



# St John's Anglican Church Bentleigh PARISH NEWS

**December 2020 - January 2021**

## **St John's Building Appeal Prayer**

Faithful God, you are steadfast and true.

Thank you for the faith and facilities  
passed to us by previous generations at St John's.

Be with us all as we commit to  
building our faith and service as a church,  
and to building facilities to enable and encourage this growth  
now and into the future,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



624 Centre Rd, Bentleigh 3204  
9557 2226

bentleighanglican@bigpond.com  
[www.stjohnsbentleigh.org](http://www.stjohnsbentleigh.org)  
[www.facebook.com/st.johns.bentleigh](https://www.facebook.com/st.johns.bentleigh)  
Vicar: The Revd Dr David Powys, 0491 723 174

## **Our Purpose:**

**'To be a centre of God's love and hope in Bentleigh'**

# Art Sale and Exchange

In aid of the St John's Building Appeal

**Fri 15 – Sun 17 Jan 2021**

**St John's Hall** (enter from Tucker Rd)



Opening\* 15 Jan 7.30pm

Sat 16 Jan 10am – 6pm

Sun 17 Jan noon – 6pm

Admission \$2, Door Prize

Exhibitors: David Powys & others

\* incl refreshments

This will be a show with a difference. Parishioners are invited to donate or exchange their existing (saleable) pieces for inclusion in the sale.

A High Tea is proposed as an adjunct to the show, depending on restrictions. Please watch for details of how to obtain tickets.



## From The Vicar

Dear people of St John's,

We have entered the last month of 2020, a memorable year for all the wrong reasons, especially here in Melbourne. We should be very thankful that COVID19 has for the time being been eliminated in Victoria, and vigilant lest it regain any significant hold through an infected visitor or returnee to this State. Finding the new 'COVID normal' is proving difficult. We need to be careful, but we also need our leaders to make decisions that arise from sound judgements about the now greatly reduced risks, rather than out of their own trauma as they led us through this crisis. Life and productivity needs to be allowed to return, fully.



As I write it is still not clear what restrictions will apply to our public observance of Christmas. These may become clearer this Sunday. As you probably know, we resumed public services on 15 November, with a congregational limit of 20. This has now risen in our case to 57, which for us means that everyone can return! Restrictions may still apply regarding distancing, fellowship, singing and refreshments. I hope that our experience of restrictions will make us mindful of Christians who are not allowed to come together at all, ever, to celebrate God's love in Jesus.

The time of lockdown has not been unfruitful at St John's. Please read below about progress with our building plans and our building appeal. Please note that we are committing to making our services available ongoingly on line, recognizing that not everyone can join us every Sunday, and that making our services available in this way creates a window for people possibly interested in joining St John's in the future.

We have a newly elected Parish Council, following last Sunday's AGM. The Council will have a big task discerning what our *Mission Action Plan* should be as we emerge from restrictions. *MAP2021* was suspended early in the year due to the impossibility of pursuing most of its goals in lockdown. One of the last decisions of the old Parish Council was to suspend our Playgroup ministry for 2021. The demand for playgroup places has changed, and the Corona Virus has meant that the one remaining St John's playgroup met very few times in 2020. We do thank Lisa Eames and those who have assisted her, for her ministry with playgroups at St John's over the last three years. Parish Council also determined to apply for diocesan assistance to expand our paid children's ministry and to change its focus. Please see below an ad for a part-time Children and Family Minister at St John's, a position which we hope to fill in time for the start of the new school year.

I very much look forward to seeing you at our Christmas services, and hopefully before.

In Christian fellowship,  
David

## Position Vacant

### Children and Families' Minister (1.5 days/wk)

St John's Anglican Church Benteleigh is seeking

a stipended Children and Families Minister from February 2021.

The person appointed will need to be available to work on Sundays and one other day during each week, to have a natural rapport with children and young families, to be capable of initiating new and imaginative programs, to have sound theological judgment, and to meet all Child Safe requirements.

The aim of this appointment is to build children's ministry at St John's.

Applications to David Powys, Vicar, [benteleighvicar@bigpond.com](mailto:benteleighvicar@bigpond.com),

closing 15 December

Enquiries 0491 723 174

## Christmas Holy Communion, Carols and Children's Services



### Christmas at St John's

**Sun, 20 Dec, 8pm**

*Nine Lesson and Carols Service*

**Thu, 24 Dec, 5pm**

*Children's Christmas Service*

**Thu, 24 Dec, 11pm**

*Midnight Eucharist with Carols*

**Fri, 25 Dec, 8am & 9.30am**

*Christmas Day Services*

These services will follow last year's pattern, albeit with some restrictions. As many of you as possible are encouraged to attend the Christmas Day services if their intention is to attend only one of the Christmas services. This is because the Christmas Day Services have tended to be smaller in past years. This should avoid the danger of running out of space to accommodate the swollen numbers at the larger services. Using the Narthex area we should manage to fit everyone

in it, though the seating will be different from previous years.

We are delighted to report that we shall have a traditional *Nine Lesson and Carol Service* this year, albeit with a reduced choir, but still singing in full harmony. We really hope that congregational singing will be allowed by that time, for at least some carols, ideally without masks, but some level of mask wearing may still be required. But the main point is, there will be a carol service for 2020, at 8pm on Sunday 20 November. All will be welcome.

The Children's Christmas Service will be, as in past years, at 5pm on Christmas Eve, and will include decorating the Christmas Tree, and using our near life-size Palestinian figures to recreate the story of God's coming amongst us born in a shed in Bethlehem.



### **Lockdown News**

St John's is open again for public worship, after seven and a half months of being closed or severely restricted. It is no longer necessary to book to attend services, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back very soon. There are some restrictions still, but some of these may ease soon (hopefully congregational singing), though others will probably remain until vaccines have been widely administered. Service times will continue, for the time being, on Sundays at 8.30am (Holy Communion most weeks) and 10.30am, and at 10.30am on Wednesdays (Holy Communion each week).

A weekly online service from St John's (it will be the 10.30am service recorded and possibly transmitted live) will continue to be available, and the best way to access this will be by subscribing to the St John's YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwvuRjxqIX4njbrwZJBqNXQ>.

### **Welcome**

As we return to public services we are experiencing the joy of welcoming a number of people who have 'joined' St John's via the video services during the COVID19 lockdown. Some of these belonged to our daughter church, St Christopher's East Benteigh, and others are from elsewhere. We look forward to welcoming these people over the coming months and to making space for them in our ministry and mission.

### **Parish Directory 2020**

This has been a long time in coming, but it has arrived. If you are included in its listing, a copy is attached. If you are not included, and would like to be included in future editions (the next may be issued mid 2021), please give your details to the office, making it clear that you would like to be included in the next directory.

## **New Parish Council**

At the Annual General Meeting last Sunday 29th November, we had 'elections' for our wardens, other parish council members, and parish representatives on the incumbency committee for the coming year. Not all positions are finalized, because the Vicar has appointments still to make, and there are in any case some vacancies on Parish Council. This is partly due partly to the decision at the Statutory Meeting on 10 Nov by Zoom (the vicar was outside his caravan in Healesville) to increase the number of ordinary parish council members from 6 to the default number of 9, and partly to the synod legislation requirement that people not serve for more than six years in a row. Long-serving and valued members Stephanie Hogg and Rosemary Hogg became ineligible for appointment as a result.

The new wardens made their appointment of one of their number to the incumbency committee.

The result of all this is that the wardens, general parish council members and parish incumbency committee members for the current year are:

### **Wardens**

Glynis Rose (vicar's appointment)

Roger McGrail

Terry Nisbet

### **Other Parish Council Members**

Susan McDermott (previously St Christopher's – vicar's appointment)

Carolyn Bryant

Anthony Lyons

Eleanor Newcombe (recently joined from a neighbouring parish)

### **Incumbency Committee Lay Members**

Roger McGrail (wardens' appointment)

Terry Nisbet

Heather Saba

Please uphold each of these people in our prayers, and pray for a swelling of the numbers on parish council, because there is much to do. Parish Council and the Incumbency Committee each have vital work to do in the year ahead.

## *Building for Future Faith*

### From the Building Appeal Committee Chair



I have been reflecting on the messages that I have written each week in the Care Bulletins during lockdown and more recently in the pew sheet. I love words of all sorts, anyone for Scrabble?? As I read back over these words, these are the ones that stood out to me....*traditions, momentum, time, encouraged, generous, excitement, pray, giving, generous.....*And so I mulled over them for a while and became quite overwhelmed with emotion over what we have achieved so far in our appeal. My heart is full. I know that we all want St John's to be filled with love and hope and joy. Thank you to all who have contributed. Please continue to pray for this appeal and how you can help *build for future faith* at St John's.

After much too-ing and fro-ing between Architects – heritage consultant – council planners and our own Building Committee we finally have some building plans that satisfy all parties. It has been many months of waiting, negotiating, changing, tweaking and has involved many Zoom meetings, moments of frustration and also some compromises. I would like to personally thank all members of the Building Committee, ably led by Terry Nisbet, for their determination to ensure the best outcome for our buildings going forward. The plans seen in this edition of the parish news are a good indication of what the end product will look like. For those who, like me, find it challenging to 'see' the outcome of the plans... here are some words to help!!! And the plans are printed on the next page.

The main entry foyer from Tucker Road will be extended, have a stunning glass façade and a metal awning with prominent 3D signage stating "**ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**". The restrooms will be relocated to the near end of the hall. An additional unisex toilet will be added to service the Cooper Centre and also the retained but refurbished meeting space adjacent to the current kitchen. The old kitchen space will be turned into

hall storage space. A new centrally located kitchen will be built with modern appliances, cabinetry and finishes, and serving windows into both the hall and narthex. It will be perfect for our fabulous hospitality.

*Heather Saba*

*Building Appeal Committee Chair*

### **Building works progress**

The November *Parish News* carried extensive coverage of works completed under stages 1 and 2 of our building program. There has been some further progress, with more expected in the next week. Isuru Perera has complete what Telstra started a few months ago – he has completed the repair of weatherboards and the external painting of The Cooper Centre (see photo). In the coming week the windows in the hall still required post stage 3 will be replaced – in modern double-glazed aluminum, speakers, an amplifier and a donated projector will be installed in the hall, and the equipment to allow the inconspicuous video recording and livestreaming of our services will be installed in the worship area.



**Cooper Centre exterior has been repainted.**

The planning for stage 3 has continued too. We have had to adjust our plans to meet the requirements of the Glen

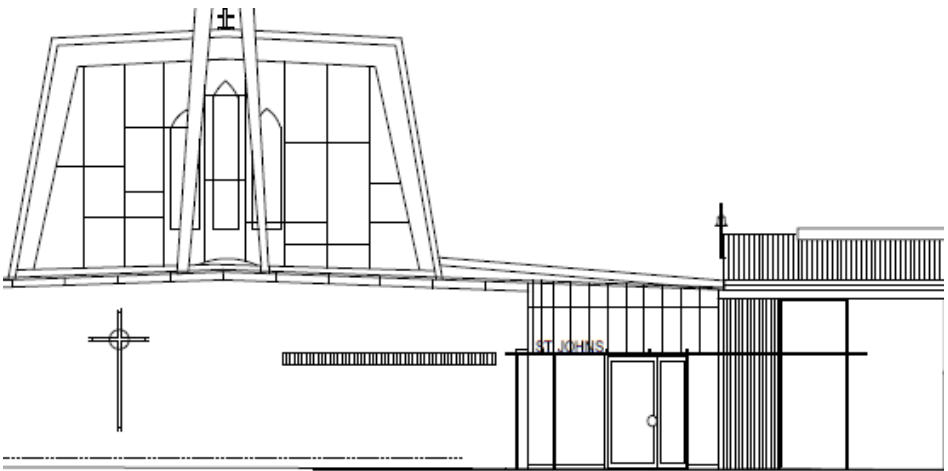
Eira heritage advisor, we understand successfully, and the plans have been submitted for approval this week by diocesan authorities. An application will be made soon for approval of an Anglican Development Fund loan, and the plans will be taken for planning approval as soon as they receive heritage and diocesan approval. The hope is to go to tender early in the new year! The excellent support for the Building Appeal has given great encouragement in proceeding as we are.

Here are some views and plans of the main area to be impacted by the proposed stage 3 works.

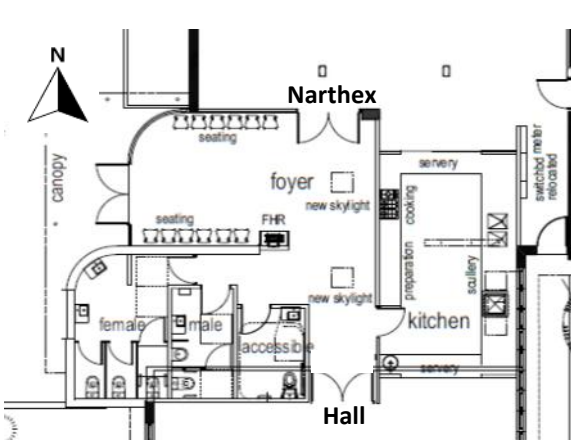
### **Stage 3 Plans as Submitted for Diocesan and Heritage Approval**

On the next page is a schematic Tucker Rd view and floor plans for the main part of the stage 3 works (the entry, kitchen and bathrooms) and the lesser part (changes to the old kitchen area).

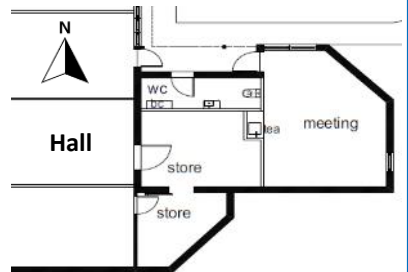




The main entry on Tucker Rd, with the new metal 3D signage ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH



The new foyer, a new kitchen and toilets



Back of the hall; an additional unisex toilet and storage area

**From Tom Pickford, Building Appeal Committee Member**

St Johns has been here for 160 years thanks to continuing participation of local people like you and me. The current buildings are now 60 years old and need alterations to fully contribute to our community.

Low interest is good time to borrow but donations to the building fund will reduce what we borrow.

Can you help either with a donation now or a promise to donate sometime next year? Forms are available from the office. Thanks.

Tom Pickford, Building Appeal Committee

### From Jill Baker, Building Appeal Committee Member

The Christmas hamper is on display in the narthex during service times. It contains everything you need for Christmas dinner including vouchers to buy your meat. Bottles of wine, a home made Christmas cake and mince pies are some of the items tucked away in there. Because parishioners were so generous, we have been able to offer a second prize of an esky filled with Christmas treats.

Tickets can be purchased from the office, after church, or by phone me on 0413 048 238. Books of 25 are available. \$2.00 each of 3 for \$5.00.

The special effort will be drawn after the carol service and ticket butts and money need to be returned before that service. Don't miss out, buy your tickets now!

Jill Baker, Building Appeal Committee

### Bishop Commendation

It has been exciting to hear what you at St John's have achieved over the lockdown in renewing your buildings. It must now be special to see the results in person. It will be wonderful when these efforts culminate with the completion of the third and final stage of these works, with the much-needed improvements that this will bring.

Congratulations on your efforts so far to raise the additional funds needed for this stage. I understand that your target is \$130,000 and that you have raised \$92,000 in just over two months.

I most warmly commend this appeal, and hope and pray that you will achieve your target by this coming Easter. Thank you for Building for Future Faith in Bentleigh.



The Right Reverend Genieve Blackwell  
Assistant Bishop, Marningatha



## TALENT CATALOGUE

### Another Building Appeal Fundraiser

Tutoring? Baking? Car Washing?

What can you offer?

What do you need?

Coming in March 2021

## Building for Future Faith - Response Form

After prayerful consideration of the above, please use this page to indicate how you believe you should respond.

- I will give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ immediately to the St John's Building Appeal. Donations can be by cheque (St John's Benteleigh Building Fund), or BSB 083337 A/C No 515354967.
- I will give \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in total, spread over three years, in the amounts of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in 2020, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in 2021 and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in 2022.
- I would like to make a weekly contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week for 104 weeks commencing on Advent Sunday (30 Nov) 2020: please contact me to make arrangements.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ would \_\_\_\_\_ like \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ give \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ follows  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I would like assistance in making a provision to leave a bequest in my will: please contact me to help me make arrangements.

Name(s)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Email contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return in the attached addressed envelope to

The Treasurer

St John's Benteleigh Building Appeal

624 Centre Rd Benteleigh 3204

or

The Treasurer, c/- benteleighanglican@bigpond.com



## Parishioners News

Mavis Roberts who moved into care early this year celebrated her 99th birthday. We are thankful to God for good health and your 99th birthday, Mavis!

## FUNERALS 2020

Bert Addlem - 28.10.2020

Lorna Bannan - 17.11.2020

Aileen Anthony - 20.11.2020



Caption: Mavis on her 99th birthday.



**The Leprosy  
Mission**  
Australia

The Leprosy Mission, [leprosymission.org.au](http://leprosymission.org.au), ph. 1800 537 767, offers everything from cards and candles, Christmas puddings and stories, books, masks, gifts of many kinds. Every sale helps towards educating people to live without the effects of leprosy.

## Regular Worship Services:

Sunday morning services are at 8.30am and 10.30am  
The 10.30am service will be recorded and available online via  
[St John's YouTube channel](#)

Wednesday Holy Communion Service 10.30am

**Online Giving: St John's Anglican Church Bentleigh**

BSB 083 337 Acc. No. 51 5 354 967



**Vicar** - The Revd Dr David Powys 0491 723 174

**Playgroup Co-ordinator** - Lisa Eames

**Parish Musician** - Alex Scutt

**Administration Assistant** -

Cindy Utari - 9557 2226

Tue, Thurs, Fri

9.30am-12pm, 12:30pm - 4:00pm