

Anglican Parish of the Parks St Silas & St Anselm



St Silas Sunday Suppers Welfare Program 2021 Annual Report





**ACTIVITIES REPORT TO MELBOURNE ANGLICAN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY INC.
FROM THE PARISH OF ST. SILAS AND ST. ANSELM, ALBERT PARK
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

1. Summary

This is the 2021 annual report of the activities of the *Sunday Suppers Welfare Program* of the Anglican Parish of the Parks St. Silas and St. Anselm to the Melbourne Anglican Benevolent Society Inc. ("MABS"). It covers the period of the 2021 calendar year with financial information for the Parish's financial year 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021. It is designed to satisfy the requirements of MABS in reporting on programs auspiced under its responsibility.

2. Background

The Parish received approval for a project entitled *St. Silas Sunday Suppers Welfare Program* during the middle of 2006. The *Sunday Suppers Welfare Program* provides:

- (a) a two course meal in the Church Hall on Sunday evenings to the needy in the City of Port Phillip, who live in the vicinity of St. Silas' Anglican Church, Bridport Street, Albert Park; and
- (b) food parcels to the same demographic group at other times.

This demographic group is in desperate need of the Program due to their economic circumstances and lack of basic social skills, including unemployable people, the poor and disadvantaged. The Program is well established and well patronised by the target groups. The meal service is open to everyone who presents themselves, while food parcels require the presentation of a Social Services card confirming the holder's status as a pensioner or "low income" person.

The Program is co-ordinated by office staff and volunteers. In addition, parishioners and others volunteer their services to assist with service of the meals. The Program is supported in part by grants from South Melbourne Community Chest, City of Port Phillip Council and Toorak Op Shop as well as general donations through MABS by parishioners and other interested parties. A separate MABS bank account is maintained for funding the Program. Where necessary, the Program benefits from donations from general Parish funds to support the operational costs.

3. Outcomes

The *Sunday Suppers Welfare Program* has had a 16th successful year. During the Church financial year ended 30 September 2021 \$47,034 was expended under the *Sunday Suppers Welfare Program*. The contributions made through MABS & others totalled \$4,218 (net of Parish donations of \$7,000), there was no fundraising due to COVID impacts and \$141 was earned in interest in the dedicated ADF *Sunday Suppers Welfare Program* account (see Financials section below).



In addition the Parish received grants from South Melbourne Community Chest (\$7,000), City of Port Phillip Council (\$24,280 recognised in 2020-21) and Toorak Op Shop (\$1,900) totalling \$33,180. Kozminsky's jewellers have also committed to \$500 per month to support our programme.

In total, approximately 2,750 meals were served and 659 food parcels were provided.

4. 2021 Operations

Our Sunday Suppers Program continues to be our flagship welfare program in 2021 & it did bring with it a set of challenges.

In 2021 we saw the format of the program change to suit the requirements of COVID-19. We saw a small, very dedicated group of volunteers continue to show support & and to these people we can't thank you all enough. We are also very privileged to have the support of the local Rotary club each week with 2 extra volunteers.

We have faced several challenges in 2021, we streamlined the Food Parcel distribution to the 1st Sunday of the month, this allowed us the opportunity to utilise more volunteers to package & run the process, we saw an increase in the numbers by over 50% each month, the average is now 60 per month.

Our amazing team Leaders who each week guide all our volunteers to a fun yet challenging Sunday afternoon.

Some 2021 highlights

- OrangeSky on-board with their washing van
- Diggin In on-board with Dog food distribution
- The Avalon Project assisting with clothing
- Grilled South Melbourne fundraising
- 20% increase in new Volunteers
- 3 successful grants received
- Kozminsky's jewellers came on board with a generous monthly donation towards our programme

We anticipate the continuation of take away meals for at least another year as Covid continues to have its impact.

The Program has operated throughout the year, providing a meal to anyone who presents each Sunday between 4.30pm and 5.30pm for 50 weeks of the year (shutting down for two Sundays either side of Christmas Day). Over the current year, attendances have averaged 55 and accordingly approximately 2,750 meals were provided.



Our guests represent those on the fringes of our social fabric: many are homeless or in temporary accommodation; many are struggling with physical and mental illnesses; many are socially isolated. We offer some stability with a well-balanced meal, a take home care package of staples, social interaction, friendship and some quality time. This was made extremely challenging during 2021 and we tried to encourage as much interaction as possible.

In the last year, the numbers of people using the service has steadily increased, especially the for the food parcels: due mainly to the COVID-19 situation, clearly there is a continued and growing need for this type of service in our area.

At the last Sunday before Christmas, we handed out hampers for our guests: these included seasonal goodies and useful items such as toiletries or general foodstuffs. At the Christmas event we were also able to offer a soft serve icecream treat, donated by: Kozminsky Jewellers. We have had many donations in kind for these hampers and for things like the barbeques and sometimes to supplement the meal itself or to hand out at other times in the year. We also received a generous donation of handbags from Share the Dignity. Our Vicar Sophie, has developed a relationship for us with Frank's Quality Fruit and Veg at South Melbourne Market, which has enabled us to provide fresh fruit and veg as part of our Sunday meal offering.

[\(https://southmelbournemarket.com.au/traders/franks-quality-fruit-veg/\)](https://southmelbournemarket.com.au/traders/franks-quality-fruit-veg/)

We have continued to require the services of a security specialist on a weekly basis to ensure a safe environment for both volunteers and guest. This has increased our expenditure dramatically.

The "food cupboard" has also operated throughout the year and those with needs from within the area may obtain a food parcel on presentation of a Social Services card once a month, or at other times at the Vicar's discretion. Some of the food for the cupboard is donated by parishioners and others, including local traders, but the bulk of the parcels now need to be purchased due to the high increase in demand.

The predominant demographic of food parcel recipient is single, aged in their 50s and above, with some of our previous clients remaining who are in their 30s and 40s. The Parish usually provides to the same patrons time and again. The majority are either homeless or live in boarding houses and are often dealing with physical and mental health issues and many face social isolation and of late, due to Covid, many are seeking help even though they previously were financially stable. As in 2020, we have noticed an increase callers outside of regular monthly dates. Recipients of the food parcels also seem to enjoy the brief social interaction.



ST SILAS SUNDAY SUPPERS WELFARE PROGRAM 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

The monthly statistics of food parcel distribution are shown in the table below.

Month	Number of parcels 2021	Number of parcels 2020
January	0	0
February	55	44
March	52	40
April	56	50
May	60	36
June	63	48
July	60	45
August	61	39
September	59	39
October	51	51
November	54	54
December	88	80
Total	659	516

The catering has been outsourced to Emerald Hill café in Bank Street South Melbourne. All meals arrive pre-packaged, so handling the food is kept to a minimum. Some food is also donated by parishioners. In 2021 we purchased some hot boxes that keep the catered food hot for the length of time required for service. This was a large expense, made possible by our generous donors.

The program is made possible through a very dedicated group of volunteers, and to these people we can't thank enough for their kindness, support, and generosity. We give special thanks to our amazing team leaders who guide our volunteers to a fun yet challenging Sunday afternoon. The one thing we often hear from our volunteers is how pleased they are to see the smiling faces of our guests.

The volunteer team consists of approximately 6 to 8 people each week drawn from:

- a. Parishioners and friends of the Parish; and
- b. Students, parents and teachers from different local schools; and
- c. Members of the Rotary Club of Albert Park

We were also fortunate in being nominated for a grant from the South Melbourne Community Chest, as we have been in prior years. We received \$7,000 in November 2020, which is present in the figures below. We were also nominated again in 2021 and received a grant of \$9,000 which will appear in next year's accounts.

Toorak Op Shop has also become a regular supporter of the program and we were fortunate to receive a \$1,900 grant from them during the year. We were also nominated again in 2021 and received a grant of \$2,000 which will appear in next year's accounts.



City of Port Phillip Council provided generous support to the Program by reimbursing a portion of the meal cost. This resulted in a grant of \$24,280 for the 2020-21 year.

Historically, in addition to the aforementioned grants, the bulk of the funding has been contributed by both parishioners and the public, with the Parish making up the shortfall from Parish funds. Donors also receive tax deductibility for their donations through MABS.

The Vicar usually attends the meals and speaks to each attendee personally. The opportunity for social interaction is important to most who attend. Feedback from female clients in particular is very supportive, as the weekly suppers are “a safe place to come to”.

As stated above, on average 55 people have attended weekly, totalling approximately 2,750 for the year. There is an equal representation of male and female and 60% are either homeless or at risk of homelessness. 60% are in their forties and fifties. They are often dealing with physical and mental health issues and many face social isolation they appreciate coming to a place that aims to create a friendly and welcoming environment.

Additional information on the *Sunday Suppers Welfare Program* can be found online at the Parish’s website www.parishoftheparks.com.au/sunday-suppers.html

5. Financials

The income and expenditure of the *Sunday Suppers Welfare Program* for the Parish’s financial year 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021 is shown in the table below. The Parish’s accounts have been audited by an independent auditor.



ST SILAS SUNDAY SUPPERS WELFARE PROGRAM 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

	2020-21	2019-20
	\$	\$
Income		
MABS grants and donations (net of Parish)	4,219	7,096
Port Phillip Council grant	24,280	7,800
Community Chest grant	7,000	8,000
Toorak Op Shop grant	1,900	5,000
Fundraising	0	1,482
Interest on ADF MABS account	141	337
Total income	37,540	29,715
Expenditure		
Direct relief expenses (purchase of food, catering costs etc.)	36,064	21,269
Other services (eg security)	8,364	11,493
Purchase of project equipment (including repairs)	2,565	1,293
Sundry expenditure (including expendables)	41	338
Donations carried forward to reserves		
Total expenditure	47,034	34,391
Net expenditure (met from reserves or Parish funds)	9,494	4,676

6. Declaration by Parish Representative

The declaration by the Parish representative in relation to MABS's requirements is attached as Appendix A.

7. Outlook

The Parish Council continues to support this significant contribution to the life of the needy of the Parish made through the *Sunday Suppers Welfare Program*, and is grateful for the auspices of MABS which makes such activities possible. While the demographic is not conducive to parish-building, most having quite serious problems of one form or another, all seem to appreciate the Program and respect what is being done for their benefit.

Essentially this is a community welfare endeavour, as a mission to needy persons outside the Church. Many of our volunteers have become familiar with St. Silas and the local Anglican community. Those non-religious volunteers or those from other religious denominations see volunteering at Sunday Suppers as a meaningful way they can give back to their community. The *Sunday Suppers Welfare Program* in 2022 will continue in its operation.

Ciprian Chiovean

Treasurer

Parish Representative



Appendix A

DECLARATION BY PARISH REPRESENTATIVES for the **Anglican Parish of St. Silas and St. Anselm, Albert Park** concerning the parish program approved under **Melbourne Anglican Benevolent Society Inc.** procedures for the year ended **31 December 2021**.

I hereby declare that all disbursements for the year have been consistent with the original representations to the Australian Taxation Office when tax deductible status was granted; i.e. (a) the direct relief of poverty, sickness, suffering, distress, misfortune, destitution or helplessness within the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne; and (b) direct benevolent assistance and I also declare that all disbursements for the year have been spent for the purpose for which they were given by the donor.

Signature *Ciprian Chiorean*
Name: Ciprian Chiorean
Position: Treasurer and Parish Representative

Date 24/02/2022