

**2021 WARDENS’ REPORT**

**ST PHILIP’S COLLINGWOOD**

**Introduction**

While we had all hoped 2021 would be a different year to 2020, we know that has not been the case and this has impacted the parish as it has in many other aspects of our lives. Despite the continued absence of physically coming together, we have continued to meet for services with sporadic physical services on site. While our attendance figures remained strong through 2020 and 2021, they have waned a little.

**Ministry**

During the pandemic our Ministry remains centred around Sunday Services and Fr John has exhibited perseverance in continuing virtual services together with and Chris Jenkinson’s technical support. Conducting hybrid services have provided particular challenges, particularly when the technical equipment has not all performed to specification or when Fr John has conducted services alone from the church. Our continued ability to maintain on-line and hybrid services has been a credit to the parish and not something many larger churches have felt able to achieve.

Services have been largely Morning Prayer with some virtual Holy Communion. Father John has maintained mid-week morning prayer on Wednesday mornings and services at Rushall Park when restrictions allowed. We remain very grateful to Fiona Raike and David Moore as Assistant Priests at St Philips and Fred Wandmaker who has conducted services at times at Rushall Park.

We were visited by Bishop Genieve Blackwell in February and again in August in anticipation of James Davies’ confirmation service. Both times the confirmation was cancelled due to lockdowns but we are hopeful that it will go ahead in December when Bishop Genieve will again be with us. During her visits Bishop Genieve has expressed confidence in St Philips and our level of activity during times when many congregations were very challenged.

**Achievement against the St Philips Parish Plan**

We reported last year that despite the pandemic, the fabric of St Philips remains sound. While this assessment appears valid in our view for 2021, we also consider that we need to focus time, effort and prayer on the future sustainability of the Parish in 2022.

Reviewing the Parish against our Parish Plan (attached) which we endorsed in 2020, we consider we have been successful in aspects of:

* Sustaining the parish, and
* Encouraging sustainable living

But have not been able to progress:

* Expanding our reach
* Supporting refugees
* Promoting marriage equality

Our lack of progress in other areas is understandable with pure existence through the pandemic an achievement, but we need to also be realistic about what is achievable.

We acknowledge the strong engagement and care of parishioners for one another. An informal telephone network and the activities of the women’s group have been particularly important during lockdown. Many parishioners also remain closely engaged with supporting the Centre for Spirituality of Care and Community and its annual Roy Bradley Oration, which was an online event this year. We also recognise that fewer parishioners are physically attending St Philips, and this inevitably impacts on what the Parish can achieve. Quite literally, parishioners are physically moving further afield away from Collingwood for at least some of their time, impacting on their availability on weekends.

While we remain financially viable through parishioner contributions, together with the rental we receive from various tenants and one off grants from the Smith Trust for various parish projects, and we are grateful for these contributions, this alone is not enough to sustain the Parish. We have plans to name the Parish Hall in honour of the late Fr Roy Bradley and also to name one of the smaller rooms in honour of life-time parishioner and Collingwood resident the late Rine Cogden.

We would like to thank and remain grateful for another year to Debbi Barnes for managing Hall bookings and inquiries, which is both outreach and sustaining finances for the Parish. We also acknowledge and thank Robert Dawlings as Treasurer. He maintains the accounts, presents bills for payment, undertakes ongoing engagement with the Diocese and displays great patience. Of course, he is also our organist and promotes initiatives around conservation and environmental awareness. Helen Moore as Parish Secretary continues to keep us on track with meeting agendas and producing Parish Council minutes almost before the meetings are finalised. Jonathon Gill continues to assist Parish Council as Compliance Officer and maintaining the appropriate records and checks required by the Diocese.

David Moore’s work reviving the front garden in 2020 has developed and grown in 2021.

Stuart Ellis will be retiring as Church Warden as Jo and Stuart are moving to South Australia. Susan Lawrence and Christopher Jenkinson are re-nominating and Jonathon Gill has agreed to nominate.

**The Year Ahead**

During the 2021-2022 Church Year, we hope to focus on achieving aspects across all areas of our Strategic Plan and discerning the longer-term future of the Parish with fewer parishioners physically present to complete tasks.

Stuart Ellis

Chris Jenkinson

Susan Lawrence