



St Luke's in the City

150 years - 2009

Celebrating at the Crossroads

17th Sunday after Pentecost

7 September 2008

It's a great joy to return to St Luke's after my three month's Study Leave in Ottawa and one month's Annual Leave in Perth. The Study Leave was tremendous, a time of great importance and blessing. In Perth Judy and I enjoyed precious time with our three daughters and granddaughter. (As you have seen, Judy returned with more than memories!) Thank you for your warm welcome last Sunday - there were so many delicious chocolate goodies at the morning tea!

It was only possible for me to take this Leave because of the faithfulness and dedication of all of you who have ministered in so many ways, continuing the mission and ministry of St Luke's, throughout what I have been assured has been the coldest winter for years.

I am especially grateful to Valerie, Linda and Jenny for taking on extra tasks associated with newsletter production, pamphlet printing, rosters and fundraising plans; to Jenny for managing correspondence and administration, and handling the negotiations with Historic Places Trust, City Council and architects; to Alan, Jenny, Ian and Vestry for holding things together and keeping all things on track; to Peter Axcell for his ministry among you; and above all to Jim for unflagging and tireless faithfulness and service. I know that Jim's sensitive and loving ministry has been greatly appreciated by so many of you - thank you so very much, Jim!

I was sad to return to St Luke's without Violet Donnelly (May she rest in peace and rise in glory!), but thankful that many of you, lovingly and ably led by Jim, farewelled her in St Luke's' style. It was possible to relax and get on with the business of the Leave knowing that the parish was in such careful hands.

During the week I've seen some of you briefly, but over the coming weeks I intend to catch up with everyone - expect a phone call.

With my love, David