

ST. LUKE'S HORNSBY HEIGHTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6 March 2016

MINISTER'S REPORT

In Matthew 28:18-20, the resurrected Jesus says to his disciples:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go 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 I have commanded you.

Here at St. Luke's Hornsby Heights we continue on that commission: taking the message of the gospel to Hornsby Heights so that we can help people become disciples of Jesus and then help each other to continue to grow as disciples of Jesus. And we also play a role in taking the gospel message much further afield as well, partnering with missionaries who are working in our local high schools, Port Hedland, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and South Asia.

Our Sunday Services

In 2015 we have continued our pattern of three rather different services each Sunday: a prayer book service at 8 am, a family service at 9:30 am and a youth service at 6:30 pm. Our average attendance for these services in 2015 was:

8 am	16
9:30 am	48 adults and 7 children
6:30 pm	14

Our various sermon series in 2015 covered:

- 2 Peter
- Luke 16-19
- Joshua
- The prayers of Jesus from John 17
- Colossians
- Christian ethics
- The Ten Commandments

My thanks to David Claydon, Robyn Claydon, Davo Davies, Robert Evans, Alan Davies and Jess Gough for helping out with the preaching. We also had sermons from Mark Short (from Bush Church Aid) and Craig Jennings (from Operation Christmas Child). Indeed, so inspired were we by the presentation from Operation Christmas Child that we more than doubled the number of Operation Christmas Child boxes we sent off last year.

We are very blessed at St. Luke's with the pool of talented and dedicated musicians who serve us. We have Bill Poole and myself at 8 am, the Evans band and the Anon band at 9:30, and the Dearnley band and the Davo band at 6:30. The people involved all put a lot of thought and practice into what they do, and our services are all the richer for this. But don't ever think that our music groups are a closed shop. We love to have new people join us. Speak to me or to one of the band members if you're interested in becoming part of this ministry. Why not come along to a few practices and see how you go.

Serving at St. Luke's

One of the great things about St. Luke's is the way that so many people are willing to pitch in and help in lots of different ways. We have people help with upfront things like leading services and prayers, we have people help with our children's work and our youth work, we have people help with our seniors ministry, and we have people help behind the scenes as well: church cleaning, tidying up the grounds, church morning tea or supper, preparing rosters, setting up for communion, updating our website and Facebook page, publishing our Family Matters newsheet, paying the church bills, keeping track of our Safe Ministry records, organizing events like the Model Railway Exhibition, the church dinner and the church weekend away – these are just some of the many things that go on behind the scenes that keep St. Luke's running smoothly. And I think the fact that there are so many people involved shows that there's an ownership of our church. People don't come along thinking "This is the church I attend". They come thinking, "This is the church I'm a part of". A big thank-you to you all.

Some changes

The suburb of Hornsby Heights is entering a period of change. There was a dramatic expansion of the suburb in the early 1980's, and what we are seeing now is that that generation who moved into the area 35 years ago are reaching retirement age. Some are staying put, others are selling up and moving elsewhere. We're seeing that in our own congregation, and it's happening in the suburb as a whole. And as houses in our suburb are being sold, we find that many of them are being bought by young families moving into the area.

As a Parish Council, we gave a lot of thought as to how we could best use our new facilities to further our ministry, especially in the light of these demographic changes.

The two new ministries we decided to focus on were:

Prime Time – a ministry to the over 55's and their friends. This takes the form of a monthly gathering at which we have a short service, a fully catered lunch and a guest speaker on a topic of interest. Barry Willick has been coordinating this ministry.

Mini Climbers Playtime – a playgroup for young children and their parents or carers. The parish took the decision to employ Steph Davies to run this ministry, and you'll see from the report later in these papers that it's been going really well.

Parish Council is also aware that the ethnic mix of Hornsby Heights is slowly changing. Hornsby Heights is still pretty monocultural, but that may well change in years to come, and so we need to be thinking about how we can best minister in that context.

Mission 2020

To help give the parishes of our diocese shape and focus in our ongoing efforts, the synod has called on us all to embark on what we call “Mission 2020”.

Our vision is: To see Christ honoured as Lord and Saviour in every community

Our mission is: We commit ourselves afresh, in prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit, to glorify God and love our neighbor by proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ, calling people to repent, and living lives worthy of him.

Our Priorities in this mission are:

1. Reach all the lost in our Diocese with the life-giving gospel of Christ

This includes:

- 1.1 Engaging with our local community and creating opportunities for evangelism at the local and diocesan level
- 1.2 Mobilising more people to share Christ’s love in word and deed
- 1.3 Strengthening our invitation, welcoming and integration

2. Deepen spiritual maturity among our members

This includes:

- 2.1 Ensuring congregational gatherings are significant places for spiritual growth
- 2.2 Enriching Christian fellowship through small groups
- 2.3 Strengthening personal and family devotions through prayer and Bible reading

3. Equip our members to exercise their gifts

This includes

- 3.1 Strengthening leadership skills of clergy, especially rectors
- 3.2 Identifying and unleashing the gifts of church members
- 3.3 Encouraging risk-taking and new initiatives in outreach and discipleship

4. Respond to the changing face of our society

This includes:

- 4.1 Loving our neighbours in local and cultural communities
- 4.2 Reaching children and youth
- 4.3 Connecting with people over 60 years of age
- 4.4 Planting new churches in rapid growth areas

You may notice that we’ve started on some of these things already, with:

- The survey that we did this morning was to give us a baseline, so that we can measure our progress
- Mini Climbers Playtime

- Prime Time
- The talks on our Getaway are all about how we as individuals can be playing our part in promoting the gospel
- Our welcoming workshops

But there's also much more to do. This is an outline that we'll keep before our Parish Council to help guide our plans for the future.

Please be praying for the ongoing work of our church. May it be to the glory of Christ.

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Yours in the service of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Pears', written in a cursive style.

Christopher Pears