

# Warden's Report for 2007

## Overview:

Throughout the year the parish has worked collectively to grow our community and as a result we are in a much healthier state than we were 12 months ago. During 2007 the wardens have worked closely with Fr Martyn and other members of the parish to discuss, plan and implement short and long term strategies designed to grow and improve the health of the parish community.

At the beginning of 2007 the wardens worked with Fr Martyn and the Parish council to establish a strategic plan that focused on moving us closer to our vision *"to be a vibrant Christian community which offers a place for reflection, growth and action"*.

We feel that 2007 achieved many of the actions set out in our strategic plan. In particular we were able to:

1. establish new forms of worship for the un churchd
2. increase our profile within the local community through a new name and logo
3. establish a mission district to commence collaboration with other parishes
4. organise initiatives to improve our community facilities and
5. grow the size of the parish and improve our financial situation.

Overall the year has been one of growth and of community building, and the start of a sustained period of redevelopment for the parish.

## Finances:

As everyone is aware the parish finances have not been very healthy over the last few years. Under strong stewardship from our Treasurer Lyndal Colbert we have been able to improve our financial situation however we still have plenty of work to do as a community before we can be comfortable with long term sustainability. The wardens would like to express our thanks for the incredibly valuable work that Lyndal has put in over the past year managing our parish finances. More details around the parishes financial performance can be found in the Treasurers report.

## Buildings and Grounds:

In addition to financial stewardship the wardens are responsible for the stewardship of our buildings and grounds. Many thanks must go to Vic Nichols and John Wood for the time and effort they have put in coordinating and the doing a lot of the tasks required throughout the year. More details can be found in the Buildings and Grounds report.

## Teams:

2007 saw the introduction of a formal team structure to the parish. The aim was to build a wider level of participation of parishioners in decision making processes and draw on the wide array of talents within the parish. The teams have started to bed down, and will continue to evolve in 2008. We are continually on the lookout for interested leaders and team members to expand and share the load of the work of the parish. We would like to acknowledge the work of the following team leaders for 2007, Janelle Read, Vivienne Cowie, Robyn Elliot, Robyn Casey, Val Burton, John Wood and Vic Nichols.

Following are some detailed notes regarding the work of the parish during 2007.

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- *New forms of Worship:*

A major focus for the year was to develop fresh expressions of worship for those not familiar with the traditional Anglican service structure.

We commenced with the introduction in February of a new form of Eucharist from the Church of England. In conjunction with this, our hymns were expanded to more modern styles including Taize chants.

Beginning in March, we started socialising the idea of new forms of worship with the parish community. The intention was to discuss new worship times at both the Camp Hill and Norman Park centres to meet the needs of the wider community, especially families. Additionally, new forms of presentation were suggested including the use of audio-visual media and fresh styles of music. A survey was distributed to all parishioners requesting their suggestions for new service times with the result that the service at Norman Park was changed from 9:45 to 10:30. This was an interim arrangement until September when services at both centres were to be reviewed.

To help formalise aspects of our service, the wardens with Fr Martyn introduced a new roster system for Camp Hill services aligned to the Ministry of Welcome, Ministry of the Word and Ministry of the Altar.

In May a new form of Eucharist was introduced called Mass Shalom, along with a booklet to assist our understanding of each part of the mass.

In August, the wardens commenced a six week program aimed to focus the parish in envisioning a new style of service. Our research based on the 2006 Census and the Church-Life survey held in 2006 showed that we are well below the average in terms of the number of Anglicans who regularly attend services and we need to reach out to those in our community who either recognise themselves as Anglicans but do not attend Church or those who have no experience with the Christian traditions – the un-churched.

The wardens then set a goal to refocus our services into an 8:00am and 9:30am mass for Camp Hill only, recognising fully the implications this would have for parishioners who attend the Norman Park centre.

To develop this new service at 8:00am, we formed a consultative group with representatives from both Camp Hill and Norman Park to develop this new service. Their brief was to develop a structure centred around the Mass Shalom, new forms and styles of music, the use of multimedia and the use of a crèche.

This new style was presented as a trial to the parish at the end of September and was warmly received. A target was set for its formal commencement on the 5<sup>th</sup> November.

Our celebration of an Earth Mass in October also continued this community focus and was well attended by parishioners and members of Angligreen.

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The new service commenced in November with 40 attendees. A call went out for a song group to assist with the introduction of the new music styles as well as musicians. Additionally the parish generously donated the cost of a new organ that would feature in both services at Camp Hill, whilst the old organ was taken across to Norman Park. The existing organ there will be sold.

Since then the Parish has enjoyed over six services in this new format. The consultative group will continue to meet to discuss ways of improving the format and content of the service to ensure it is meeting the goal of being relevant to today's community.

- ***Increasing our Profile – New Identify:***

A second major focus was the establishment of a new identify for the Parish. It was felt that *the Parish of Camp Hill with Norman Park* was too cumbersome and did not illuminate the core focus stated in our vision.

Throughout the first six months, we held various meetings to derive a name that would encapsulate both our vision and physical location. We received generous support kindly donated by Tom Hourigan from Clue Marketing. Eventually a new name was identified – *Eastern Hills Anglicans*. This new name reflects our outreach to the three hills surrounding our Parish – Camp Hill, Seven Hills and Norman Park (with our church on the hill at Agnew St) in the Eastern suburbs of Brisbane. A logo was developed to reflect our vision of reaching out to the community, as shown and was formally approved by the Diocesan Council in May.



In July our first public expression of the new name and logo occurred with the Parish Fair and in October we replaced the old church signs at both centres with our new name and logo. Additionally our web site was updated with the new name and logo and continues to be an important vehicle for promoting our events, focus and facilities.

- ***Increasing our Profile – Mission District:***

An underlying and important focus for the wardens this year was to grow our profile in the wider community. This included developing relationships with our surrounding parishes.

We were greatly assisted in this goal with the appointment of Fr Martyn as the Area Dean for Brisbane southeast in April.

In late May the wardens and Fr Martyn also initiated discussions with Fr Tom at Cannon Hill Anglican Collage to be involved in a joint venture to share youth resources.

In June we commenced discussions with Fr John Milburn of the Bulimba Parish to explore fresh expressions of worship and to collaborate in the development of our youth ministry. This discussion forms the start of a Mission District focus to look at ways of effectively using our physical assets (buildings and sites) across the Bulimba, Camp Hill, Norman Park and Morningside parishes.

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Our work in this area continued with Fr Martyn highlighting our strategic goals and change of service at the Clergy Conference in September and culminated in our involvement in setting the strategic direction of the Deanery at their annual meeting in November and the reestablishment of the Deanery Council.

- *Improving our Community Facilities:*

Another key tenant of our vision is our outreach to the community. The wardens recognise that having well maintained and suitable facilities is important in providing ways for the community to come to us.

To this end we achieved great success in securing a number of grants that enabled us to improve our facilities to meet community standards. The wardens provided advice and support to a number of hard working parishioners who completed the various grant applications and as a result we were successful in gaining substantial funds:

- In March we received a Volunteer's Equipment Grant which enabled us to purchase a fridge, microwave, dishwasher, urn, two kettles, electric frypan, two coffee machines and a CD player
- In April we received \$1100 from the Brisbane City Council's Liveability Fund to assist with expenses for the Parish Fair
- In June we received \$28,000 from the Gaming Community Benefit Fund to upgrade the Camp Hill centre kitchen
- In July we received \$14,000 from the State Government for water saving devices at both centres

The wardens also assisted in organising and participating in a number of working bees throughout the year for both centres to clear trees in preparation for our new signs, to clean up the bush beside the Camp Hill centre Hall, to clean up Norman Park centre in preparation for the fair and to repair the fence in Leepers Lane beside the rectory. In all cases we were ably supported by dedicated parishioners.

### *In Conclusion:*

Our efforts this year have been so successful that we now feel it is timely to review our current focus and reset it for 2008. We believe the parish as a whole has achieved substantial growth in many areas and are proud to be part of the change process that generated this fantastic result.

Our success though could not have been achieved without the considerable talent and vision of Fr Martyn. His encouragement, foresight and persistence gave us the energy and motivation that resulted in such a positive year. Our personal thanks for his assistance.

With thanks,

Alistair Read and Damien Colbert