

ANNUAL REPORT



20

SOUTH HEAD
ANGLICAN

25

Seeking the Renewal of the East
through Christ

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Seeking the Renewal of the East Through Christ

Rector's Report

Let me begin with a word of thanks to God for his goodness to us. He has supplied all we have needed for our ministry in the year passed and ensured we continued to fulfil his good will for our life together. **“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (1 Timothy 1:17)**



A Word of Thanks

Let me continue with a word of thanks to the wonderful people of South Head Anglican. Our incredible wardens have served with remarkable resilience, creativity, and faithfulness in everything they do. I am grateful to God for Mags Mead, Doreen Laforest and Andrew Keene; they serve us so well. Alongside them are our parish council of Lucia Rich, Genevieve Scarf, Suzie Williams, Eddie Bosch, Sari England and Craig James. This year's council has focused on a number of vital issues and joyfully considered the work before them. I do not take lightly the commitment required by them all to fulfil their duties. I would like to give particular thanks to Genevieve Scarf, who has finished a term of service and is stepping down from the Parish Council. Genevieve's gentle kindness and persevering strength have added much to our council; she always has a vision for each member of our church community.

The Lord has also gathered a wonderful ministry team to serve his mission on South Head. With Meg Weston heading up our ministry to Little Sheep families, she brings a great attention to detail and care for the little ones God has entrusted to us. Jeff Ware is an anchor of support, encouragement and prayerful deliberation for me and for many. Jeff's wisdom is vital to our life as a parish. Tim Edwards and Jamie Irwin have added vibrancy and energy to our ministry team. With their help, I have been able to work through a whole raft of ministry problems and develop new ways for us to minister into the future. Liti Seroa and Elaine Kaye were the bulwarks that held up behind the scenes for much of our ministry life. Their unseen work makes everything work smoothly! Then there is Eddie Bosch, who appears to physically hold our sites together with his constant attention, care, and, literally, his bare hands. Irene Jackson has likewise had her finger on the pulse of the parish's heart, enabling a team

of pastoral carers to love Christ's body. Kristie van der Struik and Jassen Rose are always focused on making Sunday services better, more beautiful and more uplifting. I am grateful to God for this team.

2025 was a significant year of change and transition for us as a church family. We began the year by welcoming new ministry team members and ended the year by redefining the nature of our vision and mission, along with several changes to our Sunday services for 2026. Along the way, we also began a new contemporary afternoon service. Each of these shifts and transitions in a year was a big accomplishment on its own. We managed to make all three changes to begin 2026. It is worth noting the significance of these changes collectively.

Foundation Day

We had a tremendous Foundation Day celebration on Sunday, October 26. Together as one church, we re-enacted the founding service from 1875. It was a delight to celebrate with our church community from all of our services at South Head. There was an even greater sense of occasion with the attendance of Bishop Michael Stead, Mayor Sarah Dixson, Kellie Sloane MP, along with the Principal and chair of Kambala, Jane Danvers and Ainslie van Onselen. The choir from Kambala and The Baker Boys on brass were also a special treat. I am thankful to God for everyone who contributed to making the day so excellent! Special thanks to Kristie and Greg van der Struik for their musical coordination and leadership. May the Lord bless and keep us as we look forward as a church to build upon the foundation of Christ and the legacy of those who have gone before us and as we prepare for our 150th Anniversary in February 2027.



Elaine Kaye

I wanted to highlight the work of Elaine Kaye, who retired at the end of 2025, after serving as an administrator and assistant in the Parish since 2012. She served during the time of Michael Palmer, Stuart Robinson, and during my time. It is hard to express the immense impact Elaine has had on our life together as a church. Elaine has aided hundreds and hundreds of people on their wedding days—the same could be said for countless baptisms and funerals. She has been the public face of St Michael's in our relationship with Kambala and Cranbrook Preschool, not to mention the constant weekly work of making Sundays happen seamlessly, coordinating volunteers and logistics. In short, Elaine has held together so many threads of our life as a church and aided our relationships with the wider community of Vacluse.

Vision and Mission

In our vision series last year, we refreshed our statements about what we are longing for God to do among us and how we think we can best seek his glory in everything we do. **'Light for the City and Refreshment for Souls'** captures us at our best; it is our aspiration for who we want to be known. However **'to seek the Renewal of the East through Christ'** captures best what is animating and inspiring this season of our life. The word 'renewal' is at the heart and centre of what we pray and long for.

Renewal is a word that speaks of the remaking of ourselves and our context. **"God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." (Titus 3:5)** When someone gets to know the grace of Jesus, they become a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17); their whole existence is renewed. Renewed people live out renewed relationships. Renewed people bring light and life to those around them. Renewed churches seek to move outward and remake their context. Renewed people seek the renewal of everything they do.

We long for the renewal of our hearts, for Jesus Christ to take us captive and for him to become our treasure, our crown and our joy. For our Sunday worship to be full of wonder and joy at the holiness and love of God. For our hearts to be open to newcomers, to seekers, to the hurting, to the broken-hearted. For life to flow from us into our local schools, aged care and community groups. We long for a generation in the East to hand themselves over to Jesus and receive forgiveness and life.

To do this, we have four strategic points, which serve as our compass points. How we define and live into this vision of renewal:

- 1. Reaching new people with Jesus**
- 2. Building whole of life disciples**
- 3. Cultivating gospel-centred partnerships**
- 4. Praying extraordinarily in the Spirit**

The rest of the ministry report lays out our life in the last year under these headings of our strategic focus, so we can give thanks to God for his work among us and look forward to what we hope he will do even more in 2026.

There is much to thank God for in the pages that follow! In case you don't make it all the way, let me summarise some great things.

In 2025,

8 people new to the church began a walk with Jesus

100 gospel opportunities at Kambala Chapel and Assembly

3 new families who joined our church at our 4pm service

\$17 000 raised at the Vintage Fair for Nungalinya College

Financing Renewal

The final financials of last year and those for 2026 demonstrate the era of sparking renewal we are in. We are spending more on staffing in these years to increase our capacity to reach others and glorify Jesus. To offset our budgeted deficit, I hope we can increase the congregation's giving from the budgeted \$268,000 to \$300,000. All this would take is \$615 a week in addition to our giving, or in other words, 50 people deciding to give \$12 more a week than they currently do, whether that's just beginning to give, or a little increase.

Let me commend to you all that follows to your prayers and consideration.

Grace and peace,

Matt Aroney

1. Reach New People with Jesus

At the heart of renewal will be seeing new people come to hear the good news about Jesus and become his followers. We do this in obedience to his command: “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations.” (Matt. 28:19–20) We need to take on the perspective of Paul: “I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.” (1 Cor. 9:22–23) We want to adapt our life so more people get to know Jesus! In short, we want to make sure anyone who comes is embraced, learns about Jesus, and if there is not space for someone, then we need to make space! Diana Raward, reflected on her time at South Head in 2025:



Given that we knew our time would be short as part of the congregation, I never expected to find a genuine sense of family and community. I know God brought me to your doors, but it was the compassion and love for Christ shown at all levels that helped open them. As we venture off into the next phase of life, I am truly grateful for the friendships made and renewed faith found. I will hold you all in my heart and prayers as you continue to shine a light on those who need it most.

Alpha, Taste & See and Confirmation

We increased our capacity in this space in 2025 through the ministry of Jamie Irwin, who has taken the helm of our evangelistic course ministry. In 2025, we ran three courses that aimed to give those with questions a chance to consider Jesus and make steps to begin a relationship with him. These provided three very different opportunities. Alpha is a video-based series that focuses on big questions and themes of faith. Taste and See provides meals as a way of experiencing the great chapters of the biblical story. Confirmation preparation allows examination of various aspects of the church's creed and the Christian life. In 2025,

5 people were prepared and confirmed in October.

20 people attended Alpha, Taste & See and Confirmation Classes.

2 people were baptised following confessions of faith.

8 people who joined our church began their walk with Jesus.

James Tuck, who was confirmed with Arabella, his wife, said:

“Arabella and I first attended St Peter’s in January 2025 and were warmly welcomed by the congregation. Since that time, our faith has grown richer through the pastoral care and spiritual guidance of Matt and the team. We’re particularly grateful for support as we endured and successfully overcame a significant health challenge in March 2025 and later celebrated the news of pregnancy. An incredibly special milestone was confirming our commitment to God in a Confirmation Service held in October. Church continues to be a source of great inspiration, introspection and joy for us both, as we live our lives in service to God.”

New Contemporary 4pm Service

To reach new people in 2025, we launched a contemporary service in the church hall at St Peter’s, a space specifically designed for such a worship service. To respond to the growing number of families in our area, many of whom do not yet know Jesus, we realised we needed to try something different: a new service. 4pm launched on 24th August, 2025. It has become a place of joy and fellowship where the chaos of kids is embraced as all grow together to come to know Jesus. **We’ve had three new families join the church since we launched the service. Three families who would not have joined our other services.**

We could not have done this without Tim and Jamie, who worked tirelessly to make it happen. In addition, I would like to thank the core team of volunteers who prayerfully committed themselves to this work: Graham and Sue Werry, Debbie and Colin Jensen, Jade Fong, Alison Keene, Kay Bruns, Jono and Bonnie Elliot, Riley Irwin, Gary Yee, Kass Aroney and Maddy Edwards. Praise be to God for the way they have used their gifts among us.



2. Build Whole of Life Disciples

When we get to know Jesus, it changes everything. Knowing the Lord Jesus is just the beginning. All we are as disciples is to be offered to God as a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1). We're compelled to be 'ready to do whatever is good' in view of the amazing grace we have received in Jesus. When we talk about 'whole of life' disciples, we're speaking about discipling believers for the whole length and breadth of life. To do this, we need a focus on: worship services, generational ministry, Faith and Work and teaching the whole of God's word to the whole of life.

Pastoral Care

One of the more understated and vital parts of our church life is the work of the pastoral care team led by Irene Jackson. Every week, a team of people is constantly caring for anyone in our community who needs encouragement, support or a friendly presence. Here is the body of Christ at work at South Head, building each other up as we speak the good news to one another and pray together in Jesus' name. In addition, to support pastoral care in the parish, an excellent seminar on caring for those with dementia was held.

Aged Care Services

A key component of our Seniors Ministry at South Head is our regular aged care services and pastoral visits. **During the week, we hold services in four local retirement or aged care homes:** Moran, Beresford, BUPA and Vaucluse House. The ministry is led by Meg Matthews, Tim Edwards, and an attentive set of volunteers. Meg received two commendations from ninety-year-olds for the work done week by week:

“You don't know how important this service is to me, Meg. It's my favourite time of the week.” And from another, **“Today was so lovely. I loved the music and the calm tone. Tim is so nice and I enjoyed Verity's talk about Florence Nightingale.”**



Small Groups

We have a growing number of small groups who meet around the parish to grow in love and service of Jesus and one another. One group has been meeting for over 40 years! These groups provide a wonderful place of growth and development in our lives together. In 2025, we had four groups running in different parts of our parish, with around 30 people in total attending each week. In addition, occasional group studies on the Psalms and the thought of Dietrich Bonhoeffer provided other opportunities for God's people to gather and share life together.

Ladies Night

Two inaugural Ladies Nights took place in 2025. These were excellent evenings for sharing how faith impacts everyday life. The first evening allowed in-depth interviews with Ministry staff and their spouses. The second evening focused on how faith carried into the substance of everyday work in teaching, medical care and advocating for asylum seekers. The attendance at these evenings was a great encouragement, with around 40 women gathered each time. Both nights had a mixture of newcomers and long-timers, making them a very meaningful time of connection and encouragement.

Kids Church and Little Sheep

We continue to focus on the discipleship of the youngest members of our parish, our precious children. In 2025, this occurred at our 10am Kids Church, our 4pm Kids Church and Little Sheep Church at St Peter's.

We also need to pause to give thanks for the pioneering team of Kids Church leaders, who began Kids Church at St Michael's and have persevered through the ups and downs. They have demonstrated a prayerful and gracious spirit. Thanks to Angali Wirasinha, Liza Scholz, Tanya Bosch, Wendy Jarrett and Kass Aroney, who coordinated the team in 2025.

Likewise, Meg Weston has worked tirelessly to open a space for the families of Little Sheep each Sunday and during the week, providing respite, joy and fun for all. The growing number of volunteers at playtime during the week has also been a great encouragement. Meg says:

Playtime thrived last year! We've welcomed many new faces alongside our dearly loved regulars. Running on Monday and Thursday mornings has allowed more preschoolers to join us at least once a week, which has been a real blessing.

It's such a joy to gather with these beautiful families each week. There's always plenty of chatting, cups of tea, and delightful toddler shenanigans. Group time, in particular, has brought me so much joy. We've finally managed a convincing circle and—may I just say—we have nailed the Hokey Pokey!

Of course, none of this would be possible without our four fabulous volunteers. Each one brings something special to the space: Andrew Keene, Sari England, Angali Wirasinha and Liza Scholz. I am so grateful for their God-given gifts and servant hearts. Playtime wouldn't be the same without them!



Faith and Work

Matt attended the Faith and Work Catalyst convening in New York City in April, alongside pastors and business leaders from around the world, who together shared insights into how to engage believers in their 9-5 roles. Matt was also a trainer at the City-to-City Faith and Work Intensive in Kuala Lumpur, training pastors from across the Southeast Asian region in how to disciple believers in their day-to-day life and work.

3. Cultivate Gospel-centred Partnerships

Our rich life as a church has led us to form a variety of deep partnerships with several institutions. Such partnerships are gospel-centred; they are a means for us both to share the gospel with others, while also demonstrating the changes the gospel has brought about in us. To cultivate these partnerships, we:

- **Seek the flourishing of the partner's work.**
- **Intentionally grow our relationship.**
- **Seek to preach the gospel with them.**
- **Show the fruit of the gospel in how we serve.**

Intra Parish Partnerships

Kambala Chapel, Boarders and CAKE

Kambala has a long-standing historic relationship with St Michael's Vaucluse, and in 2025, we began a renewed era of our partnership. Every week, Matt and Jamie conducted three chapel services, with each Senior School year group attending once a fortnight, for a total of 86 chapel services. Each year group also went to St Michael's for a special service once in 2026. The boarders also came to St Michael's once a term for a service. In addition, Jamie attended the boarders' dinner on Monday evenings and the Christian group (CAKE) on Thursday lunchtimes. Matt also attended around 20 assemblies throughout the year, during which he gave a short talk from the Bible. If you add the carols service at the Cathedral and the Year 12 valedictory, there are well over a hundred opportunities to tell the young women of Kambala, and in some contexts their parents, about Jesus across the year.

Vaucluse Public School and Rose Bay Public School

Another great year for scripture at the two local schools, Rose Bay Public School (RBP) and Vaucluse Public School (VPS). There were a total of **65 students across RBPS and VPS**. In weekly lessons, the children learnt about the Old Testament kings up to King Solomon and the temple in the first part of the year and ended the year by learning about Jesus as the Light of the world.

Praise God for the support of the school's teachers during the lessons and for our teachers, Litiana Seroa, Nerita Smith, and Rev Dan Ahn from Rose Bay Presbyterian Church.

We grew our partnership with Vaucluse Public in 2025 by having their choir (led by Angela Brun) attend a community lunch to perform for the attendees, as well as blessing our carols on the lawn event with a beautiful performance.

Community Lunch

Our monthly community lunches continue to be the centre of life and fun for our community. Many from Moran, and an increasing number from BUPA, come together with regular church members to eat and enjoy one another's company. Woollahra Council continued to honour the Community Lunch's work with another grant in 2025. They too see how it contributes to the flourishing of many lives in South Head.

In 2025, the Community Lunch crew toured the globe, including trips to the Emerald Isle, the Great Gardens of Devon and Cornwall, South East Asia, and Greece. The International flavours could only be matched by the musical quality of other lunches! We said 'thank you for the music' and celebrated all things ABBA. We enjoyed the company of the Vaucluse Public School Choral Ensemble, the Kambala Junior School Choir and the Senior Choir from Cranbrook! The delightful Alya Meyer accompanied Kristie van der Struik in an autumnal setting with music fit for the season.

Community Lunch is a demonstration of powerful teamwork, a dedicated group of volunteers living out their faith in loving action. The leadership of Genevieve Scarf and Doreen Laforest sets the joyful, fun tone for every gathering. Meg Matthew's MCing brings life to the room with quizzes, fun and dancing. This act of loving service by the team is one of delight and joy.



Mission Partnerships

As a church, we long to support and grow the wider mission of God throughout the whole world, but also have a heart for the remote parts of Australia. We are seeking to grow relational partnerships with our mission partners. For this reason, the Parish Council decided in 2025 to reallocate the funds from our BCA partners, Glen and Beth Macdonald, towards a new personal partnership with Ethan McMaster at Mission Aviation Fellowship.



ANDREW BUCHANAN AND ABI TANDISERU, SERVING WITH CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY (CMS)



Andrew, Abi, Timothy and Emily live and work in Toraja, Indonesia, serving with CMS. Andrew teaches post graduate theological students in a government run Christian institute and Abi has been involved with discipling families. Their work grows and multiplies as they train pastors for the whole region. Beautiful Emily, the youngest Buchanan was born in 2025.

MORGAN AND OLIVIA, SERVING WITH CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY (CMS)



Morgan and Olivia, with their four school-aged children, have been working in the Middle East with CMS. Given their church's position

as a regional hub, our support of Morgan and Olivia sees the resourcing of gospel ministry across the region.

ETHAN MCMASTER, SERVING WITH MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP (MAF)

MAF is an international organisation that arranges humanitarian flights into isolated areas that are not accessible by larger aircraft, to deliver supplies and provide urgent transport needs. It is all done in the name of Jesus and is a wonderful example of God's love in action.



Ethan has always had a passion for flying and aviation. With MAF, he now gets to use that passion to serve isolated people and share the love of Christ. Ethan completed his flight training at MAF's Flight Training Centre in Mareeba, Queensland. After finishing flight school, God opened the door for Ethan to serve

in Arnhem Land, initially in an operations role. He spent eight months on the ground learning the ropes, building relationships, and gaining a deeper understanding of the communities MAF serves. He then transitioned into a pilot role, after raising support. We look forward to meeting Ethan in 2026.

NUNGALINYA COLLEGE

Nungalinya is a combined churches college in Darwin where First Nations Christians from remote communities receive help in developing leadership skills. We had a wonderful visit from Lucy Vallentine this year who explained the use of song and dance to preach and make known the good news of Jesus in indigenous communities. Lucy also stated in an email of thanks for the Vintage Fair:



We do not take for granted the amount of work put into making the event happen and that you have chosen to pass the funds to us year after year. We are so thankful for our long term partnership with South Head Anglican. We really can only operate through the generosity of others and the work we do is so significant for Indigenous Christians in remote communities.

Vintage Fair

Just over \$17,000 was raised for Nungalinya College this year at our annual Vintage Fair event. There was a lot of last-minute drama with a possible blackout, but the resilience of the remarkable volunteer team, as well as the kindness of our Lord, meant everything happened as planned.



The remarkable Jennifer Glasson again organised the wonderful vintage offering and so many logistics for the day. Mags Mead and her team opened a calm and warm tearoom with characteristic generosity. Sari England curated an excellent selection of books. We are grateful for the work of all!

The fair continues to be a centrepiece of not only our mission partnership with Nungalinya but with the community of South Head who eagerly anticipate and enjoy the joyful hospitality at St Michael's year after year.

Mercy and Justice Partnerships

We value deeply our ability to love others and provide a tangible witness to God's loving kindness through various acts of love and service. We continued this vital work in 2025.

TOYS AND TUCKER

In a collective effort from our congregations, Kambala Junior School and Cranbrook Preschool the Toys 'n' Tucker collection provided for joy many families at Christmas. It is a joy to partner with locals to serve those with the least in our city.

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY (CAP)

In 2025, we became a regular supporter of CAP, who are driven by the conviction that 'financial distress is a lonely and isolating experience, it is a journey no one should walk alone.' Their innovative resources are a blessing for many experiencing the cost-of-living crisis. They also tangibly preach the gospel through this wonderful work to those in need.

BREAD OF LIFE

Wendy Jarratt continues to expertly lead a team of enthusiastic volunteers who help serve breakfast to the appreciative companions at St Michael's Surry Hills. Lloyd Steadson visited South Head and encouraged our longstanding partnership and the wonderful impact of this long-term relational work.

THE DOR FOUNDATION

In light of the Anti-semitic attacks at Bondi before Christmas, we partnered with those who attend our Christmas services to raise \$1,457 for the work of the DOR foundation, who empower Australians to stand against Antisemitism and hatred in all its forms.

NAPPIES FOR THE ASYLUM SEEKER CENTRE

Nappies were collected from the members of the church as well as from the families of Little Sheep. These were delivered to the Asylum Seeker Centre to support those migrating to Australia who need aid and generosity as they find stability in a new place.

4. Pray Extraordinarily in the Spirit

If we want to seek the renewal of the East, we are asking for something well beyond what we expect. We are asking for a mighty move of God in the East. We are commanded in scripture to:

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” (Col. 4:2)

“But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit.” (Jude 1:20)

We are a people of prayer, and we long to grow into it. We increased the number of ways we prayed in 2025, and we hope to have two prayer meetings of different types each month in 2026.

Prayer Walks, Services of Remembrance and Healing

We began a habit of prayer walking in 2025, intentionally and missionally praying for our neighbours, local issues in sight, and all our local institutions. In addition, we added two Services of Remembrance and Hope to our calendar for the year. These services were designed to open space for anyone to acknowledge the grief, pain and sorrow they were carrying while also hearing the good news of Jesus. A Service of Healing Prayer was also conducted as well, opening the church to pray for God’s intervention into the brokenness of our human condition. The 4pm service was also covered with a month of prayer meetings before it began. We showed in this our desire to pray about anything, for anyone, whenever they need it. May the Lord deepen this work among us.

Taize Services

Our Taize services are an essential part of our prayerful rhythm as a church. They are a haven of peace in a world that demands our attention at every moment. It also is fitting to acknowledge the wonderful Louise Kaye, who has been writing and leading our Taize services for some time. Louise led her last Taize service to mark the start of Advent in 2025. We have benefited greatly from the spiritually formative work of Louise’s Taize services. The slow, detailed work of crafting the prayers of Taize has provided excellent leadership in our own prayer lives.

Warden's Report

Andrew Keene, Doreen Laforest and Mags Mead

After a couple of years of significant change, 2025 saw South Head Parish settle into a more established routine, with new team members contributing to this ongoing revitalisation.

We were delighted to welcome Jamie Irwin to the general ministry team. Jamie's role includes running our evangelistic courses, pastoring senior high and young adults, and ministering at Kambala with Matt. All these ministries have greatly benefited from a dedicated focus. Rev Tim Edwards moved into the newly refurbished Curate's Cottage with his delightful family, and his work in the aged care ministry has been particularly appreciated. Of course, the wisdom, experience and thoughtful preaching of the dearly loved Jeff Ware must not go unmentioned. Meg Weston continues her excellent work with Little Sheep Playgroup and Little Sheep Church.

This expansion of the ministry team was funded by retained surpluses – we believe it is a worthy investment in our future. In 2025, with a significantly increased compulsory contribution to the Sydney Diocesan Property Fund, we budgeted for a deficit of more than \$60,000. The Wardens believe that South Head Parish remains in a strong financial position and are confident with their plans for the financial way forward.

New in 2025 was the launch of the 4pm Contemporary Service in St Peter's Hall. This has proved to be a valuable way to connect and share the gospel with those who might otherwise hesitate to attend a traditional church service. The supper afterwards has also proved to be an added bonus, enjoyed by young and old alike!

Not all change is easy, and the consolidation and adjustment of service times brought sadness to some long-term parishioners. However, it had become unsustainable for the ministry team to rush from one site to another on a Sunday, and this severely limited their ability to provide good ministry. It is also hoped that consolidating the children's ministry at St Michael's will lead to a genuine revitalisation in the nought-to-upper-primary cohort.

Another welcome development in 2025 was the completion of the prayer garden, a peaceful refuge at St Peter's and a perfect place for quiet reflection.

The usual wide range of parish activities continued throughout the year — concerts, the Vintage Fair, welcome lunches, and Bible studies — along with the new initiative of Ladies' Night, which proved very popular.

The Wardens would also like to give a warm and special mention to Elaine Kaye, who retired at the end of 2025 after making a huge contribution — mainly behind the scenes — to the smooth running of the churches. Litiana Seroa has now stepped up and taken on a larger role, and we thank her for this. Thanks also to our indomitable and absurdly talented organist Kristie van der Struik and to Jassen Rose.

This leads us to our volunteers. We are so fortunate to have such a talented and hardworking group of people willing to dedicate their time and energy to our parish. This includes our gifted group of honorary musicians and singers, ably led by Greg; those who volunteer at Little Sheep; those performing duties during church services; and those who provide refreshments afterwards.

Another special mention must go to Eddie Bosch, our ‘everywhere man’, for whom no problem is too big and no table too heavy to move. He probably deserves a pay rise!

Finally, to Matt Aroney — what a blessing you have been to our parish. While simple thanks are not enough, they come with love, respect and admiration for the work you are doing. May God continue to bless you and your family.

The Wardens wish to thank everyone who has contributed through praying, serving, or giving. Your ministry offerings, volunteering, and quiet words of encouragement are a blessing to us all.

May the good work continue into 2026.

Financial Report

Andrew Keene, Doreen Laforest and Mags Mead

Parish Income & Expenditure

South Head Anglican Parish

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Account	Notes	2024	2025	2026 budget
Where does the money come from?				
Offerings & Donations	1	244,883	258,023	268,000
Ministry Income, Weddings & Funerals	2	55,825	74,827	77,000
Net Columbarium income available to Parish	3	133,092	99,798	100,000
Leased Property Income	4	237,757	284,676	296,000
Government Grants	5	7,500	28,850	7,500
Finance Income		106,850	96,214	100,000
Total		785,908	842,388	848,500
Where is the money spent?				
Parish Salaries	6	311,846	485,847	481,000
Diocesan Levies	7	101,049	134,693	182,000
Running the Ministry & Parish		55,756	67,841	63,000
Church Property Expenses		119,425	106,293	115,000
Lease Property Expenses		49,309	59,940	45,000
Giving to Missions		22,921	28,077	26,700
Total		660,305	882,691	912,700
Ordinary church activities surplus / (Deficit)		125,602	(40,302)	(64,200)
What is out of the ordinary				
Major Projects		700,500	157,648	100,000
Donations		(117,180)	(4,038)	-
Total		583,320	153,610	100,000
What is left		(457,717)	(193,912)	(164,200)

Parish Balance Sheet

South Head Anglican Parish

At 31 December 2025

Account	Notes	2024	2025
Current Assets			
SHAP Bank Accounts		254,767	65,851
National Trust Bank Account		44,054	64,862
Debtors		37,493	30,599
Term Deposit		463,684	606,489
Anglican Church Property Trust Funds		2,305,384	2,273,957
Total Current Assets		3,105,381	3,041,758
Fixed Assets			
Land		17,264,390	17,264,390
Buildings		23,757,444	23,757,444
Contents		1,882,965	1,882,965
Total Fixed Assets		42,904,799	42,904,799
Liabilities			
Creditors and accruals		11,825	32,900
Employee entitlements		28,919	27,242
Total Liabilities		40,745	60,141
Net Assets		45,969,435	45,886,416
Equity			
Accumulated Funds		31,181,735	30,987,823
Revaluation Reserve		14,733,296	14,824,258
Building Fund		44,554	64,485
Organ Fund		9,851	9,851
Total Equity		45,969,435	45,886,416

These summarised accounts are based on the accounts in the prescribed diocesan format, which are available on request.

The auditor has advised that due to a range of personal circumstances, he has not been able to complete the audit prior to the annual meeting; however, he does not expect any significant change in the position as shown in the accounts presented to the annual meeting following completion of the audit.

Notes on Financial Reports

1. Regular giving increased in 2025 due to the addition of new givers and additional donations from regular givers.
2. The ministry income is primarily from community lunch donations, weddings and funerals. The number of weddings held at the churches has declined over recent years. In 2025, we expect to receive \$45,000 income from the provision of chaplaincy services to Kambala.
3. The income from the Columbarium increased significantly in 2024; the 2026 budget represents the average of the last five years. The amount available to the Parish represents the income less the costs of facility repairs and maintenance. We are also setting aside 10% of net income for long-term preservation.
4. Rental income increased in 2024, the Vaucluse Rectory being rented for a full year.
5. We received a \$7,500 grant from Woollahra Council for the Community Lunches and a \$20,000 grant from the NSW Government to repair the path from St Peter's to Old South Head Road.
6. Parish Salaries are expected to continue at a similar level in 2026.
7. We pay a levy to the diocese based on our property receipts the previous year (including the Columbarium). This increased in 2025 as our property income increased in 2024. It will decrease in 2026 as it will be offset by the Rental we pay for Jamie's flat.

Major Property Projects included:

- The development of the Prayer Garden at St Peter's (funded by donations)
- The new pathway from St Peter's to Old South Head Road (funded by a grant from Woollahra Council)
- Essential drainage and sewerage works at St Peter's.
- We also had to carry out repairs at the St Michael's Rectory to the garage and the roof following storms earlier in the year.

Major projects planned for 2025 include:

- Landscaping work at the Curate's Cottage - this is essential to allow the garden to be safely used by children
- Repairs to the stonework at St Peter's Rectory.
- New aluminium doors on the pre-school building

Repairs to our rented properties, and to the churches and rectory, are constant and ongoing.



South Head
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Light for the City,
Refreshment for the Soul.