

SAINT JOHN'S



ANGLICAN CHURCH

WITH  
**ST AGNES<sup>†</sup>**

EAST MALVERN & GLEN HUNTLY

## **Parish Council Strategic Planning Weekend 2021**

On Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021 the Parish Council of the parish of St John and St Agnes, East Malvern and Glen Huntly met together for prayer, discernment and fellowship around the Eucharist to determine its priorities for the coming year and to be followed into the next three years. The very simple structure of this discernment drew on previous such processes in both churches and re-committed ourselves to a single mission across the parish to proclaim the coming of God's Kingdom in the communities of East Malvern and Glen Huntly and to share and witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, following as his disciples and drawing others into encounter with him in Word and Sacrament. The simple process sought to answer three questions and this document is a record of our responses as well as an agenda to support our mission in 2021:

- Questions:
1. Who are we?
  2. What do we want to do?
  3. How will we do it?

### **1. Who are we?**

The Anglican Parish of St John and St Agnes is a fellowship of Christians striving to know and love God with all its heart, mind, soul and strength. We share a unity and common identity as followers of Jesus.

We are committed to loving service and engagement with our neighbours in East Malvern and Glen Huntly to make Christ known in word and deed in this place.

We are a generous, open and caring community with a quiet but energetic outreach.

Sustained by rhythms of prayer, we are inspired and strengthened in worship and encounter with the risen Christ in the Eucharist.

We endeavour to be faithful stewards of our heritage, resources and tradition within the Anglican Church of Australia so that we may confidently commend to others what has been entrusted to us and speak and act with boldness in our society.

All are welcome and invited to share with us as children of God as we grow in faith, hope, love, and service.

**THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF SAINT JOHN AND SAINT AGNES**  
5 FINCH STREET, EAST MALVERN, VICTORIA 3145 AUSTRALIA  
TELEPHONE 03 9571 6616 EMAIL VICAR@SAINTJOHNS.ORG.AU  
WWW.SAINTJOHNS.ORG.AU WWW.SAINTAGNES.ORG.AU

## **2. What do we want to do?**

1. WE WANT TO INITIATE AND DEVELOP OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH FAMILIES, YOUNG CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ORDER TO BUILD A THRIVING AND SELF-SUSTAINING MINISTRY AT SAINT JOHN'S FINCH STREET AMONGST THAT COMMUNITY.
2. WE WANT TO PLAN FOR THE SUSTAINED AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCING OF MINISTRY AT ST AGNES' SO THAT IT MIGHT BECOME A CENTRE FOR MISSION AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION IN GLEN HUNTLY.
3. WE WANT TO COMMIT TO DEEPENING OF FAITH AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH THAT WE MIGHT BE EQUIPPED TO WITNESS IN OUR OWN LIVES TO THE TRANSFORMATIVE LOVE OF GOD AND COMMEND CHRIST TO OTHERS.
4. WE WANT TO STEWARD THE PROPERTY, FINANCES AND OTHER MATERIAL RESOURCES OF THE PARISH IN ORDER TO SUPPORT OUR WHOLE MISSION AND LIFE.
5. WE WANT TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT OUR CONTINUING MINISTRIES OF OUTREACH AND PASTORAL CARE WITHIN THE PARISH, AND TO THE BROADER COMMUNITY, SO THAT WE MIGHT ACTIVELY MODEL CHRIST'S COMPASSION TO EACH OTHER AND THE WORLD.

**1. WE WANT TO INITIATE AND DEVELOP OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH FAMILIES, YOUNG CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ORDER TO BUILD A THRIVING AND SELF-SUSTAINING MINISTRY AT SAINT JOHN'S FINCH STREET AMONGST THAT COMMUNITY.**

### **How will we do it?**

- a) We will plan for and implement a number of immediate opportunities for engagement by
- offering an exploration group for teenagers based on the ABM 'Climate for Change' resource
  - identifying and sponsoring 4 or 5 young people to participate in a youth discipleship camp
  - initiating a Good Friday service for children and families
  - developing our provision and resources for Godly Play, including holding a demonstration event in the middle of the year with an invitation to parishioners and others to be trained as practitioners and be part of a team to incorporate this more intentionally into our children's ministry
- b) We will make changes to the physical space available at St John's to better enable this ministry by
- converting the under-stage storeroom into an attractive and functional multi-purpose lounge to host studies, youth fellowship and small groups
  - investigating installation of discreet child-safe gates to enable the enclosure of space between Hall, Gazebo/Lawn and Church
  - remodelling the young children's space within the Belltower, including installing the children's library and investigating options to safely open the doors onto Finch Street as an inviting 'shopwindow' to promote this ministry to the local community
- c) We will initiate and investigate the viability of some more ambitious long-term projects, such as
- a regular after-school program for primary aged children involving worship, Christian education and activities
  - drawing on our strengths in music to establish a children's choir or Anglican choral programme in partnership with local schools
  - incorporating clearer Christian content (Bible stories, songs, activities) into the Bubup programme and enabling more opportunities and pathways for involvement in the worship and fellowship of the wider parish.
  - engaging and resourcing a lay or ordained minister to co-ordinate, integrate and implement these initiatives

#### **Who will lead this on Parish Council?**

Robin Richards

**2. WE WANT TO PLAN FOR THE SUSTAINED AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCING OF MINISTRY AT ST AGNES' SO THAT IT MIGHT BECOME A CENTRE FOR MISSION AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION IN GLEN HUNTLY.**

**How will we do it?**

a) We will initiate some early exploratory conversations at St Agnes' around the implications involved in different options and offerings of ministry there in the medium to long-term with a view to narrowing these down and pursuing one or two possible avenues by the end of the year

b) We will initiate some prayerful discernment at St Agnes' around the use of remaining funds available in the Hocking Bequest in a way which builds up and enables ministry at St Agnes' and is a fitting tribute to Hazel Hocking's memory and legacy.

**Who will lead this on Parish Council?**

The Vicar

Susan Haycox

Godfrey Seneratne

**3. WE WANT TO COMMIT TO DEEPENING OF FAITH AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH THAT WE MIGHT BE EQUIPPED TO WITNESS IN OUR OWN LIVES TO THE TRANSFORMATIVE LOVE OF GOD AND COMMEND CHRIST TO OTHERS.**

### **How will we do it?**

a) We will plan and commit to a diverse and ongoing programme in 2021 of Christian education and studies, including

- a parish-wide Lenten study offered both online and in person based on the ABM Resource 'God was on both sides of the beach' exploring the introduction and ongoing legacy of Christianity in the Torres Strait.
- promoting and making available resources for individual devotion during Lent
- an exploratory series during Lent of studies for those new to Christian faith, or enquiring, and those preparing for Confirmation or other rites in preparation for Easter-tide.
- an introductory discussion group about Anglicanism and Anglican identity
- a long-running Bible-study from the online series by N.T. Wright in 2021, to be offered both online and in person after Pentecost during Ordinary Time
- an Advent Study yet to be decided
- a study and discussion group aimed particularly at teenagers exploring issues of Climate in relation to faith drawing on resources prepared by ABM
- forming a parish book group

b) We will continue the enablement of mission outside the parish through a commitment to giving built into our operating budget and partnership in mission with agencies and other Anglican parishes by

- identifying early in the year projects and partners to support which continue to be spread across long-term development in partnership with church agencies, acute disaster relief and direct parish partnership.
- encouraging reciprocity in these relationships, through mutual visits and visitors, pilgrimage and links with existing studies and programmes, that they may contribute to the deepening of our own faith and spiritual growth.

**Who will lead this on Parish Council?**

Greg Thompson

**4. WE WANT TO STEWARD THE PROPERTY, FINANCES AND OTHER MATERIAL RESOURCES OF THE PARISH IN ORDER TO SUPPORT OUR WHOLE MISSION AND LIFE.**

**How will we do it?**

- a) We will continue an approach of prudent and still cautious and conservative financial management in the parish by
- co-ordinating the use and investment of funds and bequests held by the parish, the National Trust and the Melbourne Anglican Foundation with a clear policy for draw-downs
  - identifying and pursuing opportunities to sure up and stabilize regular income and expenses
  - continuing close attention to budget tracking to ensure we meet budgeted expectations
  - continuing to promote a culture of active engagement on the Parish Council with the budget and monthly account reporting
  - encouraging and enabling the making of bequests through the production of a 'Bequest Information Sheet'
- b) We will monitor and manage our property and material resources by
- active and regular use by the Churchwardens of the Maintenance Register to manage priorities and long and short-term projects at both St John's and St Agnes', regularly reporting to and supported by Parish Council
  - identification and oversight of minor, significant and strategic maintenance and development of buildings and property
  - revisiting and evaluating the work and utility of the Buildings and Property Subcommittee and Property Management and Income Subcommittee
  - encouraging parishioner participation in maintenance activities such as working bees, painting projects, etc to encourage shared pride and ownership in our site and build up our community
- c) We will conduct a review of policies and procedures as well as the administrative needs of the parish by
- undertaking a risk review
  - reviewing our insurance coverage
  - developing an OH&S Register
  - reviewing policies and contracts relating to Hall Hire at St John's
  - developing a cloud-based parish filing system

**Who will lead this on Parish Council?**

David Arden

John Jobling

Claire Oakley

**5. WE WANT TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT OUR CONTINUING MINISTRIES OF OUTREACH AND PASTORAL CARE WITHIN THE PARISH, AND TO THE BROADER COMMUNITY, SO THAT WE MIGHT ACTIVELY MODEL CHRIST'S COMPASSION TO EACH OTHER AND THE WORLD.**

### **How will we do it?**

a) We will support, resource and promote our existing provision in this area by

- developing and executing a communication strategy for greater awareness both in the parish and local community of what is already happening with better utilisation of social media as well as visual displays in both churches, utilising notice boards and display boards
- highlighting what is already being done particularly at St Agnes' (New Day Boxes, Dixon House support, ABM fundraising, Postcards of Hope, etc) and looking for opportunities for greater community connection in Glen Huntly
- transitioning the work of the Finch Street Community Fund from immediate relief grants occasioned by the Pandemic to the development and support of our St Jack's programme as well as identifying other possible opportunities for the FSCF to enable community engagement and care
- committing to a Fete in 2021 (pandemic restrictions permitting) primarily as an exercise in engagement with our local community and partnership between both churches in the parish
- promoting, encouraging and engaging more intentionally with Caritas

b) We will watch for signs of growth in new initiatives and actively nurture them, such as

- the establishment of a 'Garden Club' at St Agnes' and a community garden
- the emergence of a regular bible-study amongst the St Jack's community
- the pastoral importance of small groups witnessed through 2020 lockdown
- continuing to keep up the contacts established through the 'telephone groups' as a tool for ongoing pastoral care

### **Who will lead this on Parish Council?**

Satoshi Okita

Claire Oakley