

Ministry Reports

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Senior Minister's Report

Last year I was able to experience my first full year in the life of St Mark's, which was a profound blessing. In many ways it could be summed up as a year of fresh foundations. This was certainly true for me and our family. Relational foundations were strengthened as our family got to know more people from the St Mark's community. It is strange to think that in the space of less than 18 months we feel we have already developed a rich sense of church family. We are thankful to everyone who connected with us via the welcome lunches throughout the year.

Teaching foundations

It was also a year of teaching foundations. Divided roughly across the four school terms, we looked at four foundational parts of the bible. In Term 1, we looked at the foundations of the Gospel, exploring Mark's Gospel and getting up close with the person of Jesus. This culminated in our "History Changed Forever" Easter services where we were able to hear the final three chapters of Mark's Gospel read aloud across the Thursday, Friday and Sunday services.

In Term 2, our "Creator & Creation" teaching series examined the foundations of our relationship with God from the opening chapters of Genesis. We finished this series with an evening of question and answers coming out of the Genesis teaching. In Term 3 we looked at the foundations of who we are as God's people from the letter of Ephesians, finishing the series with a conversation about marriage in the context of Paul's letter. In Term 4 we looked at the foundations of the Christian life from the letter of James and foundations of the Christmas message in the opening chapters of Isaiah culminating in the Christmas services which celebrated God entering our weary world.

Many of the home groups adjusted to a new rhythm of following the Sunday teaching series which has fostered a sense of unity across the church, as many of us wrestle with and learn from the same part of the bible on Sundays and mid-week. There have been new groups established (you can read about these in the home group reports). I would like to thank the week to week dedication of all our home group leaders across our church.

Planning foundations

There were also planning foundations in 2023. The Parish Council spent a proportion of a number of meetings considering what it might look for St Mark's to grow as a community of disciple-making disciples. This has been the focus of the teaching series in Term 1, 2024. We also spent time discussing a range of initiatives submitted by members, including the implementation of the new Coffee ministry, the viability of a church weekend away in 2024, staff accommodation arrangements, future property possibilities, new mission partnerships and creative upgrades to the foyer. I would like

to acknowledge and thank the Parish Council for their hard work during 2023 (Stuart Kean, Annabel Dodd, Charlie Parry, Jen Seymour, Jason Gould, Ash Dobbie, John Clayton, Jim, Wright and Peter Buckham).

The staff have been spending time thinking and rethinking what it looks like to grow and equip our ministry leaders. With a range of ministries running across our church, we have identified our need to rethink our approach to recruiting, training and equipping leaders for our ministries, particularly as our church grows. It is not as simple as 'we need more volunteers'.

A case study of a growth challenge

Our Sunday morning primary age kids program is a good case study. We want to be a church that welcomes each and every family who joins us on a Sunday. The challenge however is that, no matter how skilled our adult leaders are in teaching children, the legal ratios for child supervision at churches like ours is one adult (with WWCC and Safe Ministry training) for every seven primary aged children in attendance.

What does this mean? It means that if on a Sunday there are four adults available and on deck (not including youth leaders) we can legally only run a primary age kids program for up to 28 primary aged children. If more than 28 primary aged children turn up on a Sunday, we need five adults on deck and the ratios continue in this way. Last year we averaged about 28-30 primary aged kids each week, and if every family turned up on the same Sunday, we would have around 55 primary aged kids. This is great news! But how are we to ensure we have enough leaders in 'the pipeline' to increase our leadership ratios as soon as the need arises? We want to be a church that anticipates and is ready for new families joining us. It is quite possible that the number of kids on a Sunday grows from 28, to 35, to 50, to 80 quicker than we ordinarily would be able to recruit and train new adult leaders.

As a staff team we have felt the need to rethink how to prioritise various ministries in terms of recruiting and training leaders, and rethinking team structures to ensure ministries are both sustainable and flexible, and volunteers feel well supported. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Ellyce and Abe last year in their leadership, wisdom and oversight of so many key ministries in the life of our church. It has been a blessing working with you both.

Special acknowledgments

It is always difficult in a report like this to recognise everyone who deserves to be thanked and acknowledged. I would like to single out a few people who are in some ways representative of many others in our church community. I would like to thank and acknowledge the hard work of our finance team Jen Seymour as our Treasurer, assisted by Alison Franklin, Ehab Bushra, Jo Hooworth and Chris Lucan. I would like to thank a couple of other unsung 'heroes', Joan Wilson who has helped drive and coordinate so much pastoral care and pastoral awareness across our church over many years. Her ability to be alert to individuals and their life situation is quite incredible. Veronica Kells

has quietly ministered to people in our church community with dementia and their carers through the monthly BOOST ministry. Due to various factors, Veronica has decided to pause the monthly BOOST ministry. We give thanks to God for the way Veronica has been used by our Lord of over the years in this area of practical care. I would also like to thank the wardens, Jim Wright, John Clayton and Peter Buckham. As a team they have helped me lead our church with wisdom and accountability. They have given many, many hours to thinking, prayer and discussion. I am thankful for the additional personal support of John Clayton (as Rector's Warden). I would also like to acknowledge Peter Buckham. Last year Peter Buckham kindly indicated he would be willing to stay on as Warden for the year to help me settle into the role. He will be finishing up as Warden at this AGM. He has been an incredible blessing in so many areas, not only staying on top of so many of the property and maintenance aspects of the church (see below for property report!), he also took on a considerable amount of extra work in the interim period between church office administrators, attending to emails and many, many enquiries. He also helped oversee the interview process for the appointment of Ann Leslie.

On the subject of office administrators, I was very grateful for the help of Cecilia Abbott in my early months of starting my role at St Mark's, and am delighted that Ann Leslie stepped into the role late last year. The office administrator role is key and is very easily under appreciated in a church context. I would like to acknowledge and thank Cecilia and Ann for their dedication, flexibility, joyful heart and patience with me in serving our church in this way.

These reports collected in this booklet are just a snapshot of some of the ministry that occurred last year. I pray that as you read them they are as encouraging for you as they are to me!

Warden's Report

2023 OVERVIEW

Last year, we noted that four people held the office of Rector at St Mark's in 2022, which was a modern record. 2023 saw that number dwindle to two! We welcomed back Luke, Vicki and their family after long service leave in late January, and have been blessed by their ministry for the remainder of 2023.

From our perspective there is a sense of optimism around the church, and an eagerness to find out what God's plans are for us, and our part in them, this coming year and beyond.

We have continued to be blessed by our ministers in 2023. We are thankful for Luke, Abe and Ellyce and their families, for their faithfulness and care.

2023 also saw the departure of our much-loved Office Administrator, Cecilia. The term "office administrator" doesn't really capture all of the aspects of the role. Cecilia filled the position (possibly more than filled the position) with diligence, patience and good humour and we give thanks for her.

Finally, 2023 saw the arrival of our much-loved Office Administrator, Ann. Ann, of course, is well-known to many of us, and brings a remarkable array of skills to the position. We are so thankful that she has come on board, and she has immediately become an integral part of the staff team. Welcome, Ann, and we hope that you will find the role rewarding.

MINISTRY AT ST MARKS

You will see in the package of reports an indication of the range of ministries that are operating at St Marks.

We record our thanks for all who are involved in ministry of all types at St Marks. There are so very many people using their gifts here and we are thankful for their faithfulness. The range of ministries that happen here, often behind the scenes and not always visible, is a source of great encouragement to us, and a model to all of us of how faith looks in action.

We commend these reports and ministries to you and to your prayers.

FINANCES

2023 accounts

The Prescribed Financial Statements (PFS) are attached.

The key points to note are:

- Offertories of nearly \$380,000 which very nearly met our budget - in circumstances where we had set the budget projecting more than a 10% increase in offertories, this was a wonderful outcome. We are very thankful for your willingness to partner financially and your faithfulness in giving;
- Expenses were slightly over budget by approximately \$6,000. We projected a deficit of around \$10,000 for last year, and the final deficit was around \$18,000. However, this position is slightly complicated by a number of matters which we explain in relation to the 2024 budget below.

2024 Budget

You may recall that when we presented on the financial position in November 2023, we noted that:

- The reserves that we had allocated from JobKeeper had been exhausted;
- Consequently, we would need to fund the Childrens and Families Minister position out of general offertories; and
- We were projecting increased costs as a result of inflation and were proposing to allow for that in the budget.

We indicated that it was likely that, in order to break even for 2024, offertories would need to be increase by approximately \$65,000.

Since November, we have received two very significant anonymous donations amounting to \$60,000. We are very thankful for the provision of these amounts.

The way that we propose to deal with this in budgetary terms is to allocate the amount to a reserve - with \$40,000 being allocated to 2024, and the remaining \$20,000 to be allocated to 2025.

This means that our budgeted offertories have come down (from what we anticipated that they would be) by \$40,000 to \$410,000, which represents an 8% increase on 2023 levels. As the reserve reduces in 2025 and is exhausted thereafter, there will need to be a corresponding increase in offertories.

As noted last year, we will need to consider these matters as a church, and we commit them to you for your prayerful consideration.

Accounts impact of the donations

The receipt of one of these donations in 2023 meant that we needed to account for it as revenue in 2023. However, we have incorporated the proposed reserve into the

accounts, so that the accounts reflect how we propose to treat the donations. In other words, while the donation appears as revenue, the reserve appears as an expense for 2023.

We have also brought to account a long-standing staff provision.

Accordingly, the accounts for 2023 represent our best attempt to show the true operational position of the church.

Finance team

We remain personally very grateful for the work of the finance team - Jen Seymour as our Treasurer, assisted by Alison Franklin, Ehab Bushra, Jo Hooworth and Chris Lucan in keeping the accounts, managing payroll, processing payments, doing the banking and all of the other very important financial tasks and diocesan compliance measures.

PETER BUCKHAM

Many of you will know that Peter Buckham has decided not to stand as a warden for the coming year. Peter has been a warden for a number of years now - his tenure has coincided with the aftermath of the hail storm and Covid.

Jim and John would like to record our personal thanks to Peter. It would be fair to say that, of the wardens, Peter has done most of the heavy lifting. He has taken on the property management aspects almost exclusively, bringing to bear his considerable expertise on all property matters. He has also done a good deal of the financial aspects as well, managing payments and reimbursements and approvals.

But over and above everything that he has done, Peter's integrity, wisdom, foresight and stewardship have meant that we have been very fortunate to have had him as a warden. We have valued his friendship, his fellowship and his collegiality.

He will be missed. Fortunately for us, in a moment of weakness, he has indicated a willingness to continue to assist in some property matters, for which we are very grateful.

PROPERTY

A special thanks to all those who have kindly given their time and energy to repair and maintain various items within the Church, Rectory, Hall and grounds. This has saved us considerable costs of otherwise employing external contractors.

Church and Hall

A broken window in meeting rooms 2/3 was replaced in March. Repairs also carried out on the kitchen stove where an element needed replacing to ensure cooking temperature was achieved. In April the roller door to the sound room required repair due to failure of a bearing.

Several failed power points and light switches were replaced due to wear and tear at various stages throughout the year.

We successfully completed our annual fire safety test/statement and submitted to council and Fire NSW.

Rectory

The rectory hot water tank needed replacing this year and we were able to take advantage of the government subsidy scheme to change the tank to the latest heat exchanger technology at no cost.

We also replaced the old dishwasher and air conditioner in the rectory kitchen/family room as they were too old to economically repair. Repairs also carried out on the rectory kitchen stove where the oven fan needed replacing to ensure even cooking of items.

Working Bees

The working bees were well attended and we were we happy to see new faces giving a helping hand. Thanks to all those who have cheerfully devoted time to help keep our facilities and grounds tidy and well presented. Thanks also to Joan Wilson and helpers for a much appreciated morning tea to keep the teams energy boosted.

Landscape and Grounds

Earlier in the year we removed a dead tree adjacent to the driveway that had the potential to become dangerous. Another area requiring attention was to reduce the amount of front garden to be weeded regularly to keep it tidy. Due to a generous offer from Richard Miles providing pavers and sandstone blocks, along with the willing help from Graeme Stokes, Neil Lucas and Robina Miles we were able to landscape this area in the front garden that would otherwise been a handful to keep tidy and hopefully be better used in future.

Two flood lights needed replacing in the external lower car park(near Anglicare bins) as they had succumb to the ravages of time and weather. These we changed to LED type which draw a lot less power then the previous units lowering our power bills.

Thanks also to those who serve us by regularly mowing lawns, blowing leaves, removing leave matter from the roof and pressure washing the back verandah. Particular thanks to those who come up after storms to clear away debris and make the church grounds presentable once more.

The importance of the presentation of our church to the local community through clean and well-presented facilities should not be underestimated.

Report prepared by John Clayton, Jim Wright & Peter Buckham

Home Groups

ST MARK'S ADULT HOME GROUPS

Home groups meet weekly to read the bible, pray together and grow disciples.

In 2023 three new groups were started. These were a Wednesday night bible study group and a Thursday morning breakfast group. Thursday morning has had the flexibility as a 'breakfast and bible' group to welcome larger numbers than traditional groups. Jim Wright began a new group in term 4 for those who would like to continue from the Alpha course.

In 2023 many of our home groups changed their focus from deeply teaching God's word to making and growing disciples. We have also encouraged our home group leaders to see home groups as the engine rooms of application for our church. Home groups have been provided with material to help them to disciple their members with the teaching from the current sermon series.

- Term 1 - Mark 1-8 "Why Jesus matters"
- Term 2 - Genesis 1-11 "Creator & Creation"
- Term 3 - Ephesians "Alive together"
- Term 4 - James "Faith that works" & Isaiah 1-11 "A light has dawned"

Many have commented that small groups have been an encouragement for them in their faith, many have particularly appreciated the pastoral aspect of home groups.

It's our constant hope that anyone who would like to be in a group is able to join one.

Prayer points:

- Pray that God would encourage more of our members to join home groups, that our groups would be welcoming places to all.
- Pray that our home groups would help us to walk alongside each other and help each other grow as Jesus' disciples.

Report prepared by Abram Dobbie

KYB (KNOW YOUR BIBLE)

Leader	Thursdays Daytime Group: Vivien Harrison; Fridays Nighttime Group: Karen Alexander (Leader) Connie Rothery (Helper), Janet Davis (Secretary) Fridays Nighttime Group: Karen Alexander
Helpers	Thursdays Daytime Group: Annabel Dodd (Co-leader& Discussion group leader), Connie Rothery (Discussion Group leader), Jill Ingram (Secretary) Fridays Nighttime Group: Connie Rothery (Helper), Janet Davis (Secretary)
Number attending	Thursdays Day time Group: 29 (+3 book/email contact) Fridays Nighttime Group: 10

The Purpose of the Ministry: to see lives transformed through a relationship with Jesus Christ and grow to maturity through the application of biblical truth.

KYB is part of CWCI - Christian Women Communicating International (cwciaus.org.au)

2023 studies

- Term 1: Revelation
- Term 2: 1-2 Thessalonians
- Term 3: Christ in the Old Testament
- Term 4: Ruth (Thursday group only)

The KYB studies are written and published by CWCI over a period of 4 years. (Involving research, writing, academic theological checks, pilot studies, proof reading and printing). The studies are generally centred on one book of the bible, although are sometimes topical. (Normally alternating between Old and New Testament). The studies help women to engage with the bible by offering a few daily questions looking deeply into the current text and at the links with other parts of the bible. The process is particularly effective in allowing women to experience how the Word of God is truly 'living and active': how it both challenges us to grow and yet also encourages us wherever we find ourselves.

About half the women attending are from St. Mark's, a quarter from other denominations and for the remainder, KYB is their only "church" time. We are grateful for the richness of this diversity along with the ability to welcome women wherever they are on their journey of faith. KYB continues to be a time of blessing for many women - a safe environment to bring questions and contributions, a place of nurturing and growing where women feel supported, loved, and welcomed.

On arrival, a cup of tea is always available and then we begin with a short time of worship before breaking into our groups for bible study. A prayer book also circulates during this time for people to write in praise and prayer requests. We then rejoin for a summary talk given normally by one of the leaders. A time of prayer follows the main meeting for those who want to stay. An informal gathering over a cup of tea and a sandwich is a regular follow-on activity. Shared lunches are held on the first and last Thursdays of each term. A small group of women attended the Harbour Region CWCI conference in March at Stanwell Tops.

Praise and prayer points.

- We praise God for the women who write the wonderful KYB studies.
- We praise God that the women who attend our groups express that they feel safe, comfortable and supported.
- We pray that they are transformed by their relationship with Jesus Christ and grow to spiritual maturity through an application of biblical truth.

Report prepared by Vivien Harrison

Youth & Young Adults

E3 YOUTH FRIDAYS

Leaders	Oliver Dodd, Abram Dobbie, Josh McLeod, Beth Dewhurst, Hannah Peltonen, Brittany Rourke, Katie Wright, Heather McLeod.
Number attending	35

E3 Youth runs on Friday nights from 7-9pm year 6 joined us in term 4 in 2023. Most nights have a game, a talk supper and small group time. This year we made normal nights of e3 free to make it easier to invite friends.

- In Term 1 we looked at prayer. Considering a line or two of the Lord's prayer each week. During this term we encouraged youth to read the book of Mark with provided quiet time material to help them to read God's word.
- In Term 2 we did apologetics/defending the faith. Youth were able to vote on common objections to Christianity that they would most like an answer to. The highest voted questions were answered in the week after each vote. Some questions answered were: "How can belief in God be reconciled with Science?" and, 'How can Christians say their religion is the only true one?'
- In Term 3 we did some themes from proverbs, i.e what does proverbs say about family, friends, pride, faithfulness? During this term we had a 'crunchie proverb' moment each night. Youth could write down a proverb and one would be chosen as the 'crunchie proverb'. The person who wrote it down was interviewed about their proverb and were awarded with a crunchie. This encouraged the youth to read from the proverbs and helped to encourage to read an 'unusual' book of the bible.
- In Term 4 we did the video series 'Youth Alpha'. Youth Alpha uses engaging videos to explain the basics of the Christian faith. This helped the youth to understand the basics of the Christian faith and equipped many of them to share this with their friends.

BIG CAMP

Big camp is our Youth 4 day camp in October school holidays. We looked at the relationship that Christianity has with the world on camp. Youth learnt that the world rejected Jesus, and if they followed Jesus their relationship with the world may be complex and at times difficult. They were encouraged that Jesus is with us as we engage with the things of the world and that he helps us by His Spirit to follow him and show God's light to the world. Many youth and leaders consider Big Camp to be the biggest highlight of youth ministry. Praise God for the four young people who made a commitment to follow Jesus on camp.

YOUTH ON SUNDAYS

Sundays and serving in 2023 we saw an increase in youth attending church and serving in kids club/oasis. We thank God for growing and shaping these youth as they seek to lead others to know Christ and grow in Him.

Prayer points:

In 2024 there are a number of exciting new opportunities we would like you to commit to prayer

- Pray for Uplift, our new Sunday morning group run by Felicity Harrison and Aaron O'Brien for youth from year 6-9. Pray this group would encourage and grow disciples. And that youth would find it a joy to go.
- Pray for Big camp as it moves to January. We will run a 'mini camp' in September (2 days) and then a 5 day camp (one extra day) in January 2025. Pray for leaders, youth, and parents as we make this transition.

LEADERS IN TRAINING

Leaders in training or 'LIT' is a 5 day camp run by youthworks that helps young people grow as leaders. The whole week is about growing them as Christians and as servants of Jesus and His people.

Each year we send youth from yrs 9-12 to this camp. Youth that go on this camp grow in their bible reading skills and have opportunities to practise writing bible study questions, writing talks and in the older years they are involved in running church like gatherings.

In January 2024 we sent Carissa M, Bella C, Leah P, Max W, Rachel D, Tiana P, Tim B

YOUNG ADULT'S MINISTRY

Leader	Abram Dobbie
Helpers	Abram and Ashleigh Dobbie, James and Georgina Coates, Ben and Amy Olsson
Number attending	36

The Purpose the Ministry: To help our young adults grow in their faith and grow others. In 2023 we had 3 young adult home groups where young adults could grow. Although some years we decide to shuffle young adults into new groups. This year's groups largely stayed the same.

All of our groups had a home group weekend away to help bond and grow their fellowship.

Our young adults tend to have dinner together after church at the building or out, and this continued in 2023.

Prayer points:

- Pray that young adults that year 12 leavers would be welcomed well into our young adult community and home groups.
- Pray for our young adults who are experiencing big life changes such as moving home, engagements/marriage, transitioning to or out of tertiary study. Pray that in all these our young adults would seek to glorify and serve God.
- Some of our older young adults feel that their time in young adults has come to an end. Especially from those who have been in full time work for some time. Those leaving are looking to be receive guidance and encouragement from those with young families. Please pray for those who are moving on to new home groups, that God would continue to disciple them in new areas of their lives and that they may build strong new connections that will help them to grow as Jesus' disciples.

Youth and Young adults reports prepared by Abram Dobbie

Children & Young Families

SAFE MINISTRY

Leader	Jacqui Clayton
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In our ministries at St Marks's, one of the things that we are most mindful of are our pastoral and legal obligations in caring for, and ministering to, vulnerable people, particularly including children.

It is the responsibility of the Safe Ministry representative, in conjunction with the Minister, to monitor compliance with legal and diocesan standards for safe ministry, and to develop and implement policies that facilitate compliance.

The general principle for safe ministry is that to serve in any capacity with children at St Mark's all volunteers and paid persons must have:

1. A valid and verified Working with Children Check (WWCC)
2. A completion certificate of the Safe Ministry Training course
3. A Safe Ministry Check form completed and sent to the Senior Minister

These certifications must be current for the entire time a person volunteers or works in a role with children.

Each week St Mark's Berowra runs activities for a large age range of children including playgroups, Scripture in local Primary Schools, Youth groups, Kids church. There are also working bees and external events such as 'Carols under the Star.' It is important that all our volunteers are compliant with the Safe Ministry to Children Ordinance 2020 to ensure confidence in our children's ministries as well as designing systems that ensure that safeguards are put in place to maintain the physical and emotional wellbeing of our children.

Thanks to all who have completed their safe ministry requirements for 2023 – it is our aim to have as many people as possible to be safe ministry compliant. Among other things, it reinforces our commitment to care for, and look after, vulnerable people in our church family, and also provides greater flexibility for ministry leaders in planning their rosters and activities.

Current Policies and Procedures

In 2023, St Mark's has implemented a number of procedures and policies, building on those in place, to assist in the administration of our safe ministry obligations. The current policy and procedure is set out below.

St Mark's Berowra has created an email contact solely for the purposes of Safe Ministry. This has enabled all the records to be sent to one email address where they are

organised and saved into folders according to their content. This email is checked weekly unless otherwise required. When checked, the SAMRO records are updated accordingly.

Every term, a spreadsheet is sent to church leaders and organisers of children related activities to fill in the names of leaders serving for the term. Leaders are then checked against the SAMRO records for their eligibility to serve in child related activities within the church. Leaders are also flagged if their compliance is expiring soon, so gentle reminders can be given.

Each month a spreadsheet is sent to church leaders of child related activities as well as the minister, of people who have appropriate compliance (WWCC and Safe ministry training) who may be called upon to fill in for leaders who are unwell or larger than expected numbers of children. This ensures that all our volunteers are compliant within safe ministry guidelines.

It would be helpful if more members of St Marks were fully compliant with WWCC and Safe Ministry training, so our pool of people that can be asked to fill in at short notice is larger.

Prayer would be appreciated for more people to be willing to engage in our children's ministries through the completion of Safe Ministry training and a WWCC.

Report prepared by Jacqui Clayton

KIDS CHURCH

Leaders & helpers	<p>Creche & FROGs: Emma Cowdrey, Kylie Dunn, Aziza Bushra, Georgina Ball, Peter Routh, Carol Pendrick, Margret Adams, Ruth Bellia and Ash Dobbie, .</p> <p>Oasis: Ellyce McKirdy, Felicity Harrison, Dylan Plumridge, Hannah Peltonen, Hayden Millican, Annette Wood, Victoria Woodhouse, Kyle Lassau-Wray, Neville & Vivien Harrison.</p> <p>Youth Helpers: Bella Clayton & Max Woodhouse, Gemma Woodhouse, Tiana Runnalls & Katie Zhao.</p>
Number attending	50 children

In 2023, St. Mark's Anglican Church started Kids Church with a new senior minister. This fresh approach to ministry led to an increase in the number of families attending our Sunday ministries, as the overall congregation grew throughout the year.

To support families with young children, our Creche and FROG's program combined efforts. As a result, our teams became more resourced with leadership and relationships with children aged 0-5 years.

We introduced regular family spots that tied in with what the adults were learning, with a wonderful team of serving congregational members. Children were able to witness the Bible readings and worship music, while parents could engage with the family spots. The service leader would introduce what the children were looking at that day in their children's programs. Also, we started a new curriculum in our children's ministry called "The Gospel Project". It is a weekly Bible study that helps all ages delve deep into the big story of the Bible—God's plan to rescue His people through His Son, Jesus Christ. The curriculum is divided into four terms:

- Term 1: "Preparing for Ministry & Encounters with Jesus"
- Term 2: "Early responses to Jesus & Miracles of Jesus"
- Term 3: "The Teachings of Jesus"
- Term 4: The Rejection of Jesus & The Warnings of Jesus"

For 2024, we give thanks for our families at St. Mark's. We also give thanks for those who serve in Kids Church, especially the young adults who serve on Sunday mornings and then come to 6 pm church on Sunday nights.

Prayer points:

- We pray for more leaders to be willing to serve in this ministry and for all our leaders to be well-trained in presenting Christ to young people.
- Additionally, we pray that young families will continue to come back to church and see the importance of helping their children grow in Christ as one body in fellowship together.
- Lastly, we pray for our youth's continual growth and love for Jesus in serving our children at St. Mark's.

KIDS CLUB

Leaders	Ellyce McKirdy, Ash Dobbie, Alyssa Rourke, Irma Pujowidianto & Jordan Summers
Youth Helpers	Bella Clayton, Tim Ball, Rachel Daniels, Bradley Gallagher, Leah Palmer, Carissa Murphy and Max Woodhouse
Number attending	>40 children; Kindergarten - Year 6

Kids Club is a fun and exciting weekly event for children from kindergarten to year 6. We offer games, crafts, activities, and afternoon tea. Our aim is to introduce children to Jesus in a fun and engaging way that is age-appropriate and hands-on. Our leaders are enthusiastic and look forward to building relationships with the kids while teaching them about the good news of the gospel.

Also, we started a new curriculum in our children's ministry called "The Gospel Project". It is a weekly Bible study that helps all ages delve deep into the big story of the Bible God's plan to rescue His people through His Son, Jesus Christ. The curriculum is divided into four terms:

- Term 1: "Creation is Ruined & God's Rescue Plan"
- Term 2: "Out of Egypt"
- Term 3: "Into the Wilderness"
- Term 4: "Away from the Land & Back to The Land"

Our youth are also involved in our children's programs. They are trained through LiT (Leaders In Training), Safe Ministry/check, and ongoing face-to-face training. Our youth take on responsibilities such as planning Kids Club, setting up and packing up, leading discussion groups, dance, activities, and presenting children's talks.

Prayer points:

- Pray for our new community families to continue to hear the gospel.
- Thankfulness for our leaders who have served so faithfully in children's ministry over the many decades here at St Marks.
- Pray for news leader to seek opportunities to serve in this growing ministry.
- Pray for our youth who are continuing in their leadership training to serve children.

KIDS GAMES

Leaders	Ellyce McKirdy, Kyle Lessau-Wray, Dylan Plumridge, Georgina Ball, Hannah Peltonen, Vivien Harrison, Ash & Abram Dobbie, Irma Pujowidiyanto, Edwin & Elissa Tomlins, Katie Wright, Aziza Bushra, Ann Leslie, Felicity Harrison, Danny Geng & Beth Dewhurst.
Helpers	Debbie Allen, Jen Bull, Carol Pendrick, Margret Adams, Lis Stokes, Joan Wilson, Leanne Plumridge, Hayley Mylius, Connie Rothery, Lisa Mitchell-Reading, Lottie Henley-Fox, Veronica Kells, Layla Hagar, Jen Buckham
Youth Helpers	13 youth serving.
Number attending	>55 children;

Last year's Kids Game theme was "Joy Story - You've Got a Friend in Jesus". This Toy Story themed event was encouraging in seeing 55 children from kindergarten-year 6, hearing solid bible teaching, having huddle groups where they could ask and explore the bible with their peers and leaders and watch some amazing Toy Story skits that link into the topics, we discussed throughout Kids Games. We had an incredible team of adult leaders, helpers and youth serving at Kids Games and amazing opportunities to grow our youth for future leadership roles in ministry.

- Day 1: John's Letters About Love (1 John 3:16-20) Speaker: Ellyce McKirdy - Big Idea: When I'm Friends with Jesus, he shows me selfless love.
- Day 2: Jesus Visits Mary & Martha (Luke 10:38-42) Speaker: Felicity Harrison -Big Idea: When I'm Friends with Jesus, I can learn what is important.
- Day 3: The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-11) - Speaker: Ash Dobbie -Big Idea: When I'm Friends with Jesus, he shows me the truth about himself.
- Day 4: The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17) -Speaker: Katie Wright-Big Idea: Being Friends with Jesus means following him as my Lord.
- Day 5: Jesus Washes His Disciples Feet (John 13:1-17) - Speaker: Edwin Tomlins -Big Idea: When I'm Friends with Jesus, He shows me how to be a good friend.
- Day 6: Jesus Forgives Peter (Matthew 26:69-75) - Speaker: Luke Woodhouse -Big Idea: When I'm Friends with Jesus, he shows me how to love no matter what.

Our Memory Verse was John 13:34 ""So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other". In Jesus' early ministry, Jesus made it explicitly clear that love for others was a cornerstone of obedience to God (Matthew 22:36-40). The general instruction to love, then, is not being stated as if it's the first time it's being mentioned. The "newness" Jesus refers to here is in the sense of something refreshed and being re-emphasized. This re-issued commandment is being given in the context of Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet (John 13:2-5). Jesus explained that if the Master acts as a humble servant, so too should those who follow Him (John 13:12-17). Here, Jesus doubles down on that idea by setting His own love as the standard to which all believers should aspire. In the next verse, Jesus will further explain the importance of acting in Christian love. In no uncertain terms, love—especially between fellow believers—is meant to be the primary and most powerful sign of one's Christian faith (John 13:35; 1 John 3:14).

Prayer points:

- Pray for this years Kids Games, that we may reach more children and families in the Berowra Community.
- Thankfulness for our leaders who have served so faithfully at Kids Games and beyond.
- Pray for new leader to seek opportunities to serve in this ministry.
- Pray for our youth who are continuing in their leadership training to serve children.

Kids Church, Kids Club and Kids Games reports prepared by Ellyce McKirdy

SCRIPTURE IN SCHOOLS (SRE)

Leader	Alyson Lucas
Helpers	Brooklyn: Aziza Bushra and Lis Stokes. Cowan: Jenny Sistrom Berowra: Jackie Walford, Ben Olsson, Annette Tenkate and Abe Dobbie Wideview: Alyson Lucas, Annette Wood, Ash Dobbie and Abe Dobbie.
Number attending	220 across the schools.

Purpose of this ministry is to support Christian parents and help children grow in their faith in Jesus in local schools.

Teachers do a mix of bible teaching, song, use visual aids, games and activities to help children engage in the lessons and learn about Jesus. We also teach the children memory verses.

The lessons go for half an hour and the teachers have developed positive relationships with the children who attend these lessons.

On occasion we have the opportunity to give a child a bible, with permission from their parents. Most children attending scripture finish with an understanding what it means to follow Jesus, which is a really positive outcome.

In 2023, the lessons were based on:

- Term 1: Knowing God from Genesis 1-9.
- Term 2: Old Testament characters (God faithfulness throughout the OT)
- Term 3: God's Kingdom (What it means to have faith in God).
- Term 4: Acts (God's Mission).

In 2023, we had fantastic Easter and Christmas services in the schools. At the Easter service we had a visit from QuizWorks, which the students responded to really positively. At the Christmas service Luke and Abe led the service as men on a mission from God, which the children really enjoyed.

In 2024, the numbers in scripture continued to decline, and unfortunately one school is making it difficult to attend to teach. To help try to increase the numbers again, we would like to see the implementation of online school registrations with the SRE lessons included by the schools. Others have found that numbers increase in their classes when this happens.

Prayer points:

- Please pray for protection and grace in the eyes of the schools.
- Please pray that we will be a good witness within the schools we attend.
- Enough scripture teachers to teach all classes.
- Please pray for the implementation of online school registrations.

If your Home group would like to adopt a scripture teacher to pray for or you personally would like to receive our monthly prayer points please let me know

In Christ, Alyson

Report prepared by Alyson Lucas

WORLD VISION CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Leader	Angela Smith
Helpers	2
Number Involved	29 families

The St Mark's World Vision Group has continued to run smoothly thanks to the ongoing faithful support of our members. We had three children leave their respective programs and we were able to continue sponsorship with three new children. We currently sponsor 15 children located in 12 different countries. Six of these children are fully sponsored by individuals or families. Support for the remaining nine children is shared by 29 individuals/families, contributing varying multiples of \$3.00 monthly units, 16 units being required to cover sponsorship of each child (\$48.00 per month). I am grateful for the continued faithful support of past and present members of St Marks of this wonderful program, where children and their communities are helped with resources which enable education, improved health and broader community projects which improve living standards.

During Covid restrictions, communication to members was limited to email and hand delivery of their child's progress report, Christmas, and Birthday cards etc. There was a noticeable drop in mail from World Vision, where clearly some countries were unable to send the usual information. In addition to our regular sponsorship, the continued generosity of parishioners enabled special donations totalling \$700.00 to be made to the mid-year "Child Hunger Appeal". The value of these donations was multiplied 18 times through the partnership with the UN World Food Program. Further donations amounting to \$360 were made thanks to our fund running to a surplus. Thankyou so much! - this money provides life-changing opportunities for the children and their communities.

I would also like to thank Gary Bowden for helping me again in checking my book-keeping and acting as Auditor. He has been a great support during the year. If anyone wishes to become involved in ongoing support of children overseas or would like to make a single one-off donation at any time please contact me via email hamlynn@tpg.com.au or mobile 0402894977

Report prepared by Angela Smith (Treasurer / Co-ordinator)

Music & Creative Ministry

MUSIC MINISTRY (10AM CONGREGATION)

Leader	Edwin Tomlins
Helpers	22

A large and dedicated team of musicians served our 10am congregation every week throughout 2023. We aimed to provide high quality worship music which complemented the Biblical content of each Sunday's meeting, leading the people to turn their thoughts Heavenward. Alongside 6pm musicians, musicians from the 10am congregation also served as the band for Carols Under the Star and some of the important combined services and events.

By the numbers, in 2023 we were served by 9 singers, 5 keyboard players, 3 guitarists, 3 drummers, 1 flautist and 1 very hardworking bass player. We played 220 songs from a list of 93, including 7 new songs. The most played song was Behold Our God from the good people at Sovereign Grace Music, followed closely by God is for Us from City Alight.

Thanks to Sue H, Vicki Wilson, Vicki Woodhouse, Lisa M, Ian Wood, Ian Wilson, Matt S, Liz P, Lissa D, Mike S, Mike M, Neville H, John C, Barnaby D, Georgina B, Ann L, Kristen M, Mark P, David B and Edwin T for serving across the year in this ministry. Thanks also to the excellent team of sound technicians and Proclaim operators who contributed their talents to allow the musicians to lead the congregations in singing to God!

Report prepared by Edwin Tomlins

MUSIC MINISTRY (6PM CONGREGATION)

Leader	Naomi Parry
Helpers	21 members

The 6pm music ministry exists to lead the congregation in musical worship each week at church - encouraging, building up and edifying the congregation, while giving praise to our great God.

Music - in particular corporate worship - is seen in scripture as a gift from God for the building up of the church and an expression of praise, lament, joy and sorrow; a way to help remember scripture and unify the body.

At St Marks we value music ministry and its role in building up the church. In 2023 the music team at 6pm church has consisted of approximately 21 members. Each week we lead the congregation in approximately four songs. Over the year, we have introduced many new songs, often inspired by the sermon series or in response to a gap in the song list. Songs are chosen for their biblical lyrics, sing-ability and musical style. Each week we endeavour to play songs in a way that lifts up the congregation's combined voice as the primary instrument.

In 2023, we changed the way the roster was organised and switched to a two monthly roster rather than set bands. This has meant there have been less last minute swaps, volunteers have gotten used to playing with different people and instruments and we all "share the load" more in terms of resources.

Over the year, the 6pm music team has welcomed 3 new members to the team. We hope to be able to welcome more over 2024, particularly in instruments where we are lacking resources such as acoustic guitar, electric guitar and bass.

During the year the music team has also helped out at special services such as Christmas, Easter and combined services, utilising the gift of music and creativity to encourage new-comers and point them towards Jesus.

The 6pm music team looks forward to continuing to serve the people of St Mark's and praise our great God through the glorious gift of music.

Report prepared by Naomi Parry

CREATIVE MINISTRY

Leader	Annabel Dodd and Annette Wood
Helpers	2
Number attending	30

The purpose of Creative Ministries is

- To bring glory and honour to God through creativity, recognising that God, as our creator, is the source of all creativity. And He has made us in His image. To enhance our church building interior, to make it more welcoming, nurturing and uplifting for all who come into our church building.
- To have an avenue for creative people in our church family to share their gifts and in doing so, contribute to the building of the body of Christ.
- To provide avenues for people to improve their mental health.
- To recognise that people have different learning styles, and so create ways to display God's word visually in posters, banners etc.

Projects for 2023

April - Timber cross constructed by Olly Dodd using some of the old joists from the original church building.

Sept. - 'A response to Ephesians Teaching Series' (5 people individually).

Oct. - New Café Sitting Area - Brian Heasman and the Men's Shed 're-topped' our coffee tables and Lottie Henley-Fox guided our Interior Vision and rug purchase.

Nov. - 'Christmas Star' (10 people collaboratively)

Plus a few 'Gatherings' at church to fellowship while we created our own projects and general visual/decorating support for other ministries like the Church Hub.



Prayer Requests

- That our displays will proclaim God's word visually.
- That the church interior will continue to grow to be a welcoming and nurturing space.
- Wisdom in guiding and building this ministry.
- Enthusiasm and commitment to continue reaching out to our church community.

Report prepared by Annette Wood

Women's Ministries

Leader	Vicki Woodhouse
Helpers	A team of women coordinated by Vicki Woodhouse (including Heather Seidl, Telena Routh, Ash Dobbie, Gina Coates, Amy Olsson, Karen Alexander, Naomi Parry, Annabel Dodd and Vivien Harrison)
Number attending	There's a range depending on the event but we aim to connect women from across the 3 congregations.

The Purpose this Ministry: to encourage and equip the women of St Mark's to know Jesus and make him known.

Over the last year a number of us have met together once or twice a term to pray for the women of our church, consider pastoral needs and brainstorm events. We have tried to be quite intentional about the purpose of the events we plan and promote (recognising that there is a myriad of good things we could do as women at St Mark's!) We consider events which will foster a deepening of relationships between women across the three congregations, events which we hope will be 'outsider friendly' and an opportunity to invite people to connect with Christian women, and events that focus on women teaching women so that we can learn from God's word together and encourage one another to continue following Jesus. We continue to think and pray about other ways we can support the women of our church as we each seek to hold fast to the salvation offered to us in Jesus.

Please pray that St Mark's will be a community where all women (and all people!) feel genuinely seen, welcomed and loved, wherever they are at with their relationship with God.

Please pray for wisdom as we continue to plan women's events for 2024 and beyond, and consider ways to pastorally care for the women of our church.

EVENING OF STORIES

Last year at the beginning of Term 2 we ran an Evening of Stories where a number of women shared a time in their life where they were particularly aware of God's faithfulness and kindness, even through some quite difficult circumstances. The testimonies of God's goodness were deeply encouraging and provided a springboard for meaningful conversation and learning from one another.

EQUIP CONFERENCE

At the end of Term 2 we hosted the Equip conference looking at the book of Haggai. We enjoyed faithful bible teaching, times to chat and pray as well as a hot lunch. It was wonderful to have a whole day immersed in God's word and fellowship with one another.

WOMEN'S DESSERT NIGHTS

From Term 2, we held monthly dessert evenings for women at St Mark's. It was an opportunity to build relationships and connect with other women from across our different congregations.

ONE LOVE CONFERENCE

In Term 3 a group of us went along to the One Love conference in Castle Hill. We were truly blessed to hear the wisdom and clear bible teaching from Jackie Hill Perry with her warm and engaging style. It was wonderful to have City Alight serve us with their musical gifts and was a truly enriching day.

WREATH MAKING EVENING

We finished the year in Term 4 running a wreath making night at church. Many visitors came along to enjoy participating in this beautiful craft activity and were able to hear Bron share about the greatest love story ever told.

Report prepared by Vicki Woodhouse

Engaging with our community

As a church there are number of ministries and initiatives we are involved in with the purpose to engage with the members of our community, to show practical love and to build meaningful relationships and bridges for people to come to know Jesus. This happens in multiple different ways, through large events and through smaller more organic relationship networks. Here are some of the ways we engaged with the local community in 2023.

CAROLS UNDER THE STAR

Leader	Ann Leslie
Helpers	Core Committee Members: Jen Seymour, Brett Steele, Rich Hasenauer, Jake McKirdy, Jackie Walford, Mark Franklin, Alyson Lucas, Event helpers: 30-40
Number attending	1500 - 2000

Purpose of the Ministry: To engage with the wider Berowra Community and share why Christmas is important to us.

In 2023, members of St Marks Berowra worked with some members from the Catholic and Baptist church congregations to prepare a carols event for the wider community. The event was focused on gifting this event to the community. It is our long term hope that this event will help bridge the gap between the church and non-Christians within our community, and is not intended as a short term outreach event. It is also our hope that we can share why Christmas is important to us, and use this event to invite the wider community to find out more about Jesus or visit our church. The 2023 carols event was the largest we have had, and had very positive feedback. With the move to an earlier date, we were able to include a larger number of children in the children's choir, a local dance group and a combined school band. This drew larger numbers of families to the event. The committee felt that the scripted material ran well and the line up of acts was a good balance of secular and Chrisitan material. We had a fantastic level of sponsorship last year which was wonderful. Our fixed expenses were \$11,873.82, and we received \$10,772.73. Takings from the stall covered the outstanding amount and we made a \$267.94 surplus on the carols last year. We continue to have support from the local government leaders for this event. As the leader of this event, I feel that over the years this is an event that has generated a lot of goodwill between the church, local businesses and the wider community. The program has become more concise and we

have been able to work with the schools and community groups in a more meaningful way. Additionally, raising money for the Berowra RFS, a suggestion made by a non-church attendee, was a more meaningful way to raise money for a charity on the night.

Prayer points going forward are:

- Giving thanks for the way God has provided for this event and allowed us to serve the community in both good and bad times to date.
- Please pray for good weather this year, that we will work together to create another event that will serve God, and for new committee members who might infuse new energy and ideas

Report prepared by Ann Leslie

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Leader	Mike Woodall
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Currently, more than 9 properties are sold within the Parish boundaries each month. Excluded are properties which can only be accessed by water.

The Parish boundaries encompass Brooklyn, Cowan, Berowra, Berowra Heights and Berowra Waters.

The aim is to visit the household 8 weeks or after a sale is made and welcome the newcomer(s) to the district. There is a small pack available and a "Sorry we missed you" card which can be handed over, or left behind with a handwritten note in the event there is no one at home.

Extending a welcome and the hand of friendship could be the first step to building a relationship that extends into the life of the church and a stepping stone to faith in Christ.

I have personally visited some households but due to illness in the family have fallen off at the end of last year. The aim is to also contact members of St Mark's who live near the new household and get them to introduce themselves and say "welcome to the community" This is the part that I intend to do in the future. I have given up another responsibility outside of St Mark's so that this can now be done.

Examples of the cards are shown in miniature below



Report prepared by Mike Woodall

PLAYTIME

Leader	Ellyce McKirdy
Helpers	Margret Adams, Carol Pendrick and Peter Routh
Number attending	20-25 children plus parents/ grandparents; Children ages 0-5

- Term 1+2: "I am" - The Names of God from Little Ones, In term 1 & 2, and " in term 3. That captures the names and characteristics of God through short Bible stories, Scripture, and bright illustrations. God is the Creator, the Healer, our Savior, and our Friend. And it is through God's names that we understand His character. Now little ones will understand how great our God is by learning His names and all the ways He cares for them. To finish off term 1, we had an Easter Egg Hunt at our local park, sharing the message of Jesus and the hope we have in Him.
- Term 3: "God made colours". We learnt how God made everything around us, and children learned about every shade of the rainbow and how colours relate to God's creation. The children enjoyed playing indoors and outdoors, with a fun dress-up week and some edible craft.
- In term 4, we looked at a collection of well-known Bible stories that provided a simple introduction to the important messages of the Bible. With charming, rhyming text and beautiful illustrations, this book was perfect for young children and adults to learn together.

Throughout the year, we enjoyed interactive play, crafts, food, pastoral care, and coffee ministry with the mothers/carers. We were grateful that we could stay connected with families and continue to share the gospel in our local community. We are thankful for the 2024 leaders and helpers and pray for the new leaders in 2024 as they plan for the year ahead.

COFFEE + PLAY

Coffee + Play is a group of mums and children that meet up at Fire Station park for friendship, pastoral care, and fellowship together. The little ones play while the mums chat over a takeaway coffee from our local café. This ministry is helpful for parents to be able to connect with one another, share in life, for support and encouragement.

Prayer points:

- We pray for an encouraging environment that continues to grow and support families in life together.
- Our prayer is that more families will hear about the great news of Jesus' love.

Playtime and Coffee+ Play reports prepared by Ellyce McKirdy

ANGLICARE COMMUNITY COLLECTION

Leader	Annette Tenkate
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The cost of living is a great concern for many, many families, so it was great that we could once more partner with Anglicare and collect grocery items that can be distributed to those in need.

Again this year we held a very successful Food Drive collection. We had the incredible support from Coles Berowra who allowed us to place a collection bin outside their store, as well as hand out flyers requesting donations to customers as they entered. We also had support from the local schools (Berowra, Wideview, BCCS, Cowan & Brooklyn)- most notably Berowra Public School who collected over 20 tubs of items!!! It is a terrific way to connect with our community.

The Food Drive ran for the months of June & July and in the first week of August Anglicare came and collected around 200 boxes of goods to take to their distribution centre. I believe the items are used for emergency relief packages as well and for the food pantry van which visits different suburbs around NSW on a fortnightly basis.

The work of Anglicare is greatly appreciated by those who are in need and is a perfect way to show God's Love. For more information on where our donations go, click on this link <https://www.anglicare.org.au/community/food-assistance/>

We look forward to running the Food Drive again in 2024.

Report prepared by Annette Tenkate

Evangelism at St Mark's

'Evangelism' is the activity of sharing the Gospel of Jesus, which is the message of forgiveness of sins in Jesus, the salvation secured in Jesus, the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Evangelism is accompanied by the prayer that those who hear this Gospel will turn away from the life they once lived (repentance), and turn towards God, trusting in Jesus (faith) as their Lord and Savior. Evangelism can happen over a coffee, over a course, over a short period of time or over a long period of time. At St Mark's we would love to see intentional evangelism happening more and more within our church community, within our households and out in the marketplace. The Alpha and Beta groups at St Mark's are two onsite groups aimed at helping people better understand the person of Jesus, and know what it means to respond to him in repentance and faith.

ALPHA & BETA COURSES IN 2023

Leader	Bron & Steve Lobsey (Alpha), Jim Wright (Beta)
Helpers	Jim Wright, Annette Tenkate, Vivien Harrison, Steve Lobsey, Bron Lobsey, Vicki Woodhouse, Ash Dobbie, Jenny Sistrom (Abe helped on IT while accompanying parents from Youth)
Number attending	20

ALPHA COURSE

Alpha at St Marks utilises the first six weeks of the Alpha Course, to open up safe and honest conversations about faith and life in a relaxed environment. Held at the church in the evenings in a casual setting with couches and supper, topics such as "Is there more to life than this?// Who is Jesus? // Why did Jesus die?// How can I have faith?" are raised through engaging short films before discussion groups follow key ideas from each film.

The course was blessed to have an average of 20 people in attendance, including people from the community with no prior church experience. St Marks members also provided child care which enabled many parents to come along in married couples while their children gained a positive experience of church community.

BETA GROUP

Following on from the six Monday nights, there was interest in continuing to meet from participants who wanted to know more and Jim Wright began a Beta group as a study of the book of Mark with Annette Tenkate to continue to help those interested in more to strengthen their faith. Individuals who had requested individual conversations were also followed up.

Prayer points:

- Praise God for authentic conversations about Jesus in our Berowra Community and for more in 2024.
- Please pray for continued growth of all the seeds that have been planted from Alpha, including the Beta group that is running as a continuation of the course.

Report prepared by Bron Lobsey

Mission Partners

Ministry	Missions Committee
Leader	Jim Wright
Helpers	Bec Gomez, Memo Gomez, Jo Hooworth, Ann Leslie, Annette Tenkate
Number attending	6

Missions Committee oversees the partnership with our link missionaries and the mission organizations we support. We meet monthly to evaluate the effectiveness of our mission partnerships, to plan fundraising, organize missions events and to pray for each mission partner.

In 2023 we raised funds for 3 of our mission partners through the year (FBC, HADCEA & AE). We organized a Missions Dinner in Term 1 for Faith Baptist Church and a dinner in Term 3 for African Enterprise.

\$47,000 in financial support directed through St Marks, as well as an unknown sum sent directly to HADCEA, has enabled our mission partners to preach the gospel, plant churches, train pastors, teach SRE in our local high schools and care for refugees. I am very encouraged by the continued strong support for mission.

Parishioners have been encouraged to support our mission partners prayerfully and financially and to consider short-term mission opportunities.

We sent a small team to India in December to support the work of Faith Baptist Church. More information about this trip may be found in the report about Faith Baptist Church.

At the end of last year it was agreed by the Missions committee and Parish Council that Amy Olsson would be a new local mission partner at St Mark's for 2024 working on Campus at Australian Catholic University with Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students. It is always encouraging to see members like Amy who have grown up at St Mark's, be trained and sent to share the gospel outside our church. We look forward to hearing how God has used her in 2024.

Report prepared by Jim Wright

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERSHIP	Faith Baptist Church, South India
Partnership point person	Jim Wright

Faith Baptist Church is a ministry operating in the Southern Indian states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. It began as a ministry of Pastor JD Enosh over 30 years ago. The focus of the ministry is to establish churches in villages in which there is no Christian presence through the proclamation of the gospel. Churches have been planted in around 200 villages. Godly Christian men are chosen and trained to become pastors. Gospel ministry is difficult in India, with anti-conversion laws frequently used to prosecute gospel workers.

St Marks provides \$18,000 each year to support 40 pastors working under Pastor JD Enosh. The funds we send allow these men to grow disciples of Jesus by teaching God's word Sunday by Sunday and providing pastoral support to Christians, who are a persecuted minority in India. Pastor Enosh works with local pastors to identify suitable areas for the gospel to be taken. Good relationships are established with local leaders and permission is sought to preach the gospel or to show the Jesus Film.

Jim Wright and Rachel Wright travelled to India in December to support the work of Faith Baptist Church. The focus of this trip was the proclamation of the gospel to the Chenchu tribal group in the Southern state of Andhra Pradesh. The Chenchu tribe, numbering around 30,000 people, has not been reached with the gospel. We held ten gospel meetings, organized by local pastors and reaching around 500 people. The response to the gospel was positive and follow up ministry is being conducted by the local pastors.

Report prepared by Jim Wright

HADCEA PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERSHIP	HADCEA - Hornsby and Asquith District Education Association.
Partnership point person	Nigel Rourke

The Purpose the Ministry: To proclaim the good news of Jesus through our local high schools.

HADCEA supports the teaching of SRE (also known as Scripture) at Asquith Boys' and Girls' High Schools.

Headed by Ecashia Jacob, and supported by Fiona Newcombe and Ryan Byrne, the teaching occurs in the schools from Monday to Thursday each week.

We hear regularly from our teachers, are going a fantastic job, as well as been given a detailed report by Ecashia in our committee meetings every two months.

Over the past year, years 7 and 8 have been looking at themes of 'Introduction to the Bible' and Jonah, with years 9 and 10 tackling the theme of 'A good life' and looking at Daniel.

The teachers also run Christian lunchtime groups for students. There has been an encouraging growth in attendees over the past year. A number of 'unchurched' students have dropped in to these groups in an informal, non-threatening environment.

It's always an encouragement to hear about people coming to faith in Jesus, people growing in Jesus, and new people coming into classes and lunchtime groups. These groups include a small number at Asquith Girls' in the Echo group, and up to 15 attendees each week at the boys' school.

In addition to the work of the teachers at the coal face, HADCEA has organised food hampers and charitable donations to the schools for children in need. There were also breakfasts organised at the end of the year at each school, which were well attended and received good feedback.

Over the past year, the funding for HADCEA has dropped at an alarming rate. This is accompanied by challenges in the timetabling where changes by the schools led to the need for three teachers. Our monthly expenses are \$9000 with the average monthly donations are closer to \$4,000.

This means that we need an extra \$5,000 per month to cover our expenses, and if we don't manage to raise this, we will have to cancel this ministry before the middle of this year.

Please pray for:

- Continued good working relations with staff and wider school community.
- Students to have a readiness to engage and learn. Pray for bright minds, conducive learning environments and open hearts as the teachers and class talk about Jesus.
- Health and unity over our team of teachers - for them to be effective in their teaching and engagement. Pray for great rapport with our students.
- For the hearts and minds of HADCEA supporters be moved to pray for the students and teachers and consider financial support where they have this capacity.

HADCEA is always on the lookout for people with certain gifts or passions and would love to hear from anyone in relation to these opportunities including:

- Fundraising co-ordinator
- Publicity co-ordinator
- Prayer co-ordinator
- Treasurer

It is a privilege to be part of this ministry and a unique opportunity to not only proclaim the good news and love of Jesus but to create a supportive environment for Christian students and encourage them to introduce their friends to the Lord.

Report prepared by Nigel Rourke

AFRICAN ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERSHIP	African Enterprise
Partnership point person	Mike Woodall

African Enterprise (AE) is one of the ministries that St Mark's supports.

On March 16 2023, St Mark's had the pleasure of hosting the commissioning of Rev Simba Musvamhiri into the role of CEO of African Enterprise Australia with representatives from the Diocese and from many churches that support AE, it was a great night.

In term 3, which is the term St Mark's usually raises support for the ministry of AE we held a mission's dinner organized by the Mission's Committee to raise support for the Fort Portal Mission in Uganda. The attendees enjoyed goat curry and songs from Africa. Simba was the keynote speaker and we also had some guests from outside St Mark's. We managed to raise \$10,000 for which ever so many thanks to all who participated because the Mission resulted in over 5,000 people surrendering their lives to Christ for which we give thanks to God.

This was one of many evangelistic missions held by AE over the year resulting in tens of thousands of new believers.

In 2024, at the time of writing, we are looking forward to Stephen Mbogo AE's International CEO speaking at all services at St Mark's on 10th March and also at a dinner at the Epping Club on the 14th hosted by the Archbishop. The focus will be on the needs of South Sudan. This is the first visit from Africa for a number of years because of COVID and Stephen squeezed it in before flying to the USA for the marriage of his son for which we give him thanks.

Report prepared by Mike Woodall

SANTISUK PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERSHIP	Santisuk Partnership (Pastor Steve and Nopaluck Cable)
Partnership point person	Jo Hooworth

Santisuk English School is a non-profit language school offering conversational English classes through a number of teaching centres in Bangkok, Thailand. The focus of their ministry is to reach the primarily Buddhist population of Bangkok and beyond with the gospel, to win them to Christ and to integrate their students into church plants associated with each of the teaching centres. The centres use a Bible based curriculum, friendship evangelism and frequent outreach activities to expose students to the good news of Jesus Christ. Although the ministry relies greatly on the assistance of foreign native speakers to teach English, Thai Christians are disciplined to take on teaching, leadership and serving roles with the school and church.

St Marks provides prayer support for this ministry and, when possible, provides short term missionaries to serve as English teachers at the school (no previous teaching experience required!). St Mark's members are also able to teach English classes online from Australia to students based in Thailand. Relationships are maintained from Australia to encourage the missionaries and students through prayer and fellowship.

In 2023 no missionaries were sent from St Marks to Thailand however church members who have been to Thailand previously continued to pray for and communicate with Santisuk staff and students. At the beginning of 2023, two of the existing Santisuk English Centres (Pakkret and Rachayothin) combined to form a new centre at Phahonyothin, At the end of 2023 there were 4 Santisuk centres operating at locations within Bangkok – Bangkapi (the main campus), Ladkrabang, Silom and Phahonyothin as well as one centre in Taptawan in the south of Thailand. The centres faced challenges in returning to pre-Covid enrolment levels with Thailand dealing with ongoing pandemic fears, extreme traffic congestion, cost of living pressures, political instability and with more students preferring to study online rather than face to face. By the end of the year the branch centres had recovered to exceed pre-Covid numbers, also seeing an increase in new believers and baptisms, however the main school was still below pre-Covid levels. In July the school celebrated 30 years of evangelistic English classes with an estimated 450 people attending anniversary open house events at the main campus. Over 20,000 students have studied at Santisuk English School since it first began in the garage of the Cable's house in March 1993 and since then nearly 850 different people have come to serve as volunteer short term teachers. Throughout 2023 Santisuk and Peace Fellowship Church (the church at the main campus) continued to operate many ministries including Prayer, Worship & Equipping Ministries, Sports & Activities Ministry, Men's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Music Classes, Kids Classes and Santisuk Mission House (providing accommodation to short term missionaries). They also continue to support their own Thai missionaries sent within Thailand and other countries in South East Asia.

In mid 2023 the school paid a deposit to purchase an empty building next door to the main campus which will provide for many new ministry opportunities in the future.

Prayer Requests:

- Increased student registrations.
- That the hearts of the students will be open to God's Word and that they will come to know Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Quality discipleship for new believers.
- That God will call more native English speakers as volunteers to teach students in person and online. Provision of remaining funds for the purchase of the building next to the main school (balance due in July 2024)

Report prepared by Jo Hooworth

LOVELLS PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERSHIP	Adrian and Anita Lovell with CMS in Bolivia
Partnership point person	Jo Hooworth

Adrian and Anita Lovell (now together with their children Matias and Maya) are CMS missionaries that have been serving in Bolivia with MOCLAM (previously known as Moore College in Latin America) since 2011. MOCLAM offers high quality theological education to native Spanish speaking Christians in their own language with the aim of enabling them to grow in their knowledge, love and service of the Lord Jesus Christ. They train leaders in God's Word to read, interpret and explain Bible passages to others. St Marks provides both financial and prayer support for this ministry. Financial support is given through the church budget and through direct giving by individual supporters. The Lovells send a monthly newsletter to their subscribers providing updates on their ministry work and prayer needs, they also enjoy communicating with supporters one on one. A family from St Marks provided the Lovells with a car for their use throughout their time in Australia during 2023 which was very much appreciated by the family.

After 11 years serving in Cochabamba, Bolivia, the Lovell family arrived back in Australia at the end of 2022 and spent most of 2023 here on furlough. This time in Australia gave Adrian (now the International Director of MOCLAM) the opportunity to study the Arrows Executive Leaders course which he completed in November. In addition, during this time in Australia the family was able to:

- - Reunite with family, friends and supporters
- - Visit their 7 partnering churches
- - Participate in various CMS events
- - Continue carrying out administration work for MOCLAM
- - Spend time on holiday

- - Seek medical treatment not available in Bolivia
- Attend school (Matias) and preschool (Maya) During this time, Maya received her Australian permanent residency and by the end of the year both children (adopted in Bolivia) had become Australian citizens. The Lovells visited St Marks on several occasions during April and May 2023 to speak at church services and to attend both a lunch and evening event where they shared more extensive updates and stories on their work in Bolivia. They also made themselves available to attend and share at St Marks home groups on request. There was a commissioning service held for the Lovells at St Paul's Carlingford on 28 October which was attended by several members of St Marks. The Lovells left Australia on 30 November, having made the decision to relocate to the city of Santa Cruz in Bolivia to allow a greater reach for the MOCLAM ministry. Their last month of 2023 was spent settling back into life in Bolivia and adjusting to their new city. They found a new church family at "Gracia Soberana" (Sovereign Grace) church in Santa Cruz. They experienced grief over leaving family behind in Australia but excitement in planning new MOCLAM work for the year ahead.

Prayer Requests:

- Emotional steadiness as they settle into a new environment and new routines for the year ahead.
- Development of new relationships with neighbours, classmates and church family.
- Wisdom in considering new opportunities for serving with MOCLAM.
- For Christians across Latin America to grow in seeing how the whole Bible reveals God's salvation plan through Jesus Christ.

Report prepared by Jo Hooworth

GOMEZ / SRT PARTNERSHIP

Partnership	Bec and Memo Gomez
Helpers	Kylie Dunn, Vivien Harrison , Cecilia and Ian Abbott
Number attending	Working currently with 60 families each fortnight and 4 families St marks church hub , there about 20 families on wait list for help

Purpose of the Ministry: - A way of showing the grace that God has for them.

In 2023, St Marks partnered with us (Bec and Memo Gomez) as mission partners to financially support the work we do with the Sydney Refugee Team. We have been involved with the Sydney Refugee Team for the past 8 years, helping displaced families from Iran,

Syria , Sri Lanka , Iraq and most recently Afghanistan. Many in these families come from families they have been split as they have sought refuge and they find themselves in a state of limbo as they try to establish themselves with no paperwork. They struggle to find work due or government assistance, and many struggle with mental health issues and trauma.

This large refugee community is mainly located in and around Auburn and Merrylands as there is a Mosque there and the majority of this community are Muslims.

We currently working with 60 families each fortnight as well as 4 families St Marks Church Hub have been visiting and helping in numerous ways, which include assistance with food, centre link, translation, housing or filling in forms. There is an also garden for the established for the refugees under the care of SRT to help them find a safe space to overcome anxiety or mental health issues. Women in particular do not have a voice in their marriages or families. They are not allowed to speak up or express their opinion. Through the garden there is an opportunity to give them a safe space to express their thoughts and ask any religious questions that may be unsafe to ask within their Muslim community.

We had camp with 100 Refugee families coming to our camp hearing the gospel for the first time , 6 Marks members transported refugees to camp and then back home .. with Vivien Kylie helped at camp , some refugees taking a bible home . Christmas picnic we had 250 refugees hearing the gospel , Kylie , Vivien and Cecilia helping at the picnic .

Supporting these families can be exhausting and confronting They share stories about the Taliban or the way they were treated and it is very hard to leave them after hearing about that level of trauma It is also hard to see families that have not had the same opportunities we have had within this country and to have been born in a safer country. We speak about our own lives with them, and why we do what we do, so they are shown the love that Jesus has had for us. This is a long term ministry. We are in a relationship with these people who are mostly Muslim, and their view of God is different. They do not understand that God is not who they think he is, and they struggle with the view we have of Jesus. This creates a barrier for them to understand who Jesus is. It is a ministry requires patience, prayer and love for them.

It is our long term hope that the work between St Marks and the Sydney Refugee community will help bridge the gap between the church and Muslims. It is also our hope that we can share what Jesus is doing in our lives, and our prayer that they might also turn to Jesus.

Going forward with our partnership with St Marks, we could love to see the community of St Marks become more bold embracing the opportunity to share what Christ is doing in their lives, and embracing the opportunity to share this wonderful news with the refugees in our city.

Prayer points:

- We would love to see a Muslim turn to Christ.
- For God's spirit to be at work within the community at St Marks so that people become emboldened with the spirit.
- That people might feel moved to take this opportunity to share the grace and love of God with this unique community that is in need of his love.
- For good conversations about Jesus this coming Easter. This community is more open to us sharing our view of God during Easter and they do ask a lot of questions about Christ during this time.

Report prepared by Bec Gomez

CHURCH REFUGEE HUB

Leader	Bec and Memo Gomez
Helpers	Cecilia Abbott, Kylie Dunn, Vivien Harrison
Number Assisting	About 30 St Marks members contribute through food donations

Purpose of the ministry: Show the love of Jesus through practical care and to encourage churches to reach out through Church Hub ministry.

St Marks being was the first church to partner with the Sydney Refugee Team through the Church Food Hub ministry, and since its inception, 3 more churches have joined.

Sydney Refugee Team seeks to share the hope of Jesus with people seeking asylum and refuge in Sydney. It aims to meet practical needs, build authentic relationships, and nurture dignity and worth found only in the hope of Jesus. Through a church hub St Marks works alongside SRT to care for specific refugee families. Church members contribute a grocery item from a list of suggestions. A Companion/Food Delivery Team of 2 people per fortnight take food and visit the family spending time with them, building friendships and sharing the hope of Jesus. Each person on the delivery team is trained and submits a Companion application to SRT. Partnership is for a year and is reviewed at the end of each year.

Matters for prayer and thanksgiving:

Thank God that:

- Members of St Marks have been generous in providing food and prayer for refugees in 2023
- Good relationships are being built with refugee families and there have been some good conversations.
- The annual camp was enjoyed by over 100 refugees and many of them attended the adult Bible talks and children's groups.
- The annual Christmas party was well attended, and the message of Christmas shared.

Ask God:

- To bless relationships being built with refugee families and provide opportunities to share the love and hope of Jesus.
- Provide more companions willing to be trained to visit families on a regular or casual basis.

Report prepared by Kylie Dunn

Support Ministries

BOOST FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Leader	Veronica Kells
Helpers	Various
Number attending	8

Boost is a friendship group for those with dementia and their carers.

In 2023 Boost met on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, beginning in February.

Several church members and friends have provided morning tea, to which I am truly thankful.

Our two hourly sessions included a devotional, exercise, morning tea and an activity. Again several church members and friends have assisted with various activities: music sessions, card making, painting, making windmills, cooking, collage, bingo, and ribbon dancing. Towards the end of the year we enjoyed a day at Henry Kendall Cottage followed by lunch at the Nougat Factory.

Unfortunately, two of our participants went into care which left us with two couples and sadly our last Boost day was on 24th November. We have enjoyed our time together, establishing friendships and supporting one another.

Report prepared by Veronica Kells

COFFEE MINISTRY

Leader	Peter Routh
Helpers	<p>Those trained to use the coffee machine are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Routh • Jake McKirdy • Dylan Plumridge • Evan and Amy Hooworth • Georgina Coates • Ehab Bushra • Memo Gomez • Teléna Routh • Jackie Walford • Regan and Tiana Runnalls • Monique Hughes
Number attending	<p>Approximately 60 coffees are served each Sunday morning with about 10-15 beverages at 6pm.</p> <p>Approximately 95 coffees (including chai teas and chocolates) are served each week.</p>

Background

For at least 20 years now, there has been a desire to start a coffee ministry at St Mark's. A proposal was submitted to Parish Council in late 2022 and an in-principle agreement to proceed was given.

A second-hand commercial espresso coffee machine, with grinder, tamper and other accessories was purchased by a congregational member in December 2022 and donated to the church.

Parish Council determined that the best location for the coffee machine was in an under-utilised corner of the kitchen and subsequently arranged for a plumber to fit the machine with a mains pressure water inlet and with drainage. The electrical supply, whose current needs to be 32 amps, is provided by the existing 32 amp socket utilised by the zip boiler. This means that only the zip boiler or coffee machine can be operated at one time.

This zip boiler/coffee machine problem was solved by another congregational member who donated a 20 litre hot water boiler to St Mark's. This only requires a 15 amp socket, so can be moved and used at either of the serving hatches. An additional benefit to this

arrangement is that people can pour their own hot water from the urn into a cup for tea rather than having to ask for hot water. It also improves safety for those serving morning tea as they do not have to fill teapots with boiling water from the zip boiler (at eye level) and do not then have to walk across the kitchen with hot water to the serving hatch.

Purpose

The purpose of the coffee ministry is to encourage and support other ministries and congregational gatherings throughout the week so that the church becomes an active, lively and welcoming place. Other beverages such as hot chocolates, chai teas and baby chinos are also served.

Essentially it is a hospitality ministry to create an environment where people want to meet at church and have fellowship together. This has been purposefully employed to help our congregation re-connect after the wave of Covid lockdowns.

The St Mark's Coffee ministry began on Good Friday, 7th April 2023.

Equipment

The espresso coffee machine is a Wega 3 Urban 3 group machine. This is an automatic machine with four programmable doses per group. It has twin boilers with accurate water temperature monitoring and two dry steam milk frothing wands.

It is a commercial machine that can sustain a high rate of coffee production which is essential in a church environment where high volumes of coffees are required in a short period of time.

Jake McKirdy purchased some sets of grey coffee cups both small and large, which were on sale at the time. These barista quality cups are warmed on the coffee machine and retain their heat well. Some additional milk jugs were also purchased which feature temperature bars that assist in correct milk frothing.

Barista Team

Peter Routh attended a TAFE Barista course in February 2023 and has since trained 12 people to use the coffee machine and produce cups of coffee, hot chocolate or chai tea. Jake McKirdy having had some previous barista training was ready and eager to serve coffees and quickly became a key leader in the team.

Coffee Supplies

Jake McKirdy sources our coffee beans from 'White Horse Roasters' in Sutherland (Hokey Pokey Espresso Blend) at a discounted price. Ellyce and Jake purchase milk supplies each week including oat, soy and almond milk using the church debit card issued to Ellyce.

Donations

Parish Council has provided a square card reader which is now used for multiple ministry donations including the coffee ministry. Congregational coffee consumers can contribute by credit or debit card their chosen amounts without the collection of cash. This simplifies the tracking and accounting of donations.

2023 Happenings

It was decided to use the coffee ministry as a means to encourage the 10am congregation to arrive before 10am by having 'Espresso Time' between 9am and 10am on a Sunday morning. This timing also has the benefit of providing coffees to the members of the 8am congregation who finish their service around 9am and provides an opportunity for the two congregations to intermingle; however, this has only happened to a limited extent as many of the 8am congregation are not coffee drinkers. An estimate of the coffee servings by ministry is shown below.

When a barista or two is available, the coffee machine is used at:

- Between 9am and 10am service on Sunday (approx. 60 coffees)
- After the 10am service on specific occasions such as Easter (further 30 coffees)
- 6pm service on Sunday (10-15 beverages)
- 9:30am on Tuesdays at Playtime (see note below) (15 coffees)
- 6:30am on Thursdays for Breakfast and Bible (8 coffees)
- Women's Ministry events (50 beverages)
- Other large events. (On Sat 23rd September, St Mark's hosted the funeral of Ashley Rose at which Jake and three others prepared hundreds of coffees and beverages to a large number of the attendees.)

Note: On a Tuesday morning at Playtime between 9am and 11:30am the coffee machine is used to serve beverages to young mothers (with children of 0-5 years old). Playtime has regular members who are not yet churchgoers, which provides good opportunities for outreach.

Financials

The first donation was on 4th June 2023. For the seven months up to the end of 2023 a summary of the financials is:

- Average donations per month \$349
- Average expenses per month \$287
- Net surplus for the year \$449.42

Future Happenings

During 2024 the Wega 3 Urban coffee machine will require a service by a qualified technician. This servicing will be funded by donations to the coffee ministry.

As more congregational members are trained to use the machine, it is intended to start a barista roster. Barista availability would be determined on a school term by term basis using emails and then published on Elvanto.

Prayer points:

- Give thanks and praise to our Lord who has provided so much for us to enjoy, particularly our fellowship together while we are still on Earth.
- That the Holy Spirit will guide us as to how best to use this coffee ministry for His glory.

Report prepared by Peter Routh

ST MARK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH BEROWRA

ABN 18 210 334 242

**PRESCRIBED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Anglican Church - Diocese of Sydney

Parish	Berowra
ABN	18 210 334 242
Church	St Mark's Anglican Church Berowra

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	PRL	NOR	Item No.	ACTUAL 2022 \$	ACTUAL 2023 \$	BUDGET 2024 \$
REVENUE						(not audited)
Offeratories & Donations			4-1000	348,152	430,500	410,000
Congregation offerings			4-1100	347,240	379,844	410,000
Donations for the parish (excluding donations for buildings)			4-1200	912	656	-
Exempt gifts specifically designated for buildings #	E		4-1300	-	-	-
Other gifts for buildings (eg. maintenance)			4-1400	-	-	-
Gifts for other restricted funds (eg. organ, technology)			4-1500	-	50,000	-
COVID-19 financial support			4-2000	-	-	-
Cash Flow Boost			4-2100	-	-	-
JobKeeper payments			4-2200	-	-	-
Grants			4-4000	-	-	-
Anglicare	E		4-4100	-	-	-
Regional Council	E		4-4200	-	-	-
Other Diocesan organisations	E		4-4300	-	-	-
Commonwealth or State Government agencies	E		4-4400	-	-	-
Local Government agencies	E		4-4500	-	-	-
Property Income			4-3000	30,248	28,241	27,600
Lease rental from property not subject to ordinance, not a place of worship & n	I3	Ei	4-3100	-	-	-
Lease rental from property subject to an ordinance applying a portion outside tl	I8	Ei	4-3120	-	-	-
Lease rental from a former place of public worship	I1	Ei	4-3130	-	-	-
Lease rental from ministry residences	I2	Ei	4-3150	-	-	-
Licence fees	I4		4-3200	-	-	-
Casual booking fees	I5		4-3300	30,248	28,241	27,600
Finance Income			4-5000	162	3,431	7,800
Bank Interest			4-5100	162	3,431	7,800
Investment Income			4-5200	-	-	-
ACPT Client Fund Income (Interest/distribution)			4-5300	-	-	-
Income from trading activities			4-7000	23,988	38,778	-
Ministry Events - gross receipts		Ei	4-7100	-	24,575	-
Fundraising Events - gross receipts		Ei	4-7200	10,489	-	-
Parish Ministry activities			4-7300	13,499	14,203	700
Other Income			4-6000	4,496	7,760	-
Insurance claims received		E	4-6100	-	-	-
Sundry receipts			4-6600	-	-	-
LSL received (just the notional stipend portion)		E	4-6630	4,496	7,760	-
Parental Leave Pay (from Centrelink)		E	4-6xxx	-	-	-
Receipts from within the Parish			4-8000	-	-	-
from other Churches or Funds			4-8100	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE				407,046	508,710	446,100

The statement of comprehensive income is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes.

- # This account is only to be used for any gift received which is specifically designated for the purpose of -
- (i) the purchase of land,
 - (ii) the purchase, construction or renovation of buildings, fixtures or fittings situated on church trust property held for the purposes of the parish, or
 - (iii) the reduction of debt undertaken for the purposes of (i) or (ii).

The calculation of 'Net Operating Receipts' is defined in the Cost Recoveries Framework Ordinance 2008

Total revenue (see above)

less exclusions (the 12 line items marked with an "E", 10 in Revenue & 2 in Expense)

less conditional exclusions (the 6 Revenue Items marked "Ei" and the 8 Expense Items marked "Ee")

- each leased Lease income (4-3100, 4-3120 & 4-3130)

less direct Expenses (6-7020, 6-7100, 6-7200, 6-7300, 6-7400 & 6-7500)

- residential Lease Income (4-3150)

less Housing benefit provided to ministry staff (6-1155)

- each Ministry event income (4-7100)

less Ministry event expenses (6-8100)

- each Fundraising event income (4-7200)

less Fundraising event expenses (6-8200)

less deductions (the 2 line items marked with an "D" in Expenses - see below)

= 'Net Operating Receipts' (used to calculate variable PCR charge & Church Land Acquisition levy)

Income

508,710

(7,760)

(24,575)

29,796

-

-

(13,750)

= **492,421**

Anglican Church - Diocese of Sydney

Parish	Berowra
ABN	18 210 334 242
Church	St Mark's Anglican Church Berowra

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (continued)

			ACTUAL 2022 \$	ACTUAL 2023 \$	BUDGET 2024 \$
	PRL	NOR	Item No.		
EXPENSES					(not audited)
Ministry Staffing			6-1000	224,194	254,578
Stipends & Salaries (taxable portion)			6-1100	153,785	186,120
Staff benefits & MDBA entitlements (excluding (i) stipend sacrifice and (ii) housing benef			6-1150	38,848	30,000
Housing benefit provided to ministry staff unable to live in a parish-owned mini: E2 Ee			6-1155		
Ministry on-costs <i>including superannuation</i> (part of PCR charge)			6-1170	8,171	23,292
Superannuation for Lay staff			6-1200	23,390	19,752
Professional (ministry) development expenses			6-1300		6,000
Parochial Network Costs <i>including Insurance</i> (part of PCR charge)			6-1990	29,316	30,288
Church Land Acquisition Levy			6-1995	8,953	7,536
Resources for Ministry			6-2000	3,686	3,090
Ministry			6-2100		1,705
Church services			6-2200	3,686	1,385
Parish Donations			6-2300	15,305	13,857
To Christian organisations outside the parish from general parish funds	D		6-2310	15,000	15,000
To another Parish from general parish funds	D		6-2330		
Gifts & Testimonials			6-2340		
Hospitality			6-2350	305	107
Poor Relief			6-2360		1,000
Parish Administration			6-3000	49,337	43,336
Office Expenses			6-3100	18,441	17,400
Salaries and superannuation of administrative staff			6-3600	22,764	26,058
Jobkeeper-Topup		E	6-3650		
Consumables			6-4000	4,259	2,500
Professional Services			6-5000	2,159	3,435
Advertising			6-5700	1,714	1,704
Expenses re Parish Property (& MV) used for Ministry			6-6000	92,348	98,536
Utilities (council rates, electricity, gas, water, etc)			6-6100	8,521	9,185
Repairs & Maintenance			6-6200	52,627	57,210
Improvement Projects (small amounts not capitalised)			6-6300		53,550
Interest Paid			6-6400	-	
Lease/Rent paid for Assistant Minister(s) residence			6-6500	31,200	32,141
Motor Vehicle expenses			6-6600	-	34,580
Expenses of property generating income from licence fees	E4		6-6700		
Lease/rent payments for a place of public worship	E1		6-6800		
Expenses re Parish Property Leased for Income			6-7000	-	
Expenses of property subject to ordinance applying some portion of the income	E8	Ee	6-7020		
Utilities (council rates, electricity, gas, water, etc)	E3	Ee	6-7100		
Repairs & Maintenance	E3	Ee	6-7200		
Improvement Projects (small amounts not capitalised)	E3	Ee	6-7300		
Agency Management Fees	E3	Ee	6-7400		
Interest payments on loans relating to property generating lease or licence Inco	E5		6-7500		
Expenses related to trading/ministry activities			6-8000	29,790	41,012
Ministry Events - supplies		Ee	6-8100		29,796
Fundraising Event - supplies		Ee	6-8200	10,489	-
Parish Ministry activities			6-8300	19,301	11,216
Other Expenses			6-8800		12,140
Payments within the Parish			6-8900		
to other Churches or Funds			6-8910		
TOTAL EXPENSES				452,929	490,697
					484,516
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR				(45,883)	18,013
Other comprehensive income					(38,416)
Net change in fair value of investments	moveme		3-2100		
Revaluation of land and buildings	moveme		3-3100	-	-
Transfer from/(to) future staff reserve				37,000	(37,000)
Net change in employee liabilities (if not expensed)	moveme		2-1200		30,000
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR				(8,883)	(18,987)
					(8,416)

The statement of comprehensive income is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes.

Anglican Church - Diocese of Sydney

Parish	Berowra
ABN	18 210 334 242
Church	St Mark's Anglican Church Berowra

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

		2022	2023
	Item No.	TOTAL	TOTAL
		\$	\$
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash assets	1-1000	356,918	169,571
Bank Accounts	1-1100	356,918	169,571
Petty Cash Floats	1-1170		
Trust accounts	1-1200		
Debtors	1-1800	4,988	23,377
Ministerial expense accounts (MEA)	1-1900	-	-
Investments	1-2100	-	195,000
Glebe Administration Board	1-2110		195,000
Bank Term Deposits	1-2120		
ACPT Client Fund (at fair 'market' value)	1-2130		
Total current assets		361,906	387,948
Non-current assets			
Land (Valuer General's UCV)	1-3100	2,232,000	3,200,000
Church	1-3110	1,450,000	2,070,000
Rectory	1-3120	782,000	1,130,000
Hall	1-3130		
Buildings (insurance replacement value)	1-3200	7,813,801	9,742,100
Church	1-3210	1,709,271	2,184,100
Rectory	1-3220	726,280	934,900
Hall	1-3230	5,378,250	6,623,100
Building Contents, Furniture & Equipment (insurance replacement value)	1-3300	263,603	75,960
Church	1-3310	78,280	68,400
Rectory	1-3320	4,838	5,760
Hall	1-3330	180,485	1,800
Other non-current assets	1-4000		
Total non-current assets		10,309,404	13,018,060
TOTAL ASSETS		10,671,310	13,406,008
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Funds held for on-payment (see note)			
Missions	2-1400	9,803	6,938
Payables	2-1100	223,279	242,405
Creditors	2-1110	46,776	53,186
Accruals	2-1150	163,178	153,995
Employee liabilities	2-1200	13,325	35,224
Taxes Summary (net GST payable & PAYG withheld less input tax credits)	2-1300	6,020	4,223
Owed to Ministers re MEA balances	2-1900	48,655	42,220
Total current liabilities		287,757	295,786
Non-current liabilities			
Long Service Leave Provision (see note)	2-1210		
Loans	2-2000	-	-
Bank Loans	2-2100	-	-
Parishioners' Loans	2-2200	-	-
Finance & Loans Board Loans	2-2300	-	-
Total non-current liabilities		-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES		287,757	295,786
NET ASSETS		10,383,553	13,110,222
FUNDS			
General funds	3-1000		
Accumulated Funds	3-1100	4,400,381	4,391,498
Current Year Surplus / (Deficit)	3-1200	(8,883)	(18,987)
Future staff reserve		13,000	50,000
Asset revaluation reserve (relating to Investments)	3-2100		
Net unrealised gains reserve (relating to Land & Buildings)	3-3100	5,979,055	8,687,711
Restricted funds	3-4000	-	-
Building Fund	3-4110	-	-
Technology Fund	3-4130		
Other funds (specify)	3-4140		
TOTAL FUNDS		10,383,553	13,110,222

The statement of financial position is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes.

Anglican Church - Diocese of Sydney

Parish	Berowra
ABN	18 210 334 242
Church	St Mark's Anglican Church Berowra

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Although included in the package of prescribed financial statements because it provides a helpful form of additional disclosure, this Statement is not an essential component of the prescribed financial statements. Its use is particularly recommended where the parish has significant reserves and restricted funds.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS

	December 2022	Net surplus / (deficit)	Other comprehens. Income	Transfers	December 2023
Unrestricted	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
General funds	4,391,498	18,013		(37,000)	4,372,511
Asset revaluation reserve	5,979,055		2,708,656		8,687,711
Future staff Reserve	13,000			37,000	50,000
Net unrealised gains reserve	-				-
Total unrestricted funds	10,383,553	18,013	2,708,656	-	13,110,222
Restricted					
Building fund	-			-	-
Organ fund					
Technology fund					
Other funds (specify)					
Total restricted funds	-		-	-	-
Total funds	10,383,553	18,013	2,708,656	-	13,110,222

	December 2021	Net surplus / (deficit)	Other comp. Income	Transfers	December 2022
Unrestricted	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
General funds	4,400,381	(45,883)		37,000	4,391,498
Asset revaluation reserve	5,979,055				5,979,055
Future staff Reserve	50,000			(37,000)	13,000
Net unrealised gains reserve	-		-		-
Total unrestricted funds	10,429,436	(45,883)	-	-	10,383,553
Restricted					
Building fund	-			-	-
Organ fund					
Technology fund					
Other funds (specify)					
Total restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	10,429,436	(45,883)	-	-	10,383,553

The statement of changes in funds is to be read in conjunction with the attached notes.

Anglican Church - Diocese of Sydney

Parish	Berowra
ABN	18 210 334 242
Church	St Mark's Anglican Church Berowra

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ENTITY INFORMATION

The parish of Berowra is an unincorporated body established by the Synod of the Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney. It is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and is recognised as a basic religious charity.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies which have been adopted in the preparation of these Financial Statements (which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income and the Statement of Financial Position) are:

(a) Basis of Preparation

The Financial Statements have been drawn up as special purpose financial statements for distribution to the parishioners of the parish of Berowra. The wardens of the parish have applied the following accounting policies in the preparation of the Financial Statements –

- (i) The Financial Statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention, except as affected by the policies below.
- (ii) Apart from the standards relating to measurement the other Australian accounting standards have not been applied except as stated below.
- (iii) These policies have been consistently applied and, except where there has been a change in the accounting standards, are consistent with those of the previous year.

(b) Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised when the parish is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Generally offertories and donations are recognised when received. Revenues are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST) payable to the Australian Tax Office.

(c) Asset valuation

Buildings and building contents, furniture and equipment are stated at replacement value for insurance purposes. Land is shown at Valuer General's valuation. Investments are shown at fair (market) value.

(d) Changes in the value of land and buildings and investments

Changes in the unimproved capital value of land and the insurance replacement value of buildings and contents are shown as a revaluation in the statement of comprehensive income and are reflected in the funds section of the statement of financial position. The net change in the fair (market) value of investments is shown as a revaluation in the statement of comprehensive income and is reflected in the funds section of the statement of financial position.

(e) Employee Benefits

Liabilities for employee benefits in relation to wages, salaries, annual leave and sick leave represent present obligations resulting from employees' services to year end. They are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Adequate provision has also been made to cover any liability for long service leave for lay ministry staff and other support staff.

(f) Income tax

The Parish is a charitable institution and has been endorsed as exempt from income tax.

(g) Goods and services tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office, in which case the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

MOVEMENT IN FUNDS HELD FOR ON-PAYMENT

Missions

Falth Baptist Church
CMS
Wycliffe
African Enterprise
HADCEA
Gomez mission Support
Other
Total

Opening balance	Received during the year	Paid during the year	Closing balance
\$ 6,821	\$ 17,212	\$ 18,000	\$ 6,033
-	5,000	4,980	20
-	3,750	3,735	15
120	10,280	10,360	40
90	160	250	-
1,409	8,240	9,500	149
1,353	562	1,244	681
9,803	45,204	48,069	6,938

MOVEMENT IN FUNDS HELD FOR PROVISION FOR EMPLOYEE LONG SERVICE LEAVE

Long Service Leave Provision

Abram Dobbie
Ellyce McKirdy
Cecilia Abbott
Total

Opening balance	Provided this year	Received from employers	Paid during the year	Closing balance
\$ 9,563	\$ 3,613	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,176
1,634	1,094	-	-	2,728
2,128	62	-	2,066	-
9,563	4,645	-	2,066	15,904

Anglican Church - Diocese of Sydney

Parish	Berowra
ABN	18 210 334 242
Church	St Mark's Anglican Church Berowra

WARDENS' AND TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE PARISHIONERS

In our opinion, the financial statements of St Mark's Anglican Church Berowra for the year ended 31 December 2023 have been –

- (a) properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the receipts and payments during the year and the assets and liabilities at the end of the year, and
- (b) comply with the provisions of the Parish Administration Ordinance 2008.

In our opinion the Property Income Worksheet has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Property Receipts Levy Ordinance 2018*.

Warden's name: Jim Wright

Signature

Warden's name: Peter Buckham

Signature

Warden's name: John Clayton

Signature

Treasurer's name: Jennifer Seymour

Signature

Date: March 2024

Contact person for enquiries (Diocesan copy only) -

name	email	phone (office hours)

WARDENS' DECLARATION

In relation to obligations under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)

Parish	Berowra
ABN	18 210 334 242
Entity Name	St Mark's Anglican Church Berowra

Is the above ABN/entity the main or only entity used by the parish? (Y/N) ☐ Yes

Has the parish complied with all notification and reporting obligations to the ACNC in respect of the above entity, and any other registered entities controlled by the parish? (Y/N) ☐ Yes

ACNC reporting obligations include -

Promptly (within 60 days, or 28 days if revenue >\$250k) notifying any change in -

- the membership of your parish council,
- the legal name of your parish, or
- the address or contact person(s) details for your parish?

Lodging the Annual Information Statement each year before the following 30 June.

Please identify any such other entities.

ABN	Legal name

Is the main or only parish entity entitled to remain a Basic Religious Charity (BRC)? (Y/N) ☐ Yes

BRCs are exempt from certain requirements under the ACNC legislation, including -

- mandatory governance standards,
- requirement to prepare and lodge audited/reviewed annual financial reports,
- requirement to include financial information in Annual Information Statements.

Factors that will disqualify your parish from being a BRC include -

- If the main or only parish entity is endorsed to operate a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) fund or funds and the aggregate DGR fund revenue in the current year is more than \$250k.
- If the main or only parish entity received Commonwealth or State Government grants and the annual total of such grants received during the current year or either of the 2 prior years was more than \$100k.

Warden's name: Jim Wright

Signature 

Warden's name: Peter Buckham

Signature 

Warden's name: John Clayton

Signature 

Date: March 2024

INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW REPORT

To the parishioners of St Mark's Anglican Church Berowra

Report on the annual Financial Statements

I have reviewed the accompanying Financial Statements of St Mark's Anglican Church Berowra which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Financial Position and the Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

I have also reviewed the Property Income Worksheet which has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Property Receipts Levy Ordinance 2018*.

Wardens' responsibility for the annual Financial Statements

The wardens of the church/parish are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the Financial Statements in accordance with the Parish Administration Ordinance 2008. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation of the Financial Statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Assurance Practitioner's responsibility

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the Financial Statements based on my review. I conducted my review in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the Financial Statements are not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the Parish Administration Ordinance 2008.

A review of the Financial Statements consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable me to obtain assurance that I would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly I do not express an audit opinion.

Conclusion

Based on my review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the Financial Statements of St Mark's Anglican Church Berowra do not give a fair view of the income and expenses of St Mark's Anglican Church Berowra for the year ended 31 December 2023 and the assets and liabilities as at that date, in accordance with the Parish Administration Ordinance 2008.

Assurance Practitioner's signature



Name: Glenn Thompson

Date of the Assurance Practitioner's review report

8TH

March 2024

Qualification (if applicable): CA(NZ) retired

Assurance Practitioner's address

phone number (w)0416 210 130

2 GREYHAM ST
COWAN 2081