

St Andrews Anglican Church Summer Hill

Wardens' Report for the Annual General Meeting 8/3/2010

2009 has been a busy year and it has been a great privilege for us as Wardens to serve you the congregation and the Lord in seeking to facilitate the life of the body of Christ in this part of God's world. We must apologise for sometimes failing to communicate as effectively as we would have wished, but hope you will be forgiving. We are always ready to listen and support, and thank you for your prayers and encouragement too.

At the last AGM, Peter took over as Rector's Warden from Neale, whose brother went to be with the Lord later in the year. Our deep sympathy goes out Neale and his family, and we pray that they will know the comfort of the Lord as they grieve, as well as the assurance of ultimate resurrection to eternal life for all who belong to Jesus.

We also have seen the development and growth of the evening service, thanks to Andy and his team, and we pray that this will further develop as a ministry particularly to younger people and those who help with the various children's and young peoples' programmes. In this regard we have also been encouraged by the children's and youth groups. Splash has continued for the primary age children and the new Fuel programme has been introduced for high schoolers. Chris Thanopoulos and Jono have been doing great work with Fuel, and we are now pleased to have Zoe Paleologos to help with Fuel as a student minister. We also welcome Claire Boyd as our Children's Ministry Worker, and are very grateful for all she has already done to facilitate the Sunday Morning Children's programme in particular.

In March 2009, most of the Church Archives were deposited with the diocesan archivist, thanks to the labour of love by Stuart and Patricia. They have left us with copies of all the archives on DVD if anyone in the Church needs to access information from the past. We are deeply grateful to them for this and also to Stuart for repairing and painting the Church doors.

The Rector's serious viral illness put him out of action for 3-4 months from July 2009. During this time, the Archdeacon asked the Wardens to administer the Parish on his behalf and with his help. This was a daunting task, but a fulfilling one, and all who rallied to help have our deep gratitude. We are grateful for Chris' full recovery.

In January, we farewelled Thelma and Pauline whose involvement with the church here at Summer Hill was outstanding. Their love, care and sheer hard work is greatly missed. We pray for God's blessing on them in their new life at Bowral, and know that the Lord will continue to bless them and use them there.

Finally, we would like to thank our Rector, Chris, for his commitment, hard work and support, and also all the members of the congregation for their generous help, love and understanding. We urge all to continue by prayer, fellowship, service and giving to make the support of the Lord's work in this part of Sydney a high priority.

To God be the glory and thanks and praise.

Thelma Thoms, Peter Lechlein, Robert Claxton (Church Wardens)

