

2014 Annual Report from the Locum, Rev'd Judith Marriott

Dear Friends,

Having only been here as Locum for 3 days per week over the past few months I hope my observations are helpful. It is good to be with you in the lead up to Holy Trinity's 100th year! A big milestone. What a joy to be part of giving thanks for the church we love, the relationships between people, including the wider parish community and of course this sacred place where we gather and worship our creator God.

We are thankful and appreciative that God has led us over the years. We also give thanks for the pioneers who built this church of which we are now the "trustees". Our Church needs some tender loving care – the interior ceiling paint is peeling off and some brick pointing work needs fixing on the exterior. So an appeal has been launched to raise \$50,000 for these works, hopefully we can all make a special Christmas gift for this purpose. The appeal will close on the 1st March. Please prayerfully consider what your monetary gift will be.

This will ensure the preservation and enhance the beauty of the church in time for our 100-year celebrations. The church does not receive any funding from the government or diocese and is dependent on the goodwill and generosity of its Friends in order to meet some of this cost.

Graham Disney and his centenary committee are preparing for the celebrations of our colourful and considerable history.

I commenced worshipping here in 1988, with my husband and first daughter, after returning from London, where I lived and worked for ten years. Reverend Roger Featherston was the Incumbent and I became one of his wardens. I knew God was calling me to sacramental ministry and discerned that I needed to wait till my second daughter went to school. Roger, Kate Prowd and later Atsushi Shiboaka were mentors to me. In 1999 I left Holy Trinity to do placements at other churches, my family remained here. I did a Theology Degree Trinity Theological College, Melbourne University, was ordained in 2003, served in a number of different parishes and finally became Vicar at St Michael and All Angels Beaumaris for 8 years. Now I do locum work and was delighted to be asked back to Holy Trinity. So what do I see here after being away for 15 years?

I see faithful people of God, loving their church and each other, through their presence, their prayers, through relationships and through giving for the work of God here and in the wider world. The Anglican parish of Hampton continues to serve well, stepping out into the community and sharing their beliefs and faith, often in very practical ways.

The Hampton demographic means there is still a mix of ages, although housing costs in the parish has risen drastically and many young families cannot afford to move in. Hampton is a very desirable area and will continue to attract. But it has meant that we are fewer young ones. It is noteworthy that the Holy Trinity kindergarten enrolments for next year are down.

Numbers have fluctuated in the 40 – 50+ zone, with absences through holidays and winter ailments. It is always good to see someone return who has been away. Our electoral roll numbers are down and the average age of attendees has risen.

I have noticed that when someone new comes to worship they are given a very good welcome. I was particularly impressed with young Gwynneth Thomas last week. When a new family came she did not hesitate to offer to teach the young ones. Later she told me she shared the story of The Lost Sheep. I thank her, together with all who teach the faith to our children, both at church and at home. It is vital to pass on the faith. Please continue to encourage and support the teachers and parents as they teach children.

I note that 4 youth were confirmed during the year and are enjoying Liz Stringer who leads them. Thanks Liz. Our children are very important so parents please encourage them to attend worship regularly as part of their growth in faith.

The Holy Trinity kindergarten have in the past been offered their own special services here and I plan to offer them a Christmas service. Our Crib service on Christmas eve enjoys a huge turnout I am hoping this offer will be taken up and relieve the congestion on Christmas Eve. Or indeed they may choose to come to both services! We will also produce a leaflet promoting our new year return to Sunday school and its program.

We have a Christmas toy appeal this year which goes to Family Life and they would like things for teenagers if possible. All must be in by 7 December, when we will have the children decorate the Christmas tree and discuss the meaning of the tree and Christmas.

During the interregnum some in the parish family have had to work through some very mixed emotions. With time, hurt feelings and disappointments can be overcome. Listening and hearing each other helps the healing process. As Christians we are to embrace tolerance, generosity, restraint, courage and forgiveness, relying on the enabling grace of God.

I have seen that Holy Trinity continue to support each other with good social gatherings and let us not underestimate how important it is to gather and to enjoy each other. I would like to see more studies undertaken in homes. Sharing hospitality in our homes and learning from each other grows understanding and faith. The women's bible study is an excellent group.

Thank You

To the wardens and parish council. Leadership is about encouraging others, having vision, engaging people to participate and contribute. I have appreciated their guidance and help. Martin Turner, the Treasurer prepares excellent financial reports and manages the budget expertly. My personal thanks to Julia Sykes-Turner, the only other paid person in the parish, who produces the newsletter weekly, also pulls together the annual reports and many other important administrative tasks. Julia is a creative musician also and a delight to work with. I thank you Julia for your support. I also want to thank those who so lovingly prepare the church for worship each week, which adds to our experience of worshipping God.

With the strong possibility of a new Vicar being appointed in January it is wise to maintain the present wardens into the new incumbency. Simon, Greg and Richard have indicated their willingness to serve another term. I thank them for that. Fiona Thomas, Caroline Adkins and

Bart Kohler will end their term on Parish Council this year and I appreciate their contributions. Other members are continuing this year and I sincerely thank them - Martin Turner, Treasurer. Parish council members Kate Walker, Ann Mayor and Linda Barry. Maureen Gruenert will join the council and I look forward to working with these people.

There are many of you who quietly do the work of the church and I thank you for your love and care of each other. The Wardens have offered thanks in their report also.

Worship and Music

We held 185 services of worship, 2 baptisms, 1 marriage, 6 funerals and 4 confirmations. (See other statistics). Our 100 years celebration in March will be a highlight lets Pray for many baptisms too.

Regarding rostered duties. I hope you see it as an opportunity and honour to serve at worship in any capacity. When you are doing a duty at worship offer that to God in praise and thanks that you can serve and use the talents given you. No one needs to be rostered on every week, except me and indeed you, if you wish!

We currently hold regular services at 10am Wednesday, 8 and 10am (with kids church also) on Sunday, We also hold meditation sessions a few times a month and various Taize and Advent services with the Ecumenical churches.

With the approach of a busy Christmas season, ecumenical matters will be imminent with the Advent worship sessions at the various churches; the toy appeal for Family Life; the church restoration appeal, The Lessons and Carols evening and all the Christmas services. Music is a very important part of worship and we give thanks for our faithful and talented musicians. Ian Keenan our musical director is currently working on the Lessons and Carols Service, which looks brilliant. If you like to sing please join the choir for this special event. They are rehearsing Thursdays at 7.30pm.

Outreach and Mission

Outreach and mission continue to be things we do faithfully at Holy Trinity. The following agencies are currently being financially supported. Anglican Board of Mission, Family Life Sandringham, Mission to Seafarers, Anglican Outback, Ridley College, Trinity College, Anglicord Overseas Aid and Anglicare Victoria.

Having regular tenants ensures a steady and vital income and we thank the wardens for their good relations with the tenants and care of them.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is often an unseen dimension of the work of church and so I want to thank all involved in visiting those who are sick or in aged care. Special thanks to Maureen Gruenert who coordinates with me regarding needs. I personally make regular visits to parishioners in hospital, at home or aged care. Recently Dulcie Harrison had her 100th birthday which was quite an occasion. We help with the ageing congregation as much as possible.

Other pastoral care is given in the form of grief counselling around funerals along with preparation for memorial and interment services. There is pre-baptismal preparation and all sacraments are offered. Please do keep us informed if you are unwell and we will help. We rely on Anglican chaplains at the various hospitals but this requires coordinating so do please let us know when you are in need or in hospital.

The Future

Holy Trinity continues to be a beacon of light in Hampton. We are fortunate in having a good team who have risen to the occasion of working together in being church without a full time Incumbent. A locum working 3 days a week does not fulfil all the needs of an active parish. I have observed commitment to God and each other, being a parish that serves with love and care. Well done true and faithful servants.

There is always more we can do in God's service for we never resign or indeed retire from being active Christians. So I want to encourage you to invite others to know the Lord Jesus – we are a welcoming church **but we must be an inviting church if we are to grow.** This is the responsibility of all. Are you doing all you can for the Lord? Firstly pray about someone, then invite them to come, offer to bring them with you, suggest they think about it (you pray) and leave it with them. Let God do the next bit of working in their heart. Give them some space and see what happens. The main thing is to invite them.

In closing, thank you for the support and contributions that you make. I enjoy serving as your Locum and please know you can call on me at any time.

Blessings and peace to you,

Reverend Judith Marriott