

# PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## All Souls Parish Council Meetings – March/April 2020

### Highlights from the March meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> March):

- This was the first All Souls Parish Council meeting attended by our new Vicar Jeremy Watson. Jeremy chaired the meeting.
- The roles of Parish Council members were reviewed:
  - Wardens: Leonie Dekker, Daryl Williams, Martyn Baker
  - Treasurer: Peter Moran
  - Secretary: Peter Coburn
  - Child Safety Officer: Alissia Adam
  - Mission Responsibility: Richard Childs
  - Members: Andrew Wilson, Bruce Peeler
- Parish Council Meeting Dates were set for the remainder of 2020:
  - 6 April, 11 May, 1 June, 13 July, 10 August, 14 September, 12 October, 9 November
- Jeremy proposed that an additional Parish Council meeting be held to discuss the vision and strategy for the parish. This was agreed by Parish Council (see April notes below for dates).
- The Treasurer reported:
  - Direct giving and mission collections in the previous month were a little lower than budgeted for, possibly due to the interregnum between vicars.
  - Vicarage refurbishment costs for the month of February were around \$15,000, with the total refurbishment costs expected to be around \$50,000.
  - Otherwise finances were tracking according to budget.
- Farewell gifts had been arranged for our departing ministers Geoff Milton (Locum) and Zak Hanyn (Children's and Youth Minister).

## Highlights from the April meeting (6<sup>th</sup> April):

- This was the first All Souls Parish Council meeting to be run via the Zoom videoconferencing system.
- There was extensive discussion about the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on church operations:
  - Zoom-based services had commenced on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March.
  - The wardens and Jeremy had measured the church worship area to make sure there was at least 4 square metres for each of the 4 or 5 participants in the church during the services, as required.
  - Parish Council felt that the services were very successful, despite some technology issues. Council members especially felt that it was good that the service was “live” with congregation involvement, rather than just a broadcast with no interaction.
  - It was agreed we should advertise our Zoom services on the Bayside Community Hub Facebook page, which Leonie did the next day.
  - There was also appreciation expressed of the “Breakout Rooms” after the services, which allow people to talk together in small groups, similarly to breakfast / morning tea after services.
  - There have been around 50 to 60 “connections” to the services so far, with some connections having 2 or more people. Our current Zoom licence allows for up to 100 connections.
  - Council discussed the issue of communion during Zoom services. After a detailed discussion, Council agreed to continuing the current practice of not including communion, but to review this later based on experiences with the Zoom services.
  - Jeremy has asked Georgina, our Assistant Minister, to focus on Pastoral Care within the parish. Georgina reported that networks are being established in which one person will be in touch with 2 or 3 others three times a week. The 8am network has been set up and the 10am network is being set up now. There are about 76 family groups, so about 25 network members will be needed.
  - Jeremy has set up an All Souls Facebook page to enable parishioners to better support each other during the COVID-19 lockdown.
- The additional Parish Council meeting to discuss the vision and strategy for the parish was scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday 17 May (Postscript: There will also be a second meeting on Sunday 14 June).
- The Treasurer and Martyn Baker (Churchwarden) presented three “what if” scenarios regarding church finances during the COVID-19 lockdown. These covered the “worst case” potential reduction of church income, the “likely case”, and the “likely case” offset by the Government’s JobKeeper allowance for staff payments.
- Leonie Dekker (Churchwarden) reported that Jean Verwey has completed a parish history document, which is now in the church office and will be of great interest leading up to the centenary of the consecration of All Souls Church on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.
- Daryl Williams (Churchwarden) presented a proposal from Margaret Fitzherbert for the establishment of a “Little Pantry” somewhere along the front of the church. This would operate similar to Little Libraries, with parishioners (or others) placing grocery items in a small box, with those items free to be taken by anyone. Council agreed this was a good idea, especially in the current lockdown situation.

Peter Coburn

Parish Secretary

5<sup>th</sup> May 2020