

PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

All Souls Parish Council Meetings – August 2020

Highlights from the Parish Council Meeting of 10th August 2020:

- The meeting was chaired by our vicar Jeremy Watson and was conducted via Google Meet, with 10 attendees. The meeting opened with a reading of Ephesians 4:17-32 which was followed by a discussion of its key messages, including the need to put off our old selves and put on the new self, created to be like God, and to speak in truth, building up others.
- Council members shared how they are going amidst the COVID lockdown. Several mentioned how lucky they were to still have jobs and to be able to work from home. It was also mentioned that it was a particularly difficult time for some children, not able to socialise at an important developmental time in their lives.
- Jeremy led a discussion on managing conflict constructively, with reference to the book *The Advantage* by Patrick Lencioni (the book used by Parish Council for their two planning days back in May and June). It was noted that members of churches sometimes avoid addressing conflict, thinking conflict isn't appropriate in a church environment, which can lead to unresolved differences.
- Two items of inwards correspondence were discussed: An email from neighbours in Sims Street concerned that the recent Optus mobile phone tower works might have affected their TV reception, and an email from Leonie Dekker (churchwarden) with details of the expanded scope of the development across the road from the church (corner of Bay Road and Trentham Street).
- Jeremy presented his Vicar's Report, in which he mentioned that during the current Stage 4 restrictions the church buildings and grounds are closed to everyone unless they have a work permit. He also said that during Stage 4 all services will be pre-recorded to minimise people contact and to increase production quality.
- Georgina Magill presented her Assistant Minister's report, in which she mentioned that she had followed up again with the Pastoral Care Carers to refresh the call for them to contact (remotely) their chosen parishioners. She also mentioned that some parishioners were enjoying being able to participate in small groups via Zoom, meaning they didn't have to travel in the evening.
- Leonie presented her report on Children's and Youth Ministry, with the main points being that the Youth had commenced meeting again via Zoom on 15 July, and during the Stage 4 restrictions Young Souls families are receiving activity packs via email (rather than in their letterboxes).
- The Treasurer Peter Moran presented the financial report for August: Key points were: collections were in line with other months but were below the budgeted figure for July (which was quite high); JobKeeper allowances for staff had been received; and we have applied for the \$5,000 extension of the Business Support Grant announced recently by the Victorian Government
- Leonie presented the report of the wardens meeting on 9 August. One of the key points was that the church has lodged an objection to the Sparrows Bar permit application to use the All Souls carpark for their refuse/recycling bins.
- Members also received the regular monthly Music and Contemporary Music reports from Warwick Lewis and Luke Alabaster, respectively. There was discussion about how to relieve Luke from the video editing duties he is also putting in for the pre-recorded church services.