

Report from the Vicar's Warden, 2025

Essie Leech

Where do I begin to tell you about this year's happenings as the Priest's Warden? As most of you already know, at the beginning of 2025 Mark became the vicar, and responsible for both of our two churches (St Paul's and St Peter's).

Now, let me begin by saying I have had a very busy, busy year! To start with I am Mark's sounding board, meaning that anything that needs to be discussed, big and small, we try to work out answers to. If Mark is away for any length of time, I cross my fingers and hope there will be no problems, as he tells me I am in charge while he is away. Oh!! Heaven help you all!

I am also responsible for looking after our hard-working Treasurer Anneke Jochem. Our discussions can be very long and important. Just a little request from her—ring me, and I will pass on your questions and information to her. Long phone calls interrupt her work and put her behind.

Here is a list of what else I actually do:

- Banking first thing every Monday morning, making sure I am on the dot of bank opening at 9:30am—first in and first out.
- Using my church EFTPOS cad to buy tea, coffee, several types of bikkies, sugar, and hot chocolate for the children. I must thank Annette H. for the delightful date scones she makes for us. I also buy the wine for the altars at both churches. No sampling is allowed! (Bother)
- (a) Being in charge of allocating all your giving numbers for offerings and donations;
(b) Making and checking the sign-in-and-out folders at each church so we can monitor traffic; this is working well;
(c) Sorting, signing in-and-out and keeping track of keys;
(d) Purchasing cleaning supplies for Ani, the cleaner at St Paul's;
- In any spare time, I like to call in our visit people to check that all is well.
- Perhaps the biggest job I had this year was the purchase of the new printer/copier—it took me nearly two hours. The young lass who was selling it to me called me 'the boss' as I asked 'Does it do this?' and 'Does it do that?' I think it is Mark's baby now as he spends a great deal of time reproducing pew sheets, rosters, newsletters, extra hymns and services, and other pieces of printed material for us.
- One thing which is of great concern to me is that in the budget we approved for 2024 we included funding raising in the amount of \$2000 each month for the churches. We didn't do that. I need to ask why not? Many of us feel too old to continue doing what we have done for the last many years. We need to encourage a new generation of people who care about the church to come up with ideas and become more involved. We need to work together to realise and raise the money to keep the doors open, the lights on, the toilets working, the grass cut, and to fix what needs to be fixed, instead of wondering how we are going to pay for what needs doing. Let's make a real effort this year to focus on fund-raising.
- Lastly, I must sincerely thank members of the Council for their help and service to our churches and congregation. And welcome to anyone who will join us on Council moving forward from the AGM. Also thank you Mark for putting up with me and all the help you have given me over this past year.