

# CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

## WARDENS' REPORT 2009

### A. Introduction

The past year has seen the Cathedral expand its presence in the general community as well as consolidate its functions for the Parish. Many thanks must go to Jeremy for his persistent and gentle approach to ministry and management functions.

Thanks must also go to the tireless work of the volunteer people who make the Cathedral the hospitable and caring place that it is, in particular, Pat Williams, Nicole Anderson, Vivienne Hayward, Colin Clay, John Whyte and Bob Foster

A special vote of thanks needs to go to Martin Mills for his diligence in the Treasurer function and the very generous support offered from Michael Sparrow in the Diocesan office.

Michael is retiring this year and for the record we gratefully acknowledge his contribution to the financial affairs of the Cathedral over many years and wish him all the best for the future.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

A major focus of the Executive and the Parish Council has been the development of the strategic plan document which aims to provide the Parish community with a series of achievable objectives and performance measures. The plan details key Diocesan strategic areas and indicates how the Christchurch Parish will align and engage with these areas over the next four years. The plan is a skeletal document which has no real meaning unless it becomes alive by virtue of the Cathedral community embracing its principles and suggestions for action. The plan encourages engagement, requires prayerful consideration and is open to modification to facilitate positive, compassionate and God centred Cathedral life.

The Wardens would encourage all Parish members and their friends to consider their relationship to the strategic plan's key principles and the resulting practices that it may give rise to.

### B. Cathedral Buildings and Facilities

Major Projects:

1. Roof repairs
2. Memorial Window

#### ROOF REPAIRS

During the year Council endorsed the use of funds to facilitate the development of a scope of works document that would articulate the structural deficiencies surrounding the leaking roof and also provide some advice with regard to ventilation and acoustic improvements.

This work was undertaken by MKEA architects and the resultant document has been available for public perusal for the past two months. In summary, the Cathedral would need to raise approximately \$800,000 to undertake the works.

The Parish Council have established a donations icon on the web site to encourage fundraising and have endorsed submissions to the Northern Territory Government and Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation. The key principle with the restoration and improvement works is a focus on what happens inside and around the building and how this activity enriches and nurtures the community in which the Cathedral operates.

The next step, after discussions with Bishop Greg, is to establish a Major Projects steering committee which will seek to plan and implement repair works and funding arrangements with the consent of the Parish

Council and the Bishop as require. Simultaneously, there needs to be some scoping work done on the relationship between the Diocese and the Cathedral communities so that the Cathedral precinct and strategic plan are able to grow uninhibited over the long term. Incorporated in this discussion is consideration of partnerships with the Darwin City Council, Northern Territory Government and the Larrakia Nation plus other organisations including and not limited to, Anglicare, Nungalinga College, Kormilda College and the Darwin Festival.

The incoming Wardens and Council will have the task of furthering this plan in 2010.

### **MEMORIAL WINDOW**

The Memorial Window was commissioned in the first half of the year in a well attended public ceremony. Thanks must go to the Northern Territory Heritage Commission for their support financially and administratively and to the dedicated skills of Janusz and Magda Kuzbicki .who did the actual installation work.

The window is now enshrined in many images that promote the Cathedral to the community and certainly provides a majestic and reflective mood for the cathedral on a daily basis.

### **GENERAL MAINTENANCE**

The reality of an aging building is always upon us and Council is faced with many building maintenance issues. These are manageable only on the basis that the community recognises the need to provide for maintenance projects on a regular basis.

Christ Church Cathedral receives many visitors in the course of each week, particularly during the Dry Season, and it is a regular occurrence for small donations to be made in irregular ways. The locked offertory box was installed inside the main entrance to the Cathedral last year and this box has reportedly been serving its intended purpose well.

### **C. Special events**

Most of our special events have been aimed at fostering a spirit of community within the congregation, and encouraging that spirit to welcome and embrace the outside community. One of the defining characteristics of Christ Church Cathedral is its unconditional welcome to all who might seek fellowship or comfort within our community. Events during the year have therefore been aimed at drawing participation from all segments of the wider community if possible.

Some events which attracted many participants included:

Seminar by Diana Butler Bass, Darwin Festival, Revolution in Evolution, Blessing of the Animals Service, and the Ordination of Nicole Anderson, as well as the funerals of a number of prominent Darwin individuals.

### **D. Web site**

It is heartening to see the web site serving a positive purpose in Cathedral promotions and information and it is hoped to broaden the ability of this site also to provide spiritually aligned information and interaction in the year to come, through suggestions for Bible study and the establishment of email groups for prayers and support. Chat rooms and Facebook have been discussed as possible connections for the more “virtual” members of the community and are in the early stages of development.

## **E. Future Challenges**

The primary challenge remains the financial foundation on which the life of the parish rests. We are on track at present for ongoing parish needs, but must keep encouraging members of our community and others to give so as to ensure the financial viability of the Parish into the future. A great deal of effort will be needed to undertake the major fund raising project for the repair of the roof.

It has been especially pleasing this year to see a dramatic growth in the number of young families with children who are attending the Cathedral. One of our challenges must be to encourage this growth and ensure that all members of our Parish community are made to feel comfortable and a valued part of the whole.

Another consideration is the support required to sustain the wonderful work of Nicole Anderson. Council has had preliminary discussions regarding the establishment of a parking area on the vacant lot as an interim measure for income generation until future development plans are forthcoming.

Additionally the provision of compassion and care to the itinerant population is a daily requirement that sometimes stretches the Cathedral community. The provision of tinned foods is a welcome and needed contribution to the life of these people. How we maintain and improve this engagement is a focus area in the strategic plan.

## **D. Acknowledgment and Thanks**

The Wardens would like publicly to acknowledge the fine work of the Dean, The Very Reverend Jeremy Greaves, in his second year at the Cathedral. Jeremy enjoys the wholehearted and enthusiastic support of the entire Parish Council for his caring, innovative, and Christ-centred ministry.

Ken Hutton  
Caroline Sibson  
4 March 2010