Acting Chair report for 2018

It was my responsibility to be Chairman of the Congregational Council for seventeen weeks of 2018. Ruth work kindly offered to be our secretary in the absence of our secretary Dianne Dyson and we thank her for her excellent effort. During the winter numbers were down and this was a challenge to those that were left but with God’s help we managed.

The loss of and the subsequent withdrawal of his wife as well as the loss of other lay preachers presented a serious challenge. This was resolved by three of our members who had not given sermons before stepped up so our serious dilemma was resolved. It now remains a problem for the Leaders to provide a more permanent arrangement.

The church was again involved with assisting in the Anzac Service a bugler was organized, the Anzac biscuits provided. Our pastor was asked to provide the sermonette and the RSL was to provide the MC unfortunately none was provided and our Pastor had to do both as well as play the organ! The feed back on Margaret’s sermonette was excellent. It is clear our church needs to be involved more in the planning of the service to preserve the sacredness of this event. Numbers attending were down on previous years.

A very significant meeting was held, as a part of history week, in our new meeting room was the launch of the history of Henry Scroop. Garry Scroop presented his summary of his book. The numbers attending exceeded the room’s capacity it was estimated as 120. Alex Mc Farlane assisted as a resource in the production of the Book and also donated a copy for our history collection. The event was a great success.

Several things relating to the property occurred during the year. We employed a stonemason, David Habel to repoint the western Wall of the Annexe and the southern side of the church replacing cement based mortar and fretting in other areas. He is currently doing similar work on the northern church wall. With this happening and the re erecting of the Bell tower it was decided to seek a heritage grant from the City of Onkaparinga which was successful and we will receive on completion of the bell tower $1065.

James Ward (Our Architect in residence) developed a plan to create a public access to the New meeting room around the porch via the memorial garden. After a very successful on site Meeting with the Planner, the traffic engineer and the heritage adviser from the council it was more or less approved. Currently we are seeking clarity as to what the Council is prepared to do.

I thank our leadership team for their excellent inputs during this period of my Acting Chairmanship.

Alan Dubé

22/8/2018