

St Paul's Newsletter

St Paul's East Kew

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Vicar

Revd Nick White
Tel 0488-710-504

Services

Sunday

8am Eucharist
(A Prayer Book for Australia)
10am Eucharist
(A Prayer Book for Australia, children's participation, followed by morning tea)
5pm Meditation
(1st Sunday of the month)

Wednesday

10.30 am Eucharist
(A Prayer Book for Australia)

We are a Christian community that worships and trusts God. We are a smaller and friendly parish. We are happy that our life is ordered in the Anglican tradition - the Holy Communion and 'living Word of God' are central in our life.

As a community we are thankful and respectful, happy and gracious, and thoughtful and prayerful. We seek to serve and build community. We foster positive relationships as we welcome and go in peace 'to love and serve'.

"With God we can be more and can do more."



Progress of St Paul's discernment and strategic planning process

Dear Friends,

St Paul's Mission Action Plan 2016 – 2018 (MAP), which the Parish Council will present to parishioners at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on November 22, will be the result of an extensive period of prayer, planning and consultation.

Here are some of the key milestones:

- Parish Consultation (September 2014). How do we build on our strengths? Should we appoint a full-time priest?
- Incumbency Committee process (second half of 2014). Whom is God calling to be our next parish priest?
- My 2015 Lenten sermon series posed the question: What future is God calling us into?
- Parish Council reflection (April 2015). Where have we come from?
- Parish Council reflection (May 2015). Where are we now?
- Parish Council reflection (June 2015) and Autumn / Winter edition of *St Paul's Newsletter*. What whispers from God do we hear, calling us into the future?
- Draft MAP approved by Parish Council and distributed for your feedback (July 2015).
- Parish Consultation on the draft MAP (September 2015).
- Revised MAP and associated Budget for the 2015 – 2016 Church year approved by Parish Council (October 2015).
- Mission Action Plan 2016 – 2018 and Budget for the 2015 – 2016 Church year presented to the Parish at the AGM on 22 Nov 2015.

Thank you for your engagement with this process and having your say about the future direction of St Paul's!

Blessings,
Nick White, Vicar

Update from Ahmad

I came to France last year on September 16. I am in a relatively good position. My resistance to surrender to exile may become weaker. I could not get out of the old world completely, and did not enter completely new world I still live in the middle I'm trying to get out of it There is the temptation in life more than death.



I'm afraid that I can not see my parents before they die. I look for work, I teach Arabic to some of the children here, the beginning timid but encouraging. My health is better, I have a program now for physical therapy. I did not start learning the French language as it should, the French administrative procedures are very slow to teach the language.

Ahmad feels guilt at having left Damascus when others who stayed have died. One of them was his friend Firas, another community figure who led food-growing efforts in the besieged community of Yarmouk. Firas was murdered in February.

I want to ask St Paul's to pray for the soul of Firas. It is worth that everyone pray for the peace of his soul. Tried Firas life for everyone silently and died for them too. I am ashamed when I believe that God left me alive because he wants something from me, but deep down I always think I must do something for God.

Draft Mission Action Plan 2016-2018

Consultation Meeting, Sunday 13 September



The meeting drew an enthusiastic response, with people during morning tea sticking post-it notes with their thoughts about specific themes on sheets of paper Vicar Fr Nick had put around the hall.

After a brief introduction by Fr Nick, we split into five different groups. Each took responsibility to discuss the responses to one theme, drawing out the key points for and against each one.

After a 15-minute group conversation, each group leader reported back. Here is a précis of the different group findings:

1. On establishing an additional worship service or worshipping community

Cathy Dikmans reported that the arguments for a new offering included attracting new people, attracting younger people and attracting 'un-churched' people; it could present a new way of expressing faith; keeping children engaged; a new service could preserve the traditional service.

The challenges included a potential splitting of numbers; a loss of congregant numbers from the main 10am service; questions about who would come to an alternative offering; how would a new offering be promoted to the wider community; who would provide music for a new offering and how would it be provided; how well it would do and would it be seen as more relevant to outsiders, or just as 'foreign' as the traditional service?

2. On commending our Christian Faith in hospitality and social justice

Anne Leeds reported that there was a fundamental question of whether St Paul's should do something of its own – a hands-on social project, or to join an existing cause, of which there are many, such as Anglicare. There was also a strong wish for the parish to develop a more professional communications strategy.

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Our Parish and providing for its needs

The Wardens of the Parish are mindful of and thankful for the ongoing support from many that enables the life of this community to continue. They would also like to draw to the attention of all who love the Parish what a wonderful benefit it can be if people choose to remember the Parish when they are making their will.

A bequest can be of a general kind or for a specific purpose (eg. our organ or music or building funds). If you would like to discuss this, please approach a warden.

All Enquiries to the Vicar

(including Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and Pastoral Care)

Wardens:

Cathy Dikmans, Judy Hewett & James Kimpton

Parish Secretary & Hall Hire:

John MacMahon

Women's Guild:

Lesley Kelly

Care and communication circle:

Lesley Kelly & Kaye Thompson

Parish Treasurer:

Anne Leeds

Children's Ministry:

Kaye Thompson

Missions:

Betty Newing

Quiet Days, meditation services:

Cathy Dikmans

PARISH CONSULTATION, CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

The challenges were the typical questions of money, people and resources that weren't necessarily there; the challenge of selecting a group or a cause to work with; the risk of any hospitality the parish extended being abused; and the challenge of selecting a cause or an approach that was acceptable to a wide enough pool of parishioners for it to be taken on as a parish project in a united way.



3. On nurturing our hearts and minds in Bible study, theological reflection and prayer

Michael Bleby reported that three main perceived benefits of such a programme included education of young children (and the not-so-young) in the parish who weren't otherwise learning what the texts used in our worship meant and went into adulthood without that knowledge; providing an avenue for respectful learning and understanding of our faith that would permit growth in the knowledge of God; and could help people learn to share God's message effectively.

The challenges included time available for any extra course or task, including how it would accommodate working parents; keeping any activity interesting and engaging for its participants; and deciding who would lead any study group, home group or Bible study group.

4. On growing in relationship and care for each other

Judy Hewitt reported the widely accepted benefits of such activities would build our own community and build relationships with the wider community.

Challenges included making time; defining who our audience for such a message or approaches were; defining who would do this and how; confronting the financial constraints to any new approach; and defining how the parish would manage its communications – how to spread the message of what it had to offer to a wider society.

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Parish Organist

After 22 years of invaluable service to St Paul's, Tim Clarke has decided to retire as our organist and Music Director. We thank him warmly for his service and wish him well in this time of transition. We will celebrate Tim's contribution to our Parish at a luncheon after Church on Sunday, 11 October, the first Sunday back after the school holidays.

PARISH DIARY**Monday 28 September**

11.30am Women's lunch group

Saturday 3 October

9am Working Bee

Monday 5 October

10.30am Women's Guild Fashion Show and luncheon

Sunday 11 October

Thank-you Lunch for Tim Clarke

Wed 14 - Sat 17 October

Diocesan Synod, St Paul's Cathedral

Saturday 24 October

9am - 2pm Strawberry Fair

Sunday 22 November

10.30am Parish AGM

PRODUCTION NOTES

St Paul's East Kew newsletter is a quarterly publication. Thanks to Fr Nick and all who contributed to this newsletter, particularly Noel Kelly for photos and David Were.

Please contact Fr Nick or Michael Bleby (mjbleby@hotmail.com) with any queries or requests for the next one.

5. On developing a ten-year fundraising and maintenance plan

James Kimpton reported an advantage of creating a ten-year plan was that it would make clear the age structure of the parish and the profile of its population dynamic; would make us consider specific changes we wanted to make to the fabric of the buildings, such as redoing the Narthex; that it would emphasise the role of existing fund-raising activities such as the Strawberry Fair and hall-letting; and would make us consider other ways we could raise money, such as by drawing attention to the fact that St Paul's offered weddings, funerals and other services to the community.

The challenges included the complexity of such a task; the dilemma of getting people to provide funds; of knowing whether what we were doing was the will of God; and tackling the marketing considerations required to develop a robust and effective strategy.

The meeting closed with a prayer and we were all out by 12:30.

Strawberry Fair, 24 October 2015

This year's Strawberry Fair is only a few weeks away. Last year was an outstanding success, again. People and families from the local community were welcomed into our Church grounds and supported us and we all enjoyed working together with common goals.

Financially it was excellent – the net takings were about \$14,500, a terrific result! There are several extra activities this year, particularly for kids. But there will be no Craft/Gift Stall as such.

We hope you can be involved. Can you help with:

- **Cake Stall:** Can you make any cakes, biscuits or slices? The Health Act requires a label noting the ingredients, but please leave pricing to the coordinators. Ring Thelma or Prue with any questions.
- **Gourmet Stall:** Jams, preserves, relish, chocolates, etc. Please speak to Kaye or Catherine.
- **Craft Items and Gifts:** Good-quality needed; they must be priced.
- **Jewellery:** Do you have any items you can donate? Gillian or Debbie would be delighted to hear from you.
- **Christmas Hamper:** Good quality goods (and cash donations) are needed. Jill is coordinating.
- **Plant Stall:** Plants in pots, seedlings are needed, and any surplus fruit or vegies from your garden. Speak to Betty N. or Pauline.
- **Pre-loved Goods:** Donations can be left in the Narthex at any time for the Trash and Treasure, Children's toys, Books (and recent magazines), costume jewellery

If you make anything for the Cake or Gourmet Stalls, we can reimburse the cost of ingredients; ask David, Noel or Anne Leeds.

Collection (of large/ heavier items) can be arranged – ring Noel (9859 9325). For any other questions, please ring David (9859 3458) or Noel at any time.

Thank-you! Fair Convenors David Were & Noel Kelly