

2025 Reports to Cathedral Council

February

In December and January at HHO we have work on the formation of a range of new resources including a recording of the [Advent Reflection: Night of Silence](#) which will be released early this year. We had 7 participants at the reflection space and hope that making the recording available will reach more people or provide our community members a chance to revisit the space in the future.

We created a new Commitment prayer to go into the rotation at worship during the season of Advent in a series of workshops with our ministry task group. [A Prayer of Lament from our heart](#) is the very first Commitment prayer to be made into a video which is now live on our [YouTube Channel](#). A blog reflecting on the call to create this resource has more detail of how we did it, including the use of AI: [Blog](#).

Our Compline recordings continue to be released on YouTube. We anticipate wrapping up each day of the week in Lent with our Liturgical Assistants continuing to facilitate these gatherings on a different day each month.

We discerned a trial of recording contemplative services at our Christmas Day service. The [Contemplative Christmas Day recording](#) was loaded up with minimal editing and had been introduced to the community as an opportunity for feedback if the act of recording detracted from the meditative nature of the service in any way. We have only had positive feedback so far and plan to record all our contemplative services in 2025 so that they can be accessed at any time.

Our other Christmas services included [A Blue Christmas](#) and [Christmas Eve Worship](#). We changed it up by included 9 Lessons and Carols in the Christmas Eve space alongside the Spiritual Communion Agape Feast. This stimulated a lot of reflection in fellowship and a wondering about expanding the 9 lessons next Advent with some opportunity for retreat and study. A blog offering the meditation questions was shared by request: [9 Lessons and Carols - an experience: Reflections on the traditional lessons and a playlist of carols](#)

The [Joseph's Advent Journey](#) study group curated a range of resources for further reflection including:

- A blog
- A character study

- A documentary
- A podcast series
- A short film excerpt of nativity
- An exegetical video
- A gallery of our artworks
- A Song
- A Benedictus reflection

The group met twice for study instead of the planned for 3 sessions due to clergy illness. The liturgical assistants offered compline followed by informal fellowship instead. A new process for short notice clergy absence at study group has been developed after the experience, so that lay-leadership is further supported and equipped.

The study group also engaged with the invitation to make art together via Padlet in the Digital Faith artists ministry with great enthusiasm. A lot of fantastic Advent art was made and used in our 9 lessons and carols and other services as backgrounds to the slides or featured in send outs or on our website.

The digital faith artists ministry flourishes with more members having a go regularly. This also featured in our 3rd Christmastide Subscription which was another wonderful outreach ministry. We raised \$930AUD and sent content to 62 email addresses for the 12 days of Christmas. Subscribers were daily invited to create one of a kind digital artwork with prompts from the theme or hermits featured in the content. The gallery of images made during the 12 days of Christmas are on the news page sharing the results. It is now the happy task of our ministry team to discern where we will distribute 50% of the funds raised. \$465 will go to a charity of the ministry task-groups choosing, and \$465 will go towards HHO's sustainability in 2025.

Inspired by our friendship with Benedictus Contemplative Church January has been declared a Sabbath Month. Feedback has been positive for this practice of laying down our busyness and taking a rest to return for the month of July. The event page provides reflection and encouragement for our members to take rest from screen time as well as observing the absence of workshops, Study group and extra gatherings as an invitation to deeper prayer: [Sabbath Month | Benedictus](#)

The new roles of Zoom Buttons and chat leader have seen good take up at worship during this time. A renewed focus on encouraging vocations in these behind the scenes/offscreen roles also has been fruitful for new servers having a go. Plans to revitalize our buddy

system in February are underway and do a pulse check on the rostering system at the same time.

The Hermits we remembered at worship over both months include: [Sr Maria Boulding](#); [Thomas Merton](#); [St John of the Cross](#); [Catherine De Huek Doherty](#); [Sr Wendy Beckett](#); [St Seraphim of Serov](#); [Simeon Stylites](#); [Syncletica of Alexandria and Gundisalvus of Amarante](#).

We used a flashback reflection from the Benedictus Community for the 1st Sunday of Christmas: [Flashback: Joseph A Benedictus Reflection from 2022](#) with permission to use other Benedictus recordings at worship when we wish to in the future. We also welcomed Bishop Cameron to worship for the first time as our guest preacher for the 2nd Sunday after Epiphany with the sermon: [Light in the Dark](#)

During the 2 weeks of planned clergy absence after Christmas Day Chris and Leonie did a great job of holding the space with a few curveballs to triage and rally for. Taking it in shifts with Leonie covering the first week and Chris the second, great help was offered by Judy Fay with the New Years send out when Kerrie-Anne was off sick. Thank you, Judy! A series of adjustments is planned for the next time of absence after Easter so that things are even more smooth in running.

Learnings from Clergy Summer School were applied to the hospitality slides in worship – to include “please take care of yourself in the space”, a pastoral care availability reminder plus emojis and button images for controls mentioned i.e. Video off, brightness up and down)

Fridays have been carved out as Texas focused working days for the rest of the year until we begin our 12 week program in October. The registration page has been prepared for Texas spring (April) and the event page is on the website: [EDOT Digital Mission Cohort A](#) brochure was prepared for sharing at the Diocesan council in the beginning of February. The footage from our first series of Telling Our Story recording sessions has all been edited and 3 videos created. Another recording session is scheduled for the 2nd of March with a new template for testimony offering guidance for those who wish to share about Lay leadership in the Online space for Module 5: [Telling Our Story recording sessions](#).

At the end of January time was spent with Kelly Houston working to migrate our cloud files from OneDrive to Teams. We initially tried to get our systems onto Teams in 2023 but there were challenges to the cloud conversions which made us back off until now as Microsoft has created better synchronicity between SharePoint, Teams and OneDrive in the last 12 months. So far, we have had a positive experience and plan to facilitate the lay servers

transition to Teams in the coming weeks which will make collaboration more stable, with Kelly's ongoing support available to us.

Angie Mooney has linked in with HHO and we have planned an [AI Show and Tell Workshop](#) for the 9th of March. We plan to use this space to share resources with all that Angie has been doing with the Resource Church initiative work and that HHO has been doing in the digital faith artists and prayer group spaces. It will be a chance to experiment in real time using Artificial intelligence.

March

February at HHO has seen the resumption of our Church craft study, which has been running on and off since 2022. Rev'd Gemma and Judy visited to teach on Music and Lay ministry and videos were uploaded to our YouTube channel to extend the resource to those who couldn't gather: [Study Group Guest Teaching](#)

The study group also discerned the direction for the upcoming seasons of Lent and Eastertide choosing: [The Art of Lent with Holy Hermit Sr Wendy](#) and [Hope 25 - A Study](#). It was remarkable that the focus on Art for Lent was echoed in the offering from our Spiritual Director Dilys as she forms the [Lent Reflection: Picture the Garden](#) reflection evening, which will focus on the art of Gethsemane with collaboration from Charlotte, an artist who is beginning to offer her creative skills alongside Dilys at physical retreats in their local parish.

A series of Companion Animal Ministry workshops were held to prepare for our very first [Prayer and praise with our animal friends](#) service to be held on the 20th of March. These monthly services will hold the potential to outreach and welcome guests from different animal organizations, offering them a chance to engage with us and be upheld in prayer. We plan to feature a different organization at each gathering, regardless of whether they have been able to send a representative to dialogue with us in fellowship afterwards.

We approached [Bat Conservation and Rescue QLD Inc](#) with one of our task group members composing a fantastic letter which we will use as a template for future outreach occasions. We composed a prayer for Bats using the AI resource [AskCathy.ai](#) which comes from the Try Tank project in the Episcopal space. We also hope to extend this ministry to the precinct by use of OWL technology later in the year once we have got the hang of the liturgy.

Our contemplative team also put a lot of thought into discerning the direction of the year in our monthly services. It was decided to continue recording most of our contemplative

spaces and loading the videos to YouTube, apart from Blue Christmas and perhaps some of the Holy Week offerings because of the pastoral sensitivity of these liturgies. The first of these was [Reaching for God with St Simeon Stylites](#).

Pastoral care was offered in a range of ways this month, including via recorded prayers for animal burial and via email as well as Zoom and phone calls. Professional development habits were reignited with a supervision and Spiritual direction session happening this month.

Reflections on the potential of partnering with The Rev'd Kevin Goodrich were held at our Governance meeting, the first of which Kerrie-Anne attended. Kevin+ has just released his new book: [A Pilgrimage of the Heart: Walter Hilton and the English Mystical Tradition](#) and has offered to lead an online retreat for HHO later in the year. The book introduces 3 of our Hermits so it will be extremely valuable as a resource. The study group can interact with it through the Season of Creation. Logistics of how this will work with time zones, as Kevin+ is based in Rhode Island now, are yet to emerge.

Big changes in the Texas space now see us with new points of contact in the Mission Amplification Team. Canon Joann is moving to another diocese in March and has handed care of our project over to Area Missioners, Andrew and Kelley. A handover meeting was held where two potential conversation partners were invited to engage with us in our program planning: Kathleen from the [Middleway Urban Monastery](#) and Rev'd Mike from [St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church – An Open and Inclusive Parish](#). Andrew and Kelley are meeting to discuss next steps in our recruitment of participants for our cohort as we form a strategy for sharing the invitation with clergy and laity and we will go from there.

A series of blogs were published in February including: [The rearview mirror - A look at HHO's 2024 Ministries](#); [Where earth encounters heaven - A reflection from the Dean on seraphs and poets](#); [We are knit together - A reflection on council from Barry](#) and [Our ministry partners we pray for regularly - Who are they and what do we do together?](#). We also shared news of the [Archbishop's North Queensland Floods 2025 message](#) and Rev'd Lauren's appointment and commissioning: [Deacon Lauren joins the team!](#)

A meeting was held with Susan and Leonie to make plans for the 3D Dialogue program for this year which will have the theme, [Listening](#), and our 2025 dates are: 30th March, 29th June, 28th September, 30th November. 2024's program resources we curated together can still be seen here: [3D Dialogue: Silence](#)

Ahead of our [AI Show and Tell Workshop](#) in March we celebrated the [Embracing God's Complex World | Substack](#) resource created by Angie through the Cathedral Resource Church initiative and encouraged our community to sign up for the daily emails.

The digital faith artists have been busy again with stunning AI artworks created for our animal and worship spaces. Our online safety/help tips in send outs continued as well as the built-in use of emojis to aid the accessibility of our communications. 😊

April

In March we held the first of our Thursday evening [Prayer and praise with our animal friends](#) services and welcomed Rebecca from [Bat Conservation and Rescue QLD Inc.](#) The service ran for just under an hour and we spent about half an hour in fellowship after talking with Bec about microbats and flying foxes. Feedback from our participants, as well as from Bec herself, was that this was an extremely uplifting and enlightening experience. Time will be spent at our next Companion Animal Ministry workshop to list the other animal organisations we would like to approach to join us at future services. The next one is scheduled for the 15th of May.

Cyclone Alfred disrupted a few of our members but overall, we had very little damage to our HHO community and pastoral care was offered via email and text message over that week.

We also held one of the very first ever [AI Workshops](#) over the cyclone weekend, which was very well attended considering the weather event affected many of our members with power outages. Angie presented her learnings from the Cathedral resource church project and we recorded a video which has been shared via our YouTube channel. We briefly played with Padlet at the end of the session to demonstrate our digital faith artists ministry too. There was so much enthusiasm to explore the ethics of AI and faith in more depth, so we have scheduled another session for June and saved a date at the end of August for a follow up session.

We remembered [Holy Hermit Gildas the Wise](#), [Holy Hermit Luke the Younger](#), [Holy Hermit St Paul of Thebes](#), [Holy Hermit Bilfrith of Lindisfarne](#) and [Holy Hermit St Aengus](#) at weekly worship, and also commissioned Rev'd Lauren Martin for digital ministry alongside us on the 16th. We welcomed Rev'd Jess back as priest and preacher on the 30th and are looking forward to seeing more of the Cathedral team with our regular roster swaps in the coming months.

The prayer wall has been a place for much support and comfort for members mourning loved ones, undergoing surgery and seeking prayer around other life events. It's great to see our prayer group thriving using our HHO app.

Our Lenten program has been unfolding beautifully alongside all that is being offered at the precinct. We have promoted the other studies as well as [The Art of Lent with Holy Hermit Sr Wendy](#) where we have had steady numbers attend to reflect using visio divina practices and then play with Padlet to create our own versions of the artworks Sr Wendy reflects on in her book. Our [Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party](#) was well attended, as was our [Ash Wednesday Contemplative service](#) which was also recorded and loaded to YouTube.

Our [Wilderness Prayers with St Paul the first Hermit | Contemplative prayer service](#) was recorded, and added to our growing contemplative video library.

The [3D Dialogue](#) gathered for the first time at the end of the month and we have seen growth in membership for this group with 18 signed up for the special send outs.

The changes in the EDOT space have seen us slow progress towards a cohort experience down (originally hoped to start in Oct25), while we are discerning what the restructure of the Mission Amplification Team means for the direction of the program. Content creation continues as the course is about 75% prepared. We are also working on our annual report and submission to the Foundations Committee for consideration at their April Mission Grant review meeting. We are currently exploring what a longer partnership could look like beyond 2026 and into 2028.

June

April and May have been seasons of change for HHO in our Texas partnership. Cannon Joann Saylor, our main contact, left her role to move to another diocese and we worked with Andrew and Kelley, two members of the Mission Amplification Team to re-vision how the changing environment in the EDOT space would need a fresh perspective for our project.

The new idea is that our program will not be one that we run for those who sign up to be part of a cohort experience as originally planned, but will be a set of resources that we deliver to EDOT to make use of in their new learning hubs that they hope to build in the future. As a stand-alone program and curriculum, this means that we need to work on the 12 lesson plans which would have originally been built as we went along with the first cohort, as well as completing the ever-ready content in the next 3 months.

There have been significant cuts to mission grants as the EDOT changes its focus to revitalizing ministries which have not recovered after the pandemic and scales back on Church planting initiatives. The Strategic Mission Grants committee is still deciding how we will be funded for the final installment of our partnership payments considering these cuts,

however it appears to be less than the hoped for \$75,000 USD that would have seen our budget covered into the new year. Although the formal partnership will come to a precipitate close, continued consultation and one-off project support will still be explored into the future.

We have re-worked our budget already anticipating a change in funding, with Kerrie-Anne's Admin officer role going back to 2 days a week from the 3 days that we had been sustaining for some time. Plans are in place to seek funding from within our own diocese next, before approaching other charitable and innovation focused foundations to invite further grants in the coming months.

Our study group concluded [The Art of Lent with Holy Hermit Sr Wendy](#) and moved into Holy Week with a contemplative focus in our Picture the Garden reflection evening and Holy Week services which were all recorded and added to our YouTube channel:

- [Reflection Evening recording available!](#)
- [Holy Week Services on YouTube](#)

Easter day included our usual renewal of Baptismal vows and blessing of eggs agape feast liturgy.

We observed [Vocations Season](#) through the month of May and remembered the following Hermits at worship: [Jan Tyranowski](#); [Herbert of Derwentwater](#); [St Nicholas of Flüe](#); [St Gregory the Illuminator](#); [Walter Hilton of Thurgarton](#); and [St Mary of Egypt](#).

We welcomed The Ven. Bronwyn Pagram to worship on the 4th of May as preacher, engaging in a parish swap where I went out to locum the Goodna parish service in her stead, so that she was available to come online. Another successful visit for a guest preacher, this also exposed our mission to a parish with great interest in supporting us in prayer and exploring more collaboration in the future.

Rev'd Lauren preached for the first time in our digital space on the 5th Sunday of Easter and led the service with great success and encouragement from our community.

We recorded our [Prayer and praise with our animal friends](#) service and added it to our YouTube ministry. We have invited a local vet to our June service to be our guest and share fellowship with us too.

We held a [Servers Workshop](#) after worship on the 18th of May, which had some great dialogue around the use of technology to streamline some of our serving roles and other ministries including:

- Taking attendance – noting that this is a prayerful exercise facilitated by one of our volunteers, but that Zoom does have the capacity to provide a list of attendees from each meeting.
- Creating YouTube playlists for our music at worship to make it easier for broadcasters and share in our send outs.
- To use the tool for cutting YT videos for the Advent candle song as well as any others we may only wish to play a section of.
- Talk about uploading the commitment prayers to the prayer wall each week and a tutorial video resulting in: [New behind the scenes role!](#)

The study group has engaged with the [Hope 25](#) initiative by having a focus on how we embrace Hope between Easter and Pentecost.

We added another [Contemplative service recording](#) to our YouTube channel: Contemplating the Call with Jan Tyranowski.

News was shared at worship on the 25th of May and in news post and send out: [Rev'd Jamee and Damian are expecting](#). Plans for maternity leave, beginning late in October, will be made in June and communicated to the community.

July

The community has responded well to our giving drive during the month of June. A special send out was shared on Tuesday the 6th and a news page added to our website detailing: [Urgent prayer and giving needed for future HHO](#). A prayer for sustainability was added to the Weekly Worship liturgy on the 9th and is being prayed after the collect each week. We will retain this focus next month and set out our intention to keep the energy around generous giving throughout the year.

The final Grant payment from EDOT has been approved but has yet to hit the bank account. The arrangements appear to be in progress. Content for the course is still being formed, and the goal is to have it finished by the end of August, proof reading to happen in September and handover at the beginning of October.

We have had a great turnout at Weekly worship this month considering winter illnesses going around. Good energy at fellowship continues with our layleaders facilitating. We had Richard Fay as our [Guest preacher for Trinity](#) and remembered [Holy Hermit St Endelienta](#); [Holy Hermit St Julian of Norwich](#) ; [Holy Hermit Kevin of Glendalough](#) and [Holy Hermit St Romuald](#).

We held the 2nd of our [AI Workshops](#) the recording, is available on our [Sermons](#) page detailing the ethics of AI, and had a follow up session to work on resource building together. 2 prayers and a liturgy came out of that space. Another workshop is planned for August 31st when Angie will introduce us to the future AI space and add some theology into our dialogue.

[Contemplative Prayer with Mother Julian](#) was also recorded and is available on our YouTube channel as well as our Q&A chat with Dr Baron Johnsson who visited our [Prayer and praise with our animal friends](#) service.

Our study group finished [Hope 25 - A Study](#) with an extra session on Evangelism and the dialogue was robust. [Compline](#) was said at 6pm each Monday with our faithful LA Jeremy leading. Turnout was minimal so we reflect that Mondays at 6pm are likely not a good time for our community to gather, nor is it good to start something new during winter when many of our folk are managing more pain and illness than usual.

The [3D Dialogue: Listening](#) session was held on the 29th with Leonie and Susan solo leading the space without clergy support. Great engagement in this space has seen 18 people signed up to get the special mail outs which have had a month's lead in with weekly content to reflect on in preparation for session.

We are preparing for [Sabbath Month](#) in July when we pair our gatherings back to weekly worship and celebrate the other things going on at the Cathedral and Benedictus in our send outs.

August

July has been a sabbath month for HHO. Observing sabbath alongside our siblings at Benedictus Contemplative Church we paired back our ministries to focus solely on Weekly Worship.

This does not mean that we haven't been active and a range of emerging projects have seen great energy at fellowship, including the exploration of a digital chapel space where people can light candles and the potential to create a memorial candle fundraising project where people can donate to have digital candles lit at worship in memory of loved ones at their years mind or for other reasons.

Our giving drive has seen continued success as we seek to raise our community offertory to \$3,500 a month by the end of the year. This figure will sustain our administrative expenses (excluding clergy package) and put us in good stead for the future. We will continue seeking external funding for the clergy package into the future. A meeting with

Archbishop Jeremy saw us invite further partnering with the diocese and an invitation for the diocese to invest in us into the future. We hope for further support in practical as well as financial terms.

We welcomed Troy to our space as a student for the rest of the year and he has settled in marvelously. Already having committed to running our August and September mid-week study groups, Troy is also involved in the upcoming [Mini-retreat with the 5 English Mystics](#) which will be facilitated by one of our guest preachers The Rev'd Dr Kevin Goodrich OP. Troy and I met with Kevin+ and have made plans to advertise this widely. It was also mentioned in our most recent [Anglican focus article](#) which was written by Leonie on the desert mothers.

We had a visit from The Rev'd Hilary Willet of the diocese of Auckland who preached at our Pajama Service: [Come as you are to Jesus](#) which was a fantastic occasion to remind our community that we can come to HHO however we are – pajamas completely accepted! Hilary is finishing up her curacy now in Auckland and would like to continue to serve with us from time to time in the future as well, being very passionate about digital mission and what we are doing together in the online space.

Behind the scenes work continues completing the material for our Digital Mission Program to hand over to Texas at the end of September. We are on track for the content to be finished at the end of August to then proofread and upload to our website in September.

We have also been preparing for when I will commence maternity leave at the start of October. We have seen a focus on change and embracing the possibilities of a new season in our teaching and communications to help manage the communities' expectations going forward. We are exploring exactly what the 12 months will look like with the governance and clergy team and especially with extra leadership from Rev'd Lauren.

September

August has been a full month for HHO with the resumption of workshops and contemplative services as well as in our preparations for maternity leave taking shape.

Companion animal ministry:

- Discerned a list of new organisations to invite to our monthly service and made our letter for servers to approach them accessible on the website.
- decided the October service would be the last Thursday service of the year with a focus on Mental Health for Animal workers,

- Lauren led the August service which was shortened and made lay led by editing the priestly parts out.

Contemplative services:

- Discerned the rest of the monthly services for the year and that would keep recording and loading to YT
- Lauren broadcasted, led and recorded [Prayer with 3 Carmelite Hermits](#) which is now uploaded to YT.

Our giving has remained elevated since we began our focus on generosity in June. Our monthly goal of offertories is \$2,800 AUD for August. Last month we raised \$3,386.18 AUD. We will continue to pray our sustainability prayer at weekly worship and keep giving updates and encouragement in the messaging.

We held another AI workshop on theology and the future of AI with Angie offering her leadership.

The governance team spent a lot of time talking over streamlining things at worship for the time ahead as well as other big picture planning. It was decided to adopt the liturgical assistant elements for offering a scriptural assurance of forgiveness and adding a community said benediction in the weekly liturgy to follow the priestly blessing slide (which has an instruction to skip if no priest present). With the Cathedral team offering priestly ministry once a month on roster during maternity leave this will enable Lauren and our LA leaders to offer more during the other weeks of the month.

Great progress has been made on the finalisation of our Digital Mission Program which will be handed over to the Episcopal Diocese of Texas at the end of September. We held the last of our recording sessions and a further 7 videos were created out of that footage. Our proof-reading team are working through the 12 modules together, covering 2 modules each, before they are loaded to our website where they will live with password protection: [Digital Mission Program | Ministries | Holy Hermits Online](#) The facilitators guide is almost complete along with suggested lesson plans which are set to be proofed next.

Pastoral handovers are happening with many of our members who were having regular check-ins now seeing other members of the Cathedral team or knowing that they can reach out if needed. We give thanks for this wonderful support for our digital folk from the precinct.

Troy has been flourishing in his online ministry with us and settled well into leading our mid-week study group through August. He is set to lead the upcoming Season of creation

study journey with [A Pilgrimage of the Heart](#) too. He has done most of our serving roles at weekly worship and is preparing to preach online for the first time in September.

Our 5th Birthday will be marked on the 5th of October with a 5-7pm party space. This will also be my final day before going on leave so we will incorporate a little liturgy of farewell. Also, on this day we will celebrate our annual pet blessing at weekly worship while remembering Holy Hermit St Francis of Assisi and including an Agape feast in the service to celebrate and eat together in fellowship. ~ Jamee