

## **VICAR : REPORT TO AGM FOR THE PERIOD APR 2019 - APRIL 2020**

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Kim and I continue to feel deeply blessed and privileged to work with you and our community and there is much to thank God for.

The past year has been, for the most part, deeply humbling, inspirational, motivational, and challenging. Hardly a day goes by that I don't feel extremely blessed and privileged to work among such a caring and loving community of people.

Even in the face of COVID-19, I believe we have had a wonderful year in which we have achieved a huge amount. To achieve all we do as a community we depend upon the contribution of many people to accomplish the various ministries we undertake. I wish to acknowledge the contributions and faithful dedication of all who contribute to our parish community.

Wardens are important people in any Anglican Parish. Your Wardens this year - Els Kleinjan, Bruce Morris, Vivienne Kerr, have done outstanding jobs in serving our parish as tireless servants.

I would like to publicly thank Judythe Thew, once again, who continues to be 'on call' to help me with the day-to-day details of parish administration.

I also give thanks to God for their much valued friendship and support of Kim and myself personally over this past year.

I am very pleased to announce that Vivienne Kerr has agreed to be my Warden with effect from April 2020. Viv and I have known each other for several years and I very much value her wisdom and input. I am looking forward to working with her and Bruce, People's Warden, in the year ahead. Thank you both for taking on these important roles within our parish.

Your Wardens and Vicar meet on a very regular basis, generally weekly, and are in constant contact via email and telephone as the three of us apply ourselves to the continued long-term planning, future-proofing and direction of the parish.

One of the many tasks Wardens and myself had this year was, in line with the changes to the NZ Privacy Act and to also comply with Diocesan Statutes, a thorough review of our parish (pastoral and electoral) database. I am pleased to report that this lengthy process was completed successfully, and the parish database is now fully compliant with all the relevant statutes, and is a wonderfully useful pastoral resource.

I must also record my thanks to our wonderful team of Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs), comprising Judythe Thew, Kirsty Sharpe, Els Kleinjan and Jan Cockerill, without whom our regular worship services and pastoral care expansion programmes would, quite simply, not be possible. Their work to prepare and lead services and their commitment to personal and continuing education and growth into these expanding roles sends a message to us all.

Once again we have had a Vestry who have worked to oversee the smooth running of the Parish - my unreserved thanks to all of you. Special thanks must go to Bruce Morris (Parish Treasurer) who continues to work tirelessly on behalf of us all. To Mr Alan Dunbar, who is stepping down from Vestry ... on behalf of the parish I would like to thank you for your time on Vestry, and wish you well in your continuing work, on several levels, within the Diocese. On a personal note thanks go to all of our Vestry members for the support and encouragement they have shown me in recent months. Looking to the future, I wish to welcome Deryck Marshall, Julian Pedly and Heather Pinckney to Vestry and thank you for your selfless gesture in agreeing to serve.

I would also like to thank several ladies, in fact, too numerous to mention for their inspirational faith, dedication to our parish, care for others and support for Kim and myself. All the members of the 'Wakatipu Women's Fellowship', Jan Cockerill (working vigorously as our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator), Tracy McLean (without whom our invoices to facilities hirers would simply not be sent), all the wonderful women who ensure that St Peter's and St Paul's are kept spotless, all the amazingly talented 'floral ladies' who tend our gardens and brighten our churches with magnificent displays, week after week, to the teams that organise 'Crafternoons' - my thanks for sharing your gifts, to all who bake, cook, make jams and preserves for Market Day (and then come along and work on the stalls) and through the year ... my heartfelt gratitude ... and - last but by no means least - my long-suffering wife Kim (not only for having the fortitude to put up with me but for single-handedly managing our entire facilities booking system and liaising with the hirers themselves).

Let me not forget the guys - once again too numerous to mention - but to all of you who give so generously of your time, vehicles and strength to water lawns, cut grass, trim trees and shrubs, erect marquees before Market Day, care for water pipes, erect new benches, operate sausage sizzles, work on stalls at Market Day, repair pipes, doors, etc etc.. Ray, Geoff, David, Arie, Tony, ALL OF YOU - you are truly inspirational - THANK YOU.

We continue to be truly blessed by the staggering array of musical and song gifts that we have in our parish. My thanks to Allie Frude, the parish choir, Mark Wilson, Kim Wright, Donald Cullington - your music and song touches our hearts, helps carry our voices to The Lord and put simply ... what would we do without you? We have been further blessed to host some dazzling choral and musical performances at St Peters - my thanks to The University of Tennessee Choir, The University of California at Berkley Alumni Choir and The Australian String Quartet for including our parish in their itineraries. What wonderful evenings they were.

A typical week in the parish actually has several balls in the air at any one moment! However, it would be remiss of me if I did not include Thursday mornings and the wonderful ministry of 'Small Seeds' that has been conducted by Emma and Mark Wilson at St Paul's. Working with these small groups of young children and their mums, Emma and Mark did a fantastic job and deserve our deepest thanks. "Time flies" and the children have grown and moved on to school and so Emma and Mark held their last Small Seeds session in December 2019. Once again, thank you for all you have done in touching so many young lives - your ministry remains in our prayers.

To all of you whom space prohibits me from mentioning by name, my apologies for that but you have my prayers and thanks. We simply could not function as a parish without you.

Common\Communal worship is the heart of our life as a parish. It centres us as the people of God in this time and place so that we can more effectively minister within our community. We are fortunate to have a number of people involved in organising as well as taking part in our worship. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the leadership of our worship this past year. Our musicians, choir, Lay Ministers, chalice assistants, servers, readers and intercessors, welcomers and sides people and those who minister to us through their gifts of hospitality over morning tea. Once again, I would also like to thank Judythe for her help with our roster system, which at times can be challenging (!) and time consuming to organise.

Thank you to Rev Vivienne Galletly, who has - once again - contributed to the parish presiding at services and preaching during Christmas. Thank you to Ruth-Ann Anderson, my tower of strength, pillar of wisdom, and tireless co-worker in Glenorchy.

Prior to COVID-19, with the doors of St Peter's ever open during most of the daylight hours, I find there are a lot more people both within the church and wider community who seek out my advice and pastoral assistance. This is requiring an increasing amount of time and is a constant balancing act with all of my other responsibilities as Vicar. I am therefore very grateful to you all for your prayers, love and support. I am especially grateful to those who support our Pastoral Care team as we seek to expand our care for God's people here in the wider Wakatipu.

Our Morning Prayers (Tuesday - Friday), Wednesday Eucharist, Lenten and Bible studies have all been running. I would like to thank all who attend, support and participate so fully.

I would like to acknowledge everyone who attended the "World Day of Prayer" and participated in this important ecumenical service.

The profile of our parishioners continues to change in line with our age demographic. This year has seen several of our beloved, long-time parishioners called home to The Lord. May they all rest in peace as they most surely have risen in glory. The Vicar's ministry to the sick and the dying - both parishioners and in the wider community - is vital and I am grateful for all the help and support that I have received and continue to receive.

Parishioners move away from The Wakatipu to embark upon the next stage of their journeys. We ask them to keep us in their prayers as we keep them in ours.

Having said that, we must remember that our churches in Queenstown, Arrowtown, and Glenorchy are receiving an ever-increasing number of members of our extended-family on both Sundays and during the week. Having a physical presence in our churches to greet and minister to these souls is an expanding part of our ministry as a parish. I would welcome anyone who wishes to help.

Good stewardship of our property is important not only for us now but also for the generations of saints who will follow us in this place. I would like to acknowledge those individuals who have contributed in a number of ways to our parish plant this year through their time and financial contributions. To all these people I would like to say a heartfelt thank you.

As you are all aware, Wardens and Vestry must now spend a considerable amount of time and money in the coming years to "future-proof" our parish. This will include making provision for housing future Vicars and their families, repair and maintenance of St Peter's, St Paul's Church, St Paul's Cottage, our gardens and lawns. I will keep you all updated as these plans move forwards.

It is with great pleasure that I report to you that the restoration\renovation works on both our Parish Hall and Parish Centre are continuing, after the "lock-down". I need to express my heartfelt and deep, DEEP thanks to all the individuals, charitable trusts, and QLDC, who have contributed financially to this project. As such a valuable parish and community resource we would have been terribly remiss to have ignored this stewardship.

Furthermore, and let me make this perfectly clear, steering this project to a successful financial conclusion would simply not have been possible without the skills and tireless efforts of Mr Trevor Kerr! I will never comprehend how Trevor has the patience and drive to work through the reams of paperwork that comprise "grant applications". Trevor's work has gone largely unseen by the rest of us ... BUT ... it has been seen by The Lord and we offer you, Trevor, our unreserved thanks. God bless you and strengthen you as you journey into the future and, no doubt, get called upon by The Vicar again!

2020/2021 will see us needing to continue to develop both new approaches to our ministry and strategic plans to take us through to the year 2025\26. It is pleasing to know that some of this planning is already well underway; however, we also have a long way to go.

I will be asking our new Vestry to review these approaches and plans along with the continued of our current goals. Obviously, any plans are evolving works in progress and need to be reviewed from time to time.

While I believe we have done financially very well over the past year and parish finances "look sound", it is important that we continue to prayerfully and carefully monitor\manage our resources, be fully open and aware of future financial requirements and to give generously through our personal offerings so that we do not go backwards in terms of our general running costs and future needs.

I am pleased to report that in this past year we have financially supported several missions, both local and international and we have kept up our Diocesan missions parish quota. I would like to thank all those who have given of their prayers, time and money to support these wonderful ministries.

I am also pleased to report that our Parish website continues to be a VERY active and a useful tool for our parishioners as well as members of our extended family throughout the world. I encourage all of you to continue making use of YOUR website.

As Vicar I've had the privilege of realising and witnessing first hand that God's parish here in The Wakatipu, as it exists in its present moment, is made up of not only those who are currently involved but also those who have gone before us. Each person adds to the continuum, leaving their mark upon the community, making a parish what it is now, and thus giving each parish its own special identity. The contributions of those who have gone before us are still very much felt today. In our turn, what we do today for the glory of God, both as individuals and as community, has a dramatic effect upon our parishes' future. So let us strive so that those who come after us will be in a positive position to carry on the mission of Christ within our communities of The Wakatipu.

May the love of God and the presence of Christ continue to go with us, and may the Holy Spirit make it possible for us to do more, as we seek and move in the direction that we believe God is leading us as the people of St. Peter's, St. Paul's, and Glenorchy.

May God bless and keep you, and know that Kim and I continue to ask you to keep us in your prayers as we remember you in ours.

David

*For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit. (Hebrews 6:4)*