

Eastern Hills Anglicans 2008 AGM

Parish Priest's Report on 2007

The Team Ministry Style of Leadership

This marks my first two years in the Parish, and I believe it is a time of great thanksgiving for all that has happened. One of the principal developments is in all the reports being presented. It indicates the development of a truly 'Team' style of leadership. Many of the aspects of Parish life, which traditionally commented on by the Rector, are now covered by the reports of the capable Team Leaders.

The devolvement and sharing of responsibility in such areas as, administration, finances, promotions & events, pastoral care, and maintenance is what makes the parish run so well. As I indicated two years ago, the days of a priest taking responsibility for every decision – "Father knows best" – are over, thank heavens!

It makes for common sense to use the many talents in the Parish and to draw upon a wealth of experience that is available. We are fortunate in having so many willing and able parishioners who will give of their time and energy. I count myself fortunate to have so many able people to help me. In this the Wardens and Treasurer have been invaluable. **However, we do need more parishioners to be involved in this process if we are not going to wear out our current leadership.**

Worship

The Wardens have commented upon the new developments in our worship style and times, so I will not repeat what they have said. But I do want to express my thanks for the **Advisory Team on Worship** who have helped to make this all happen.

The **9.30am Sunday mass** still continues, with all the renewal and reform that went into that service over the last two years. It still remains an important witness to a contemporary style of worship and music in the Anglican tradition. It helped this parish to evolve and grow and, I believe it will still attract newcomers looking for something that will feed them and help them.

I wish to give a special mention of thanks to **Val Burton** in her many hours of work in helping to evolve the new musical tradition of our parish for the 9.30am mass and now the 8am mass - and her leadership of the choir. They too deserve our thanks.

Thank you to all those who generously donated towards the cost of the **new keyboard**.

Pastoral Care of the Elderly & Home Bound

Unseen and unknown is the quiet ministry of visiting those unable to get to Church. **This is a new ministry** developed in 2007. **Viv Cowie** has worked hard to get this up and running, with over 15 parishioners being visited each month – and the list grows as she seeks out and finds parishioners forgotten. Viv has been loyally assisted by **Rita Singleton** and **Rose Richter**. **Ellenor Neave**, has just joined the Team. This has been most fortunate as Rita has had surgery and continues with therapy – with our prayers we wish her good health.

Norman Park Centre

The parishioners at NP took valiantly and loyally the end of Sunday worship at their beautiful church. To them it was a real grief that this has happened. The harsh reality has been the decline in numbers with no newcomers in two years apart from John Wood. Norman Park was built in the days when people walked and knew their neighbourhood – but that has come to an end with our dependence on the car. This makes NP difficult to find and access, with very limited car parking for only 14 vehicles. Despite holding various parish events like CHANT and the Heritage Fair to advertise the locality, it has not yielded any results. Advertising the

church for weddings has not been successful because of location and parking. For the immediate future we will not start Sunday worship. As we grow, hopefully, it may give us the resources to start again at Norman Park.

Miriam Nyrene

I think all of us have been grateful that Miriam had been appointed to the Parish to gain experience as she prepares for ordination. She has made a good contribution to the Parish and played a key part in the “Earth Mass” and the special programme for the Sunday School leading up to that celebration. Miriam has also benefitted by being with us and we have seen her grow and develop in experience and confidence. Over-and-above the call of duty Miriam continued with us over the Christmas period, when she could have had time off. Miriam will thankfully continue with us in 2008.

Vic Nicholls and John Wood

At Camp Hill we are sorry to lose Vic as he moved to Gatton, where most of his work is located. Vic has been generous with time and money in repairs and maintenance of the property. His repanelling of the interior of the church and the installation of the new kitchen has been great. **John Boadle** too, has given of his time in helping Vic. **John Wood** has been invaluable in his work at both centres. In addition he undertakes various tasks for the Wardens and myself with effective promptness and saves the parish hundreds of dollars. John was responsible for our successful application for Water Wise Grants.

The Events & Promotion Team

They have provided a report – but I would like to note the debt of thanks owing to them. They have raised the income of the parish by these means from 1% to 5%. In addition Robyn Casey and Lesley Thurlow were responsible for the successful grant for a new kitchen, plus another smaller grant for kitchen equipment at both centres. Thanks to Janelle Reid in all that she has accomplished through her leadership.

Sunday School

The two Robyns (Casey & Elliott) have provided a report – but again I wish to record our thanks to them. In recent months they have had to handle a totally new situation with the change of worship style.

Parish Council

You have a great Council who gives a lot of time to their tasks, as well as additional working breakfasts at the Colbert’s home, as we thrash out new ideas and seek ways forward. Having a small Council helps to get work done, but we need some new recruits.

AND the Hopes

I want to record my debt of thanks to **Catherine Hope** who helps me in so many ways, especially with the preparing of worship at the 8am Family Mass. In the two years we have, unfortunately, moved house twice, whilst she also teaches at St Aiden’s School, works at getting a law degree, and has had three rounds of surgery on her knees! These factors have taken away the possibility having proper holidays – but this year we will plan to get away. Rest and recreation are important for Mr & Mrs Hope, but also for the parish.

It is great being the Parish Priest at Eastern Hills Anglicans.