

Mittagong Anglican Church

Reports submitted for presentation to the Annual General Meeting 12th March 2016

Mission Report for the 2016 AGM

1. **Mission Focus;** Over last year we have had significant exposure to mission:

In Sunday services: Regular prayer; visiting missionaries, "mission spots". Various forms of local mission.

Reports on short term overseas mission trips;

In terms of MAC's Mission Statement, we have endeavoured to encourage as many people as possible "To show Christ to the world" starting in Mittagong.

2. **Link Missionaries Supported through prayer and giving.**

This year we have adopted one more missionary in keeping with the term "Mission, from everywhere to everywhere". We are not just senders of Western missionaries, but senders of missionaries of other Countries who cannot afford to send. These missionaries are group based and have wonderful skills to work with those who have similar living standards in other countries, so we have included Patricia from PNG, now studying languages in central Asia to go into tribal ministry there.

Our other link missionaries are:

- Haddon Family; CMS Santiago
- Knight Family; BCA Port Hedland
- Podmores; FEBC Cambodia
- Dina Roki; OMF based ministry in the Philippines
- Pennicooks;
- Bishop Praises Omole; Northern Nigeria
- Margaret working among women in a multi-ethnic area of South-West Sydney
- Patricia; preparing for tribal ministry in Central Asia

Visits from Link missionaries.

- Margaret in May followed by a prayer meeting during Ramadan
- Larry and Barbara Podmore in August
- Introduction to Patricia

3. **Our members who have been on short term mission trips**

- Dina spent most of the first part of last year teaching at Faith Academy in the Philippines.
- Zara Pennicook went to the Philippines in March.
- Southern Highlands Christian School Staff and students,
- Jono Mills; just returned from Zimbabwe. AFES- UOW

4. **MSG group activities**

- At present we are producing bookmarks for our Church members with information about our link missionaries. The idea is to encourage more people to make connections with our link missionaries by prayer, giving and correspondence. These will be available soon.
- Our church contributed over \$5800.00 to TEAR fund before Christmas
- We have commenced prayer meetings for our link missionaries with all Church members welcome. These meetings are every six weeks.

- There is a continuation of quality 2nd hand clothing and toys, and money raised by Kathy Crawshaw and friends, sent to ministries established by Dina in the Philippines.

5. CMS activities

- The CMS Spring Dinner was held at St Jude's in August. There were over 30 members from our Church attended this function. The speaker was Peter Jensen.
- Summer school; several people from our church attended the full week or individual days. Jono and Sam Mills, Lachlan McGuire and Anna Chapman were camp leaders for the week.
- Lachlan McGuire was a leader at MMM in School holiday camp.

Andrew Sharwood
Co-ordinator MSG

Mittagong Anglican Church - Internet Report 2015

"Your website is the front door of your church for many, many people. If you'd put a greeter at the front door of your physical church... surely you ought to take the same care with your church's website." – Kevin DeYoung

This is why Mittagong Anglican Church has an online presence, and why I aim to make information about our church as accessible as possible to potential newcomers to church. I'm increasingly finding that people coming to our 9.30am and 5pm services for the first time have visited our website before they visited our physical site. So how we present ourselves as a church online is very important.

Our website, www.mittang.com.au includes information on our church services and times, weddings, baptisms and funerals, our link missionaries, St. Stephen's history, our staff, about us, our children and youth ministries, our adult ministries and contact details, and a regularly updated News Blog.

It also is where the audio recordings of our sermons (from 2011 until today) can be listened to, with 291 sermon MP3s currently available to download or listen online.

In 2015, we began to regularly put our church rosters up online as PDFs, so that church members could find it there as well as in hard copy at church. This has proved a useful resource.

Like our physical church centre here at St. Stephen's, the website aims to provide both an inviting and informative front door as well as a valuable 'space' in which we as a church can conduct ministry - it is a tool which helps show Christ to the world as well as help church members to know Christ and grow in him.

In addition to the church website itself, I also maintain our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/MittagongAnglican, which currently has 208 likes. In 2015, I aimed to post regular updates, including church news items, articles that I thought may be of interest to people, bible verses from that Sunday's readings, occasional prayer points, quotes from sermons and links to our Online Sermon Library.

In addition to the website and Facebook page, I also ensure that our details are kept up-to-date in various online directories, and that they link to our church website, meaning more people can find out about us. Ideas for the church website in the future include making better use of photography and video, and upgrading to a responsive design for better use on mobile devices. I'm constantly finding that I'm not able to spend as much time updating the website as I'd like, so if you're keen to help out in this ministry, please let me know!

- Sam Mills, webmaster.

Walk Through Bethlehem 2015 - AGM Report

Our fifth *Walk Through Bethlehem* production took place on 18th and 19th December, 2015. The aim of the event was to help fulfil our vision of 'showing Christ to the world' through staging an interactive display of Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth, and inviting those in our community to come and see what that first Christmas may have been like.

2015's event was a record-breaker, both in the number of church members involved and the number of visitors we had come and walk through. We had 90 people dressed up in costume as shepherds, wise men, villagers, craftspeople and various other characters, significantly more than in previous years. We had more than 1100 people visit across the two days, almost double what we have had in previous years.

It's hard to know exactly why so many people came. I think not holding *Carols by the Lake* the same year was helpful, meaning we were not competing with ourselves in holding two of the biggest Christmas events in Mittagong. The promotion of the event was similar to previous years, but slightly ramped up – we paid for advertising on Facebook, put flyers and brochures in shop windows across Mittagong and Bowral, we had signage promoting the event at church, put it in local school newsletters, our directors were interviewed both on 2ST Southern Highlands and ABC Illawarra Radio Stations, an article was written about the event in the Southern Highlands News (print and online editions), it was put on our website and various other website listings, and a letterbox drop was done throughout the parish.

Our feedback collected from visitors as part of the 'census' showed that people were overwhelmingly positive towards the event, and impressed as to how well it was done. While the various communications channels (Facebook and websites particularly) did play a part in people finding out about the event, 37% of people said that they found about the event from family or friends. So it seems personal invitation is still the best way to get people to come to a church event.

While we had some visitors come from Sydney, Canberra, or even further afield, it was great to see that 75% of visitors came from the Southern Highlands. After all, this is why we're doing it – to point the local community to Christ at Christmas time.

It is quite possible that the increased numbers across our Christmas church services was due, in part at least, to *Walk Through Bethlehem*, particularly as we invited those who came along to come back to church to find out more. Let's pray for continued connections with those who came along, that many will come into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Thanks to generous donations both by church members and visitors, the event actually generated a small financial surplus for the first time, which will be useful as a starting-place if the event is run again.

A big thank-you to all those who contributed to making *Walk Through Bethlehem* the biggest yet – those who contributed props, those who helped set up and pack up, those who acted parts, invited friends along, and prayed. And thank-you to God for bringing people along!

- Sam Mills, on behalf of co-directors Marge and Jono Mills.

Kids@MAC

Kids@Mac is continuing to provide Christian input in a fun way to many children – currently about 25 in years K-4 attend. With a great team of leaders and helpers Jono Mills continues to co-ordinate, plan and lead this ministry to reach out into our local community with the good news of Jesus. Leaders currently include Elva Bissett, Lucy Mills, Lachlan McGuire, Marge Mills, Aubrey Lidden, Robyn Bean, Cate Gambrill and Julie Parsons (when available) backed up by Ann Sharwood and Toni Pike in the kitchen.

Our vision statement is 'To see children and their families come into a living, breathing relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. For us to be a gateway connecting local families with church, funnelling them in towards involvement and real belief, as well as providing an avenue for Christian kids to grow in their faith

and witness to their non-Christian friends in a safe environment'. Kids@Mac is not just an outreach activity of the church, but training our young people in spreading God's good news!

Last year's topics focused around the identity of Jesus and what it means to follow him (including looking at *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, the kids' favourite theme). This year the focus is on what it means to be part of Christ's family, our Bible book this term being Ephesians. As a large number of our currently come from church families, this has been helpful in challenging them to consider why it is so important to belong to Jesus. We continue to reach and connect with non-church families, with a particular resurgence in numbers from Mittagong Public School this year. By God's grace we long to see our vision statement realised, and for all our children coming to have their relationship with Christ deepened.

- Report submitted by Jono Mills

Mittagong MU Branch - Report for AGM 12 March 2016

The MU Branch at St Stephens Mittagong has continued to meet each month with these meetings being well attended. A variety of speakers have informed us of the work being done in Gods' name throughout our area as well as wider afield.

MU has helped the parish by supplying the new chairs for the John Room, installing the blinds in the mezzanine and repairs to the kitchenette fridges to name a few.

Again, during the year, MU have catered for a number of events. "Gorgeous Grandmas" have served afternoon tea for a number of funerals (both parishioners and general public), catered for weddings and birthdays as well as baptisms. MU also served Devonshire Tea to help raise funds for the ongoing work of Bible Teaching Ministry for Women in Myanmar.

Our MU Choir performed for our "Carols, Candles and Finger food" evening in December. A lovely supper was also provided on that night.

MU continues to be a strong group of women (and men) who show God's love to each other as well as those outside the church family.

Beverley Fulton, President – MU Mittagong Branch

WOMEN'S MINISTRY REPORT

Much ministry to women in our parish happens through groups like MU, Bible Studies, some Bible reading/prayer partners and informal relating and encouraging. However a planning team of women runs occasional events both for outreach and for consolidation of church members in the faith. This team comprises Jan Livingstone, Kathy Crawshaw, Kathryn McIntosh, Michelle Lindau, Gill Truman, Toni Pike, Cathy Brooks-Lloyd, Lou Briggs, Tisi Lear and Marge Mills. This team all actively supported many areas of ministry including the major outreach events: Walk through Bethlehem and the LIGHT party on 30th October as an alternative to hallowe'en.

In 2015 we had a successful starting event to the year, the now regular "Pancake Party" with guest speaker and interviews of Christians within the church to motivate us to follow Jesus in the year ahead. We encouraged many Mittagong women to attend the new Southern Highlands Women's Convention, and provided the music team. Mid- year we held a well-attended breakfast with Judith Nichols speaking about Mothers and daughters.

A major aim we have for women is to see 1-1 or 1-1-1 mentoring going on. We encourage Christian women to meet across age groups to support and motivate each other in discipleship. Some of this is already happening and has proved a blessing to those involved as they hold each other accountable to the Word of God. We hope to work out ways for more women to meet this way regularly in mutually enriching groups throughout the coming year.

Marge Mills for the team.

Report for Mittagong Anglican Church, AGM 2016

10th March, 2016

From: **Matthew Brooks-Lloyd, Assistant Minister**

Cathy and I are very thankful to God for your partnership with us in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We keep trusting in God to bring growth and bless the work to His glory.

Some key areas of ministry focus are as follows:

1. Home Growth Groups

We are hoping to see more groups formed with more people joining in the privilege of studying the word of God and spending time in prayer together.

These are ways members of our congregation can be pastorally cared for.

In 2016, we have new groups commenced, and more people committed to them. My hope is to see more folk committed to our existing groups and new people joining in new groups.

At times group leaders are encouraged to follow Bible Studies that follow the sermon series.

Please speak to me if you would like to join one of our groups.

2. Welcoming and integrating

Over the last 12 months, we have recorded over 70 new people visiting St Stephen's at our services. No doubt there have been more.

Having some contact details of people who visit one of our services provides opportunity for re-connecting with them during the week and finding out how we can help.

Welcoming and integrating is an important part of our life as a church community, as the Lord may continue to send people to us in answer to our prayer. May they discover through our church the purpose God has for their lives in Jesus Christ.

We organise 'Newcomer events' 4 times a year, where people can meet ministry staff and find out about belonging to St Stephen's.

3. Men's Ministry

I continue to meet up with men in the parish, both morning and night. We have planned some men's breakfasts (with David Lidden) for this year, and I am keen to see men meeting up together to pray and read the Bible.

4. Scripture

I have taken 2 classes, one on Tuesday at Colo Vale PS, one at Mittagong PS. Both are year 5 classes. This year, Cathy, my wife, joins with me at Mittagong.

I am praying about the idea of a lunch time group at Mittagong Public School, one day a week for ½ an hour. We will need a small keen team to do this. It could be a good feeder into our youth group(s) as well, down the track.

I wish to express my thanks to Richard and Marge for their encouragement and support over the last twelve months.

Cubby Clubs

We continue operating three Cubby Clubs from St. Stephen's: Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at Mittagong, and Friday mornings at St. Paul's, Colo Vale.

Last year we had a good number of our children graduate to their first year of formal schooling and many of these are now coming to Kids@MAC.

Tuesday groups have 24 mums (or dads) with their children, four leaders and two helpers. **Wednesday** groups have about ten mums with their children, three leaders and two helpers.

On **Fridays** we have 12-14 mums with their children, two leaders and two helpers.

Each group runs a program of play, craft and story reading.

The vital ministry of Cubby Clubs is the opportunity for mothers (and dads) to interact with each other, and have meaningful conversations with leaders. A number of the Cubby Club parents have been bringing their families to church and we regard this as an important outreach of our church.

For me personally, I am very grateful to all the leaders and helpers for their prayerful interaction with the parents, and their willingness to serve in this ministry. They are a fantastic witness to their love of the Lord and their desire to share the gospel.

Dina Roki, Young Families Minister.

Sunday Kids

During our 9.30am church service each week during school terms we conduct the Sunday Kids program.

This comprises five separate groups:

3 years plus to 5 years in the Mark Room

Kindy and Year 1 in the Luke Room

Years 2-4 in the ministers' office

Years 5 and 6 in the Matthew Room

Creché in the John Room

Our numbers can range from 50 to 70 children in total, and vary from week to week.

Having this number of concurrently running groups, we are highly dependent on the readiness and willingness of people to both lead and assist in the various groups. We endeavour to rotate teachers and helpers to 5 week blocks, enabling them to be part of the worship service.

We follow the CEP (Christian Education Program) so there is a structured plan for learning. Materials are purchased for all classes.

During school holidays we also run children's programs. This benefits children who attend, and parents who are able to concentrate on the church services.

For the past two years, the children have been most excited to receive book gifts at our Christmas Family Service. A special 'thank you' goes to the kind donor who has made this possible.

Thank you to all who are involved in this ministry either as teachers or helpers. Your prayers, time and effort are paramount in making our Sunday Kids Program successful and you are greatly appreciated.

Dina Roki, Young Families Minister

Friday 'Drop In' Centre

This has been running since October 2015. We meet at 10am until about midday, and our group comprises a wide variety of people across our church and the broader community. This thrills us as our purpose is to meet casually with a focus on sharing Christ's love by having good conversations, providing friendship and nourishment and above all, a listening ear when people want to chat. We welcome all comers. The tone of each occasion buzzes with conversation and is interspersed with music and singing.

Kathryn McIntosh, Student Minister

The Bridge Youth Group Report for AGM 12.3.16

The Bridge is a youth group for years 6 to 9, focussing on fun, fellowship and the bible. Started in 2013, the main purpose of The Bridge is to provide a fun and safe environment for youth from any background where they can meet new people and learn about Jesus. The Bridge is focussed on outreach to youth in the local community, especially those who do not go to church, and is run accordingly. The Bridge runs every Friday night of school term from 7pm to 9pm and typically includes various high energy games, a short supper and a 10min talk on the bible.

The Bridge changed considerably in 2015 as over half the attendees in 2014 were in Yr 9 and hence moved on to other groups (or none at all). Over half the members who moved on were non-church going youth. Regular attendees decreased from 15 to 8 and the gender mix also changed from 90%+ girls to 50/50 boys/girls. At the end of 2015 and into early 2016 the Bridge has again grown in numbers with an influx of yr6 youth and siblings of older youth. There are currently 13 regular attendees. The majority of these are from families from St Stephens or from the Southern Highlands Christian School. Encouraging these youth to invite their non-Christian friends along will be one of the key goals in 2016.

Apart from the regular Friday night activities during 2015, The Bridge attended KYCK 2015, went night bushwalking, organised a chalk chase, had a movie night, held a winter bonfire, enjoyed a pizza night, ran an air hockey championships, and over indulged on ice cream during an ice cream night.

The Bridge had 3 leaders in 2015 – George Foster, Andy Lee & Ben Gambrill. They were ably assisted by Coralie Joyce, Anne Sharwood and Kathryn McIntosh on a casual roster basis to ensure that a female adult leader was present at all activities. The Bridge is very thankful for the contribution of all those who assisted.

The Bridge leadership team looks forward to serving Christ in running this ministry in 2016 and being a part of God's plan for youth in the Highlands.

George Foster, on behalf of The Bridge team

TIME OUT 2015-2016

Time Out, a group of women who care for or have cared for, frail husbands, continues to meet once a month for support, sharing and exchange of information. About 13 women, some from St. Stephen's, some from other churches or no church gather in the John Room for a couple of hours of confidential sharing. Our meetings are informal, round a cuppa, sometimes with a speaker, sometimes just letting the morning flow. The consensus is that the time is useful and therapeutic, for some the only opportunity to hear how others cope with sometimes challenging situations.

Barbara Beard and Anne Wardle.

CHURCH OFFICE

It is both a privilege and a joy to serve in the area of church administration. The role is varied and at times unexpected.

Regular office activities include serving our ministers according to their needs, mail management and email communication, forwarding accounts for payment, facilities bookings, preparing service screens for each of our Sunday services, preparing newsletters (MAC Update), rosters, updating and printing of church literature including brochures and flyers, maintaining baptism and funeral registers, ordering stationery and equipment, as well as other sundry duties.

People often call in and want to ask questions, or simply to look at the church; assistance is given as needed.

Our church office is open each weekday from 9am until 12md Mondays (attended by Belinda Foster) and Tuesdays (attended by Leonie Walters), and 9am until 1.30pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, attended by Julie Marks

Grateful thanks go to Belinda Foster and Leonie Walters who assist as volunteers in office administration, and also to Robyn Bean who joined us this year helping out in the office, especially with folding and collating of weekly newsletters and sermon handouts.

Julie Marks, Office Administrator.

Annual Report SRE

(Special Religious Education)

From co-ordinator Robyn Caltabiano

2015 SRE at MITTAGONG and COLO VALE Public Schools

Program:

The Connect program for year C was taught from grade 1-5.

Kindergarten program "Beginning with God"

Year 6 program "Big Questions"

Resources were purchased to support this program.

Cost of the program: \$3880

This cost is increased for this year as we purchased year C teaching program for the first time. There are 3 yearly programs: A, B and C.

We now have all the teachers' manuals and visual aids for these 3 programs.

We continue to have a classroom focus on teaching the children to pray, many teachers reported students very receptive to prayer. It is impressive to see our teachers recording students' prayer points and praying for them during the week.

SRE Prayer points are published in the Mac Update and included for prayer in our service. Thank you to Coralie Joyce for updating prayer points.

We would like to ask the congregation if teachers and students of SRE could be remembered in their prayers on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

SRE Teachers at Colo Vale PS

Glen Vandine, Chris Vandine
Leone Millard, Rose Muddle
Alison Jones
Graham Rose, Judi Rose
Helen Reddie
Matthew Brooks Lloyd
Robyn Caltabiano, Dina Roki
Margaret Carrick (casual)

At Colo Vale school there are 156 students in protestant SRE.

SRE Teachers at Mittagong Public School

SRE teacher
Robyn Ianelli
Karen Lee Motley, Mark Motley
Leone Millard
Richard Mills
Graham Rose, Judi Rose
Annette Luff, Alan Luff
Matthew Brooks-Lloyd
Robyn Caltabiano /Dina Roki

That is a total of 166 students in Protestant SRE at MPS.

Towards the end of the year Michele Jutrisa and Robyn Bean joined the teaching team on year 1 at Mittagong Public School.

This year we saw the retirement of Leone Millard. Thank you Leone for your dedication to SRE and for your continual prayers for this ministry. Rose Muddle has also resigned as a helper in Leone's class. Thank you Rose: teachers report how essential it is to have another Christian working with the students. Your ministry has been most valuable.

Ali Jones is going to continue her studies so will not be teaching SRE. Thank you Ali for your contribution.

We have very supportive teacher contacts at both schools who meet with SRE teachers at the beginning of the year, are keen to help in class management roles and in encouraging students to attend SRE classes. At Colo Vale PS Jenny Zantis has been fulfilling this role for many years. Thank you Jenny for all your support; we wish you well as you take leave towards retiring. At Mittagong PS Shannon Egan continues to do a wonderful job encouraging students in the SRE classes and keeping good communication between the school and our SRE teachers.

Assemblies:

We have 2 combined assemblies each year; one at Easter, one at Christmas.

This past year we have been delighted to again have Wollondilly Anglican School drama classes, who come to our assemblies and present the Easter and the Christmas message in a “young” way...

Many thanks to Sarah Talbot and the Principal of WAC for their enthusiasm and inspiration to their young students as they present Gods message to our students.

This year we also had Sam and Jono Mills “advertise” Walk Thru Bethlehem at our Christmas assembly.

At CVPS all SRE classes join these services, those of every denomination.

At MPS the Catholic classes run their own Easter and Christmas assemblies, but everyone else joins in our assembly.

Teacher training:

Teachers are responsibly training and updating their accreditation, with Youthworks. St Stephens runs safe ministry seminars, Youth Works offers training days.

Thank you for your support and prayers,

Robyn Caltabiano