

Wardens Report for 2008

The focus this year was on continuing the strategy and direction set in 2007 in the following areas:

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.

The ongoing success of the 8am service was evidenced by a steady increase in the number of worshippers to an average of 30+. The service continued to evolve with a decision made in the second half of the year to only use recorded music for the service. We also saw an increase in the number of families with young children attending. This growth was over and above an increase that was also seen in the 930am service.

Our major focus as wardens though was in determining the future direction of the parish. This resulted in two key decisions: to close the Norman Park centre and to request that the funds be applied to the improvement of facilities at Camp Hill.

Whilst this was a major change for the parish, the wardens endeavoured to communicate the strategy and plan at all times with the parish to provide opportunities for questions and to allow those closely connected with the Norman Park centre to express their grief over the decision. The wardens, in conjunction with the Parish Council considered various options before carefully deciding this was the best and perhaps only way forward to meet our strategic plans.

Our efforts cumulated in a public meeting in October followed by a special parish meeting, chaired by Archdeacon Ken Suddick where a vote was taken to formally endorse this direction and recommend to the bishop the sale of the centre. It is anticipated that this sales will occur in 2009 and we have requested an advance on the proceeds to fund some immediate needs to grow the parish.

Our focus has also continued on the finances front, with our Treasurer guiding the parish to a small surplus this year, despite reductions in hall hire. Our thanks go to the fundraising team as well for raising funds well in excess of expectations that directly contributed to this surplus.

The wardens initiated two appeals throughout the year for parishioners to consider their planned giving – one was held in February, where a thanksgiving dinner was held at Norman Park, and in October the wardens again requested the parish to utilise the envelop system to aid in developing some certainty in funds received each week. Both requests received good support, but did not eventuate in an increase in funds.

As always, both wardens were more than ably supported by Fr Martyn throughout this difficult year when key decisions had to be made. The wardens would like to thank Fr Martyn for his continued support, encouragement and leadership.

Wardens,
Alistair Read and Damien Colbert