

**Diocese of Perth**  
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

*Grace Church Joondalup*



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*Sunday 20 June 2010*

## Rector's Report

On Monday 24 May 2010 contracts were finally signed between Perth Radiology and the Diocese of Perth, partners in the Joondalup Joint Venture, otherwise known as the Shenton House project. Originally, construction work was expected by May-June, but this has been pushed back by four or five months due to plans revision in order to meet the particular needs of Perth Radiology and other medical specialists. This means that the 'phoney war' (as we have been calling the time between announcing the joint venture and works beginning) has stretched out longer than anyone anticipated. I have become accustomed to answering the persistent question 'When will something actually happen?' with another question: 'How long is a piece of string?' This question and this answer will be around for a while yet, although our architects now predict a very large hole in the ground before Christmas. Large quantities of rock need removing before the first stage of the project (the underground carpark) can begin, so we should be worshipping bang smack in the middle of a messy construction site by the time Santa comes again. Now if this isn't something to look forward to, I really don't know what is!

While nothing appears to be happening, we have not been idle, and development on the other side of Grace House is now on the horizon as well. While we have been devoting ourselves over these past few months to defining the furniture and fittings required throughout the church complex, the vacant land beside us on Grand Boulevard was acquired by Perth Clinic. A seven-storey hospital is planned, and should begin to rise next door in some eighteen months from now. In other words, Grace Church is soon to be located in a very busy urban precinct dedicated solely to human health and wholeness. This fact is in every way serendipitous, and not in the sense of being unexpected or surprising, but as something delightful and valuable and exactly right.

It is sometimes said that Christians can be proud to know that we virtually invented hospitals. Like so many truths, however, this is undoubtedly a half-truth. There were hospitals of sorts in antiquity, but Christians certainly began early on to take care of the poor and sick in their neighborhoods. This was and continues to be seen as caring for the crucified and living Christ himself, serving the incarnate Lord in his distressing disguise in the least, the last and the lost. In other words, Christians take seriously to heart the words of Jesus: 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' (Matthew 25:34-39) Our parents in faith began to do this in small ways according to their ability, but by the year 251CE we know that the church in Rome supported more than 1,500 widows and needy persons, all of whom were 'fed by the grace and kindness of the Lord.' Two great figures in fourth century Christianity, St Fabiola, a wealthy Roman woman, and St Basil, Bishop of Caesarea in the Cappadocia district of Turkey, went further and built large complexes with their personal fortunes. Basil's monastic foundation, his 'new city, the storehouse of piety,' contained hospices, training facilities for those out of work and, of course, areas to tend the sick. St Jerome, no admirer of women, nevertheless stands in awe of Fabiola: 'Was there a naked or bedridden person who was not clothed with garments supplied by her? Were there ever any in want to whom she failed to give a quick and unhesitating supply? Even Rome was not wide enough for her pity.'

If real estate is all 'location, location, location', the same can be said of Christian ministry and mission. Sandwiched firmly between two hospitals, there can be little doubt about our future vocation. The new Grace Church will, please God, be known more and more as a place of healing and belonging, a holy place of prayer where suffering people can bring their fears and their dreams and find fresh hope.

Recently, I wrote about what is happening to us in the local newspaper and the diocesan magazine in these terms –

*When the new Grace Church opens in mid-2011, it will be a place for reflection and prayer for city dwellers and visitors from further afield. Please God, it will be an oasis of hope for the addicted and the sick, as well as a place of belonging and nurture for young and old, families and singles, men and women and children. Apart from the beautiful new worship area, there will be parish offices, a spacious meeting room for use by organisations like AA and Al Anon and other community groups, together with a well-appointed kitchen opening onto an enclosed courtyard garden.*

*While it is right to stress the fact that this landmark building will enhance the City of Joondalup by being open to wider public use, it is also true that the primary purpose of the new Church remains what it has always been - care of God and care of God's people. Grace Church is already known as 'a place of prayer for all people' and we expect with better facilities to expand this vocation - offering divine hospitality to all, regardless of race or religion, gender or sexuality, age or outlook. In the immortal words of Saint Benedict, 'all guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ.'*

*'The gospel', says a more recent spiritual guide, 'is about God's seeing us and knowing us and accepting us with an absoluteness that is nothing short of reckless. To know we are so loved is to be melted and re-made so profoundly it is like a new birth. In this new life seeded in our encounter with the Thou who is always seeking us we are called, in our turn, to see and to know and to accept.' The community at Grace Church wants more than anything to realise this vision right here in Joondalup.*

It is our conviction that in every sense of the word this eucharistic community is becoming a place of 'grace by name and grace by nature.' In Christian theology 'grace' means absolute gift. Supremely, it celebrates the truth of God's gratuitous love lavished upon us for no better reason than that God is God and can be no other. By God's grace absolutely everything is given to us, and by way of response our ambition is to offer ourselves as free gifts to each other and to every other.

**The Reverend Dr David Graeme Wood**  
*BA(Melb) BD(MCD) MA(Hons) PhD(Monash)*  
**Parish Priest**

# Churchwardens' Report

As Churchwardens, we would like to thank everyone on Church Council who have worked throughout the year in supporting the Grace Church both by their regular attendance at our monthly Council meetings and in organising various and diverse social and fundraising events. We would also like to thank Fr David Wood and Fr Michael Mateljan for the fatherly way they have guided us all throughout the year both in worship and fellowship.

Of course, the main story is the development of the new Church building. Planning approval was granted in December 2009 and the Diocese has been finalising the design in consultation with Church Council and Fr David. The new Church will provide offices, meeting rooms and other facilities, together with an enclosed courtyard. Church Council is currently discussing furnishings and fittings for the new building with the design consultants. These include the three principal liturgical items for the church itself – altar, font, and lectern. We are also discussing wall finishes, floor coverings, lighting and plumbing for the whole building – everything from door knobs to teaspoons. A pipe organ is also being planned. At this stage we expect the Archbishop of Perth to open and consecrate the new Grace Church Joondalup at 12 Noon on the Feast of Christ the King, 21 November 2011.

Attendances throughout 2009-10 were usually above 50 with an exceptional attendance of 165 for the Carols and Christmas Service. Our expectation is that the new Church building will attract a larger and more diversified congregation with an expansion in all of our activities. On Sunday 5 July 2009 we welcomed Bishop Brian Kyme, Assistant Bishop of Perth, to preside and preach. On the Day of Pentecost 2010 we were delighted to have Archbishop Roger to preside and preach, accompanied by Mrs Cheryl Herft. At Synod, our representatives were Allan Griffiths and Kay Simpson. Fr David was elected as a Parish Nominator and as a member of the Archbishop Election Board. Nomination Boards meet every time a priest is to be appointed to a parish.

Our fundraising was a strong feature this year, both for our general funding but also to increase our support for particular appeals - our retiring collection on Sunday 4 October 2009 for the Anglican Board of Mission Samoa Appeal produced an amazing \$750. And in January 2010, we contributed \$1,000 to the Haiti appeal. Particular thanks are due to Margaret and Michael Price and Breda and Dave Thompson for all of their efforts in organising the sales of sausages, chocolates and books and anything else they could sell. As a consequence of this increased fundraising, we have been able to make significant progress in reducing our arrears to the Diocese and with our long-term plan, we should become financially sustainable shortly after we have moved into the new Church. The Treasurer will give more specific information on the financial progress during the year.

Various activities were well organised during the year and these will be separately reported upon. But mention should be made here of the Lenten Studies, which took place on Wednesday evenings in Lent with a final meeting in May. The Studies were based on a series of DVDs "Living the Questions" and were well led by Fr David with a good attendance of Parish members willing to discuss and contribute.

**Helen Matusik  
Ian Wilson**

## *Childrens' Worship*

At present, we have a team of 5 volunteers, all with the required working with children clearance, who take Children's Worship. Indeed, we are in the process of expanding this team, and any volunteers are welcome! Each Sunday, we regularly have between 4 and 6 children attending, with those numbers swelling occasionally when there is a baptism or another event where service attendance increases. Indeed, lack of numbers of children in the congregation contributes to a 'small group' atmosphere during the Sunday morning session.

We generally use ideas from the web site 'sermons4kids' which has ideas for the reading's emphasis that week. The teachers who prepare the material to be covered often supplement these suggestions with ideas of their own. This is then presented by the church member running the session. Overall the session consists of a biblical verse, reading or idea which is then followed by an activity, either discussing or making something linked to the main teaching point. We try hard to link the biblical teaching to the children's own experience, often asking for them to share their own ideas. Children's worship provides a wonderful opportunity for some of the teachings of Jesus to be incorporated into an everyday context, which the children may be able to emulate in their own lives that week.

**Angela Fennell**

## *Book Club*

Book club is going from strength to strength. We are having a little trouble in that our membership exceeds 10 and usually the kit contains no more than 10 books and sometimes fewer. We have lost a few familiar faces because there are only just so many hours in the day and not everybody can find the time both to read the books and attend the lively discussions we have each month. Fortunately, we are welcoming new people and this is an interesting way into the social life of the church. Each person attending contributes \$2 to the kitty so that when we annually have to pay \$100, it shouldn't be too painful.

**Mary Straiton**

## *Women Dining Out*

Grace Church's Women Dining Out group continues to meet and eat once a month, with a break during Lent. There is usually a core of eight to twelve ladies and several new parishioners have become regular diners.

Thanks to the efforts of Margaret Price, the women have sampled a variety of food in the Northern Suburbs, including Thai, Chinese, Italian and Indian meals. Once again a breakfast was held in Wanneroo and this had proved popular with people who don't enjoy driving at night or who are too tired after a day at the office.

Eating together allows the ladies time to exchange news of family and social events and helps new parishioners to put a name to a face when at church on a Sunday.

Payments are usually 'rounded up' and this surplus money was used to make a donation to the Haiti flood appeal.

**Diana Thompson**

# Joondalup Anglican Men (J.A.M.)

J.A.M. has continued to flourish into its second year.

We have continued with our regular Breakfast meetings at the 'Leap frog' Café and once at my house.

Regarding the activities we have had some good numbers on the following events.

- A snooker night at Pot Black Hillary's.
- A bowling night in Joondalup.
- And a great morning's canoeing in Mid-Swan.

We are busy planning future events, and have pencilled in a Golf session for both the experts and novice players for our next event - watch this space!

A surplus fund from last year has been donated to the Haiti earthquake relief fund.

We have started to keep surplus funds again and have \$20.00 towards our next charity fund.

**Stephen Haskine**

