carried.

Father Nicholas thanked Helen for her efforts with events and fundraising in 2024.

Op Shop

Presented by the Op Shop Team on pages 25 and 26 of the AGM Report booklet.

As no questions were received on this report, the following motion was put to the Chair:

Motion before the Chair:

"That the Op Shop report be accepted". Moved by Kathy Pearson, seconded by Pauline Dunn. All in favour. Carried.

Father Nicholas thanked the Op Shop Team for their success and hard work in 2023.

Environment Officer

Presented by Ron Hacker, Environment Officer, on page 27 of the AGM Report booklet.

As no questions were received on this report, the following motion was put to the Chair:

Motion before the Chair:

"That the Environment Officer's report be accepted". Moved by Helen Priestley, seconded by Jan Garnsey. All in favour. Carried.

Father Nicholas thanked Ron for all the efforts he put into ensuring that St James was being environmentally responsible in 2023.

Mission

Presented by Patsy Carpenter, Mission Secretary, on page 28 of the AGM Report booklet.

As no questions were received on this report, the following motion was put to the Chair:

Motion before the Chair:

"That the Mission report be accepted". Moved by Patsy Carpenter, seconded by John Carpenter. All in favour. Carried.

Father Nicholas thanked Patsy for the work she put into the mission work 2023.

Elections

- Appointment of Rector's Warden (by the Incumbent) — Father James Hudson
- People's Wardens – Ross Whybin - — elected unopposed
- People's Warden – Helen Priestley - elected unopposed

Father Nicholas thanked the outgoing Councillors, Rev'd Sheila Bourne, Ron Hacker, Penny Reeg and Elizabeth Archer for their contribution to Parish Council and parishioners at St James in 2023.

● **Synod Representatives** – elected for a three (3) year term.
Current as elected in 2023.

- - Phillip Weston,
 - Ron Hacker, and,
 - Helen Priestley.

Incumbency Board - All current as elected in 2023.

- Rev'd Shelia Bourne
- Phillip Weston
- Helen Priestley, and,
- Ross Whybin.

All current as elected in 2023.

General Business Item (which was notified seven (7) days prior)

Rev'd Sheila Bourne - relating to Hall hire

- Can we please have a calendar of the hall hire placed on the Notice Board on a monthly basis.
Father Nicholas advised the meeting that this matter will be referred to the new Parish Council for consideration at it's first meeting, and thanked Rev'd Sheila for raising it at the AGM.

Items from Closure of Agenda — Nil.

Closure of Meeting— 11.15 AM with the 'Grace'.

Signed: **Date:**

ST JAMES' ANGLICAN PARISH. MORPETH
PARISH COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
– SUNDAY 10 MARCH 2024, 11.20 AM, MINUTES

Present: Fr Nickolas Edwards, Fr James Hudson, Ross Whybin and Helen Priestley.

Apologies: Nil.

Opened: 11.20 am with prayer by Fr Nickolas Edwards

Acknowledgement of Country: Fr Nickolas Edwards.

Appointments to Parish Council

At the February 2023 meeting of Parish Council, it was agreed that the next meeting be held on Thursday 11 April 2024.

However, as two ((2) roles were still to be filled following the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 10 March 2024, Fr Nickolas Edwards requested that the first meeting of the new Parish Council for 2024 be held on Sunday 10 March 2024 in order to comply with the Diocesan direction, that additional appointments be made within (21) twenty-one days of the AGM.

Following are the appointments made to Parish Council at this meeting by the Incumbent:

- Parish Councillor - Ron Hacker
- Parish Councillor – Rev'd Sheila Bourne
- Parish Secretary - Helen Priestley
- Parish Treasurer – Phil Weston, and,
- Mission Secretary - Patsy Carpenter.

The following motion was put to the meeting:

“That the appointments to the above roles on Parish Council for 2024 be accepted.”

Moved by Fr James Hudson, seconded by Helen Priestley. All in favour – Yes.
Carried.

Next meeting – Thursday 11 April 2024, 10.30 am.

Close - 11.30 am with the “grace”.