

2023 Annual Governance Reports

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

wellspring
ANGELICAN CHURCH

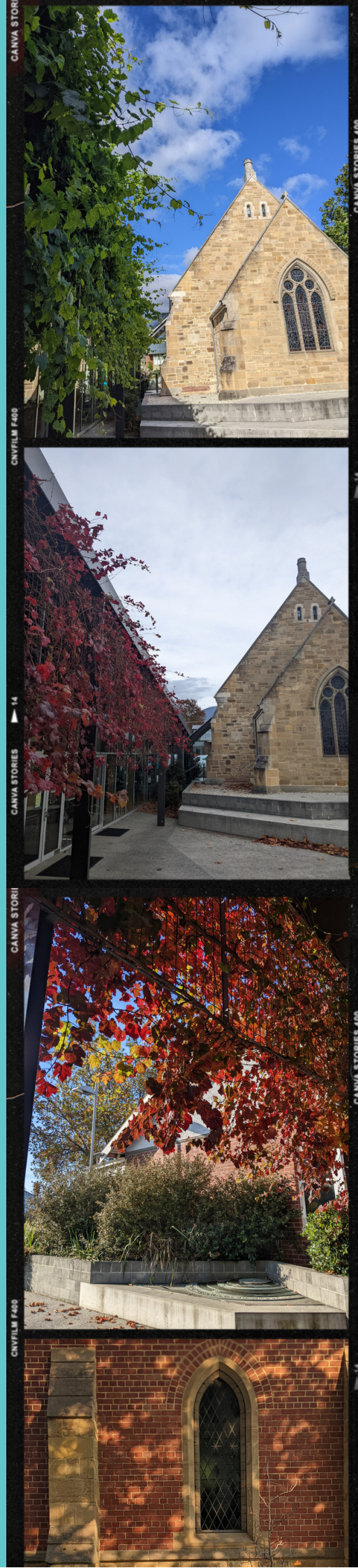
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2023 Parish Council Report

John Schuringa, Chair



Your Parish Council exists to:

- ensure our Parish **conducts its affairs** in a manner **consistent with Scripture** and Anglican Church oversight
- take **responsibility for the financial and business operation** of the Parish
- provide for the **ongoing costs** of the ministry and mission of the Parish
- determine on matters put to it as **representatives** of the Parish.

The 2022-23 iteration of Parish Council has shown **great commitment and unity** in its support of the ministry and mission of the Parish.

This past year has seen some **big changes in the life of our community** with changes in staffing and a shift towards a multicultural and intergenerational focus.

The Chinese 2pm Congregation concluded after 33 years. We are thankful to God for the many blessings and lives changed through the Chinese ministry at Wellspring over the years. We **acknowledge the faithful service of Michael and Linda Chau.** We pray God will richly bless and grow Linda in love and leadership as she explores new Chinese ministry opportunities in greater Hobart with Multiply Tasmania.

Other **significant farewells** this year included Jessie Whittle (Music Ministry Intern), Lucy and Jackson Summerfield (MTS Apprentices) and Jude Davies (PC Secretary). As a community we have certainly been richly blessed by their work amongst us and rejoice with them in their new opportunities and challenges.

Parish Council has **progressed considerations of new ministry opportunities** and use of the New Ministry Development Fund, established a **Risk Management Committee**, arranged necessary **maintenance of properties** and **welcomed Anna Davy** (Under 18s Ministry), **Jesse Rowlands** (Resonate Intern) and **Josh Lattimore** (MTS Apprentice).

Through times of change and uncertainty there has been **much that we can thank and praise God** for in the life of Wellspring over the past year.

Your brother in Christ,

John Schuringa

2023 Warden's Report

Richard, John, Anna



Taking care of our properties is at heart a spiritual matter: **we are all responsible to God for taking care of the blessings of his creation** which he has entrusted to us, for us in turn to use for his glory and **for our living of Life with Jesus.**

What's happened over the past year?

Wellspring Centre

Significant replacements/upgrades were the purchase of a **new digital sound desk** and **two laser projectors** in the auditorium, a replacement commercial **fridge** in the kitchen, and a **new photocopier** in the office. The electronic **heater timer** in St Peters was replaced and upgraded. New **vinyl floor surfacing in the hall** was paid for by one of the hirers- Barbara Todd Ballet.

The **wardens thank in particular** those who have regularly maintained the garden beds and lawns throughout the year: Janet, Derek and Tony; and Rachel, who has co-ordinated care of the kitchen space.

Rental Property – 30 Earl Street

Preparing the **Earl Street property for rental was a major project** this year, with significant repairs and maintenance being required.

Thanks are due to a number of people who helped, including those who took part in two Saturday working bees; Janet, who oversaw management of the gardens; and a couple who gave most generously of their time and skills to carry out all the internal painting and decorating, which saved the parish a significant sum of money.

Other items were re-sealing of the flat parapet roof after the discovery of some water leaks, replacement of the dishwasher, repair of the range hood and replacement of curtains.

The **property is now rented out** under the management of Southern Horizons Property, with three- monthly inspections being carried out.

Rectory-32 Fitzroy Place

Minor items were the installation of eight smoke alarms and the fitting of roller blinds in both bathrooms.

The year ahead

There are no significant issues expected in the coming year. However the need for regular ongoing maintenance has been factored into the coming year's budget.

There are many members, but one body... 1 Corinthians 12

Richard Lord, John Morse, Anna Folkerts

2023 Finance Report

Matthew Bowditch



I want to start by acknowledging that in many ways, the **last financial year was a tough one** for the Parish, as we implemented decisions to reduce costs in light of losses over previous years.

However, I am very pleased to report that **despite budgeting for a loss** of over \$40,000 last year, our **final result was a surplus of \$21,197**. There are a range of reasons for this positive turnaround which I want to highlight for you.

We received more income than budgeted:

- **Giving** was \$416,650 or **4 per cent above budget**. This is significant, as we rely on this for 70 per cent of our income.
- We **received an unbudgeted grant of \$20,000**, thanks to Diocesan support for our Children and Youth Worker. This matches our extra spending on that position this year.
- Thanks to the correction of a historical error, we received a **refund from TasWater of nearly \$26,000**, shown in the financial statements as part of **sundry income**. This line also includes donations received towards our trainees.

This was **offset by a lack of rental income** for the Earl St property, due to delays in finding tenants.

Overall, our **expenses were about 3 per cent higher** than budgeted:

- **Staff expenses** (our largest expense) **were 4 per cent above budget**. This is mostly due to extra costs for our Children and Youth Worker.
- We made a number of **one-off purchases** (shown as **sundry administration** in the financial statements), including new laser projectors, a new photocopier and a new fridge for the kitchen.
- Consistent with previous years, **maintenance** costs at our properties **continue to be over budget**, by around 15 per cent.
- Our **Diocesan Levy** (an amount we pay to fund Anglican ministry across Tasmania) was **\$17,000 less than budgeted**. This is because we were able to claim a deduction for the donations made to other parishes in previous years.

I am **very thankful to God for the generosity** of everyone at Wellspring, whether you give financially, volunteer your time, or both. Our finances are just a small picture of everything that happens at Wellspring; if we were to **put a dollar value on all the time people volunteer, we would find that we are actually a multi-million dollar organisation**.

Finally, I want to **express thanks to two key individuals** who have been a great help in my first year as Treasurer. Firstly, to **Gemma Kleywegt**, our previous Treasurer, for her past stewardship and ongoing advice and wisdom. Secondly, to our finance officer, **Andrew Charles**, for his hours of effort every week expertly managing the finances.

Matthew Bowditch

2023 Budget Report

Matthew Bowditch



In 2023-24 we are **budgeting for a small net surplus** of \$4,748.

The major changes compared to last year are:

- **Grant income is expected to double**, thanks to Diocesan support for our Children and Youth staff member, and a grant from the Tasmanian Christian Fund towards Dan Warlow's ministry in schools.
- The **interest** the Diocesan Trustees pay on our investments has **increased** from 3.5 per cent to 4.5 per cent, which will increase our income by more than \$10,000.
- Our **staff expenses are expected to increase** by around 5 per cent. This is a combination of wage increases, and changes in our staff team make-up.
- Our **Diocesan Levy is expected to return to more normal levels**, after we were able to claim a large deduction last year. There is also a **new payroll levy** that the Diocese will charge to recover the costs of managing this function on our behalf.
- A series of new line items have been included under ministry & services expenses, including **allocations for all services and funding set aside for training for Parish members**.
- Our **property expenses are expected to increase** due to rising costs of insurance, electricity, and maintenance of ageing buildings.

In many ways, we are in a very **solid position financially**, but there are some **challenges that lie further ahead**.

Firstly, our **grants from the Diocese** to support children and youth ministry **will decrease** by about \$15,000 each year over the next two years, until it reaches zero. As communicated to the Parish late last year, **we will need further increases in giving to sustain current staffing in the long-term**.

Secondly, you may be aware that the Tasmanian Anglican Church's **obligation to pay compensation to victims** of our past sins continues to grow. Wellspring has previously contributed to this through part of the proceeds from the sale of one of our residential properties. There is **likely to be a call on parishes to contribute more in the coming years**. In July 2023, Synod put in place a mechanism that could see a levy of up to 50 per cent applied to investment returns and rental income. If applied at this highest rate, Wellspring would contribute nearly \$65,000 a year. The financial challenge will be even greater in many smaller Parishes who rely on investment returns to pay their staff.

Thank you once again for your ongoing gifts and generosity to ministry at Wellspring. **Please continue to pray that these gifts will bear kingdom fruit in our church and our community.**

Matthew Bowditch