

INTERSECTION

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH



DECEMBER 2018



ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH

ST MICHAEL'S CONTACT

CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Richard Siegersma

TREASURER

Ian Cox

SECRETARY

Maree McDonald

DEANERY I: HOUSEHOLD

Dean: Bill Morgan

Deputy Dean: Allan McLaren

DEANERY II: CHURCH SERVICES

Dean: Graeme Adamson

Deputy Dean: Albert Phillips

DEANERY III: CONTACT & CARE

Dean: Lyndell O'Brien

Deputy Deans: Joy Arnot
and Liz Green

DEANERY IV: PROGRAMS

Dean: Lorraine Woolley

Deputy Dean: Simon McCall

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MINGARY COUNSELLING

Director: Dr Lynette Kramer

Phone: 03 9654 5120

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2018 - IN REFLECTION



As a year of ups and downs ends we come together in peace and togetherness. In the celebration of all things good we look back on what we have achieved at St Michael's. We also look forward to the inspiring path we have planned for the future.

This year we have learnt how many of us have a deep passion for St Michael's as we strived to keep St Michael's at the forefront of theological, psychological and spiritual wellbeing, the thinking person's church. This would not have happened were it not for our members, our volunteers, attendees and our virtual audience - the backbone of St Michael's. These are the people who believe in St Michael's importance to the community and who work hard for its continued growth. With an exceptional team to support them, we have brought a multitude of programs and music to the community, while inspirational ministers have helped keep St Michael's voice alive each Sunday.

We look forward to the New Year and the revitalised energy it promises: some new technological innovations, fresh faces, stimulating events and special guests in new programs and initiatives. 2018 has set us up for a great 2019. We are excited to go there and we hope you are too.

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JOINT NOMINATING COMMITTEE



WHO IS ST MICHAEL'S JOINT NOMINATING COMMITTEE?

Those elected by a secret ballot by members of the congregation attending the meeting on Monday 3 September 2018, to the Joint Nominating Committee are as follows:

Laura Beckett
Neil Blood
Val Gill
Simon McCall
Evelyn McLaren
Anita Sawatzky
Lorraine Woolley

The Joint Nominating Committee has been working hard for St Michael's throughout 2018. The latest report follows:

To the St Michael's Congregation

The Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) held its third meeting on Thursday November 29th. We learnt that both the Presbytery and the Synod Placements committee had approved the Congregation Profile and the Advertisement for the role. We understand that the Placements Committee have also suggested three names of Ministers for us to be in conversation with. We await formal notification.

As previously indicated, we are following two parallel processes in order to keep our discernment as wide as possible. Namely, engaging with the Ministers suggested by the Placements process as well as advertising more widely, nationally and internationally.

We spent some time refining the scope of our advertising approach, focussing mainly on Uniting Church Synod publications, selected overseas churches as well as progressive theology networks in Australia and overseas.

Some of the Committee have met to implement the advertising campaign that we hope to train in the following week. Because our communications will be landing close to Christmas and, realistically, probably not receiving much attention until mid-January, we have revised the timeline for closure of applications to February 27.

We expect to hold the conversations with the Ministers suggested by Placements and short-listed other applicants mid-March.

Please continue to encourage and support with your prayers the members of the JNC working faithfully on your behalf.

Rev Alistair Macrae, Convener: Joint Nominating Committee, (Minister: Wesley Church Melbourne)

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH

TRANSFORMING ST MICHAEL'S



In July, St Michael's members were invited to be part of a series of conversations and activities to help shape the directions, practices and character of St Michael's. These were facilitated by Terence Corkin, nationally accredited mediator with *Win Win Mediation*. An update from Terence reads:

Thank you for the opportunity to be involved with St Michael's over the last six months. It has been a privilege to walk with you as you have been addressing major issues in the life of your congregation.

I always consider it a great privilege to be invited in to the life of a community as it addresses very demanding issues. I have appreciated the trust and collaboration that I have received from all members of the congregation as we have worked together to return St Michael's to being a happy, healthy and hopeful community.

In June and July we undertook two "Conflict Transformation" workshops. This allowed the members of the congregation to remember and affirm the values and experiences that they treasured about St Michael's. There was learning about the causes of conflict and how to respond to it; and there were opportunities to begin repairing and restoring relationships.

It has been very encouraging to see the significant im-

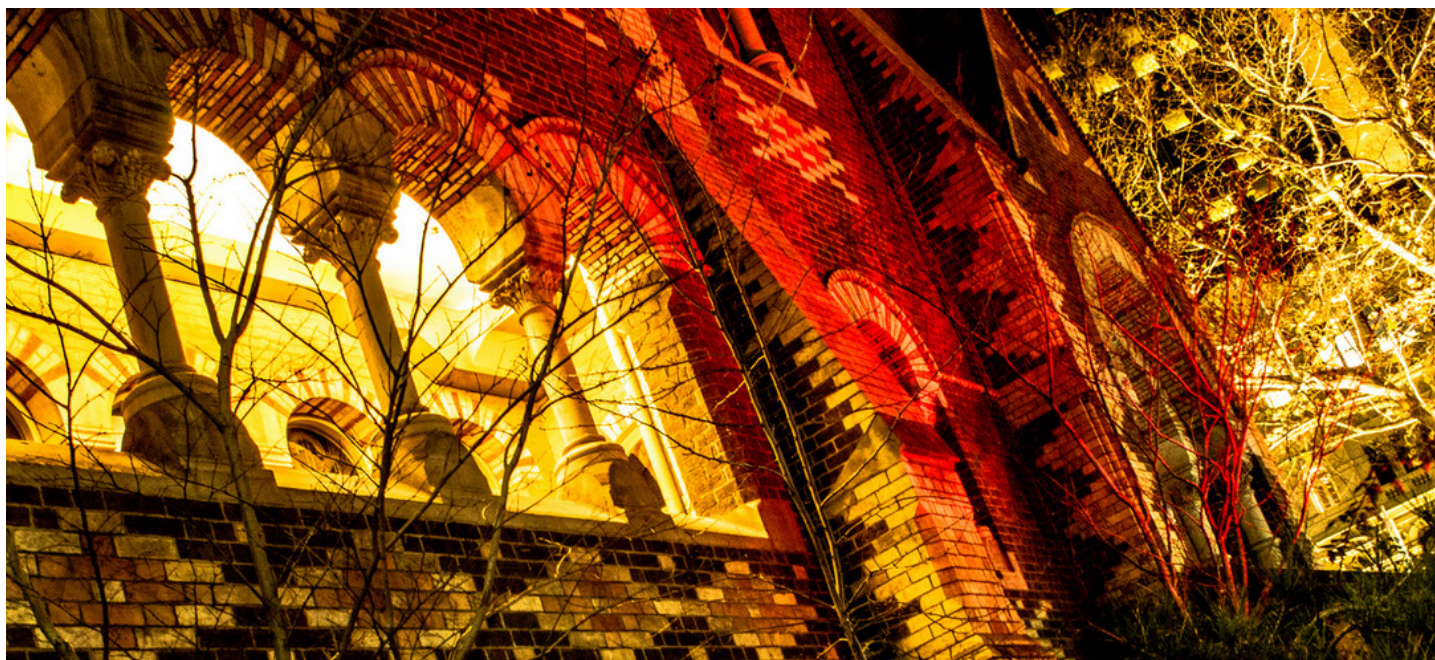
provement in communication with the congregation, the ability to work on challenging issues and a real sense that the congregation has a positive future.

Since those workshops the Church Council is to be commended for doing many important things. They include:

- Developing a "Behavioral Covenant" which, when adopted by the congregation, will give everyone confidence that they are going to be respected and cared for in their conversations.



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- Restructuring the office to ensure that the key roles are being done well.
- Revitalizing the programs of the congregation.
- Improved communication with the congregation, including a refreshed website.
- Starting to look at the way the Church Council operates, including the role of the Deaneries and other Committees.
- Re-orienting the role of the Church Council and, as appropriate, the congregation to shape the vision and direction of the congregation.

The transformation process for St Michael's is ongoing. By the end of the process there will be new ways of working that empower leadership within the congregation, better awareness and skill in how to relate to each other in healthy ways, all with the goal of strengthening relationships and ministry.

I very much look forward to working with you next year on this exciting transformation process.

- Terence Corkin

ST MICHAEL'S WEBSITE

As part of the transformation, the St Michael's website will be undergoing a new look in the New Year.

As the website is often the first stop for those seeking more about St Michael's and is our virtual 'face' it is important we keep it looking relevant and that it reflects the philosophy and outlook of this wonderful church and community. We think St Michael's is very special and want others to think so too.

While it will retain many of the features we enjoy, it will have a noticeably cleaner look. The brief is for a website that looks contemporary, is intuitive and user friendly. It will be responsive and work effectively on all devices.

While we build the new website, the current site is undergoing a 'tidy up'. We anticipate the new site will be ready for a big reveal in mid-January 2019.

Get ready St Michael's, it's going to be amazing!

WWW.STMICHAELS.ORG.AU

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH

NEW FACES

Working behind the scenes to help our amazing congregation and maintain the day to day running of St Michael's Church is a fantastic team in the office. Some of you may have already met our new faces. If you have not, may we introduce you to Michelle Jansen and Carmen Michael.

Michelle has been with St Michael's since August this year. Among her many tasks (and there are many), Michelle listens to, and coordinates your administrative requests. Importantly, she ensures you each have an Order of Service in your hand every Sunday.

Michelle is from WA and has also lived in Sydney for two years before moving to Melbourne with her husband's work. They have bought an apartment in Melbourne and are enjoying exploring the state. Michelle loves to travel and see new places and is currently tasting her way through Melbourne's culinary offerings.

Carmen Michael is newest to the team. Our Receptionist and Administration Assistant works alongside Dr Lynette Kramer, Director of Mingary, to aid in the smooth running of the Mingary Counselling Service but will also be taking your calls, booking weddings and getting to know you all.

Carmen has lived between Adelaide and Melbourne and has recently returned from a two year working holiday in London, travelling around the UK and Europe. She has settled back in Melbourne - this time for the long haul. Carmen loves sports, particularly running which she has done from a young age. Since joining a running club two and a half years ago she runs consistently, competing in distances varying from 5km to 21.1km (!). Her favourite is the 10km run.



ST MICHAEL'S COUNCIL

The Council Elections were held on Sunday 18th November.

The counting of votes for the council election was conducted on Monday 19 November. The counting was chaired by Ian Cox with the following scrutineers in attendance: Maree McDonald, Carole Phillips, Neil Blood, Steve Austin and Rupert Cassidy.

We are pleased to announce the 2019 St Michael's Council:

Graeme Adamson
Peter Anderson
Joy Arnot
Laura Beckett
John Coppock
Ian Cox
Susan Fleming
Valerie Gill
Elizabeth Green
Johanna Hersey
Roger Hersey
Susan Humphrey
Catherine Jones
Heather Martin
Maree McDonald
Allan McLaren

Bill Morgan
Jeanette Noy
Lyndell O'Brien
Albert Phillips
Carole Phillips
Cheryl Power
Garry Radley
Stuart Reid
Wilfred Sawatzky
Ian Smith
Margaret Smith
Max Telfer
Russell Watson
Alan Wilson
Ann Wilson
Lorraine Woolley



ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH



Richard Siegersma, long standing Chair of St Michael's Council, is stepping down. We thank him for his nine years commitment and dedication to St Michael's.

We farewell him as our Chair of Council, but are pleased that he will still be here to give his support.

From the Council Chairman:

After almost 10 years of serving the St Michael's Church community as Council Chairman, the time has come to move on.

Over the years it has been a delight to see a number of wonderful initiatives come to fruition and make a difference in the lives of others.

The past few years have been difficult. Change often creates circumstances when people feel disrupted and insecure. However, the Council has always endeavoured to put the people of St Michael's first.

The task of finding a replacement for Dr Macnab has

been undertaken with diligence and commitment to the congregation and those that attend. This process is ongoing with talented, caring and insightful people commissioned with the task.

St Michael's has carved out a unique position in the Uniting Church, The City of Melbourne and beyond. The message that St Michael's delivers to its community and the world is relevant, life enhancing and life changing. This approach to Religion and Spirituality is consistent with the traditions and history of this Church.

The challenge is to work together collaboratively and ensure that the positive impact that St Michael's provides, continues into the future with renewed vigour and enthusiasm.

Thank you to all the St Michael's community and all the Council Members that have supported the Church over the years.

- Richard Siegersma

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH

IN APPRECIATION

A giant 'thank you' to *all* our amazing volunteers who put so much of their time and energy into making St Michael's wonderful. To our Executive, our Church Council and Deans, to those who run and facilitate our programs, ensure Sundays run smoothly before, during and after service - thank you. To our tour guides, our recordings team, the Social Justice team, the talented people whose delicious baking sells each Sunday. To all who give their time - we thank you. Without you, St Michael's wouldn't be the vibrant and caring place it is.



We wish to extend our thanks to The Rev, Dr. Jim Donaldson who has taken to the pulpit during December. We would also like to say thank you to our visiting and supply ministers over 2018. We appreciate their time and love for St Michael's.

VISITING MINISTERS

January next year brings the arrival of four excellent visiting ministers.

Sunday 6th January
Rev Sue Withers

Sunday 13th January
Bishop Ian George

Sunday 20th January
Rev John Smith

Sunday 27th January
Rev Dr Graeme Gibbons

All services commence at 10am

REV PETER BURNHAM



We are thrilled for Rev Peter Burnham's return to St Michael's over February, 2019. A familiar face, Peter brings to us the contemporary preaching appreciated by many at St Michael's.

Peter began his career teaching before training for the ministry at Queensland University's United Faculty. He initially worked in Brisbane and Ballarat and spent a number of years as the Director of Christian Education for the Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania, and on staff of the Joint Board of Christian Education (Uniting Church). After a 16 year chaplaincy at Toorak College and an appointment at St Leonard's College in Brighton, Peter answered a call to St Leonard's Uniting Church developing strong community ties and programs exploring a contemporary and relevant faith.

In 2008, he accepted the challenge as chaplain to Wesley College (St Kilda Rd campus). Working with 1,500 students and staff convinced Peter that the only way to reach people, young and old, was to explore the New Faith way of understanding our faith. "Over the years I have become convinced that if the church is to survive in an increasing secular society we have to change and modify our Christian beliefs to meet our target audience." His ministry has been dedicated to exploring new ways of doing this, through the Progressive Christian Movement in Victoria, as a member of the Westar Institute in California, and continued reading of new aspects of biblical scholarship.

According to Peter, this "means we don't have to leave our brains at the church door as we enter". Peter looks forward with great enthusiasm, to be able to share his experiences and insight with the congregation of St Michael's.

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STAYING ALIVE



Staying Alive, a new program, launched in March this year and presented by Patricia Cameron-Hill and Shayne Yates, has been a tremendous success. The level of interest shown at the beginning has continued for each of the twelve sessions since and will resume in the New Year.

Life expectancy has doubled over the last 100 years and is expected to continue to steadily increase. This can be seen as the greatest achievement in human history and cause for celebration, yet most of us have not learned how to make the most of it.

We may have the personal experience of ageing, but this experience on its own does not teach us very much about how we are meant to manage this stage of life. *Staying Alive* helps to meet this challenge.

We explore the facts of ageing and how they contradict many of the negative stereotypes. Facts that are drawn from the increasing body of scientific knowledge from around the world are brought together and made relevant to understanding the key predictors of ageing well: Self belief, positive attitudes, connection with other people, health, purpose, meaning and interests.

In a relaxed atmosphere of shared enjoyment and

laughter, we learn with and from each other. We are inspired by stories from people who are ageing well and are living full and interesting lives, many of whom attend St Michael's.

The *Staying Alive* program held this year has demonstrated the value of us coming together to share the experience of ageing with our wisdom and ideas. We have discovered that we are still the lively, vital people we have always been – and laughing our heads off at the same time.

We extend our grateful thanks to Patricia and Shayne for their energy and commitment to this program throughout the year and wish them continued success for *Staying Alive* in 2019. The first session of 2019 will be held:

**Sunday 3 February 2019, 11.45am - 1pm,
Waratah Room**



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VALE



Geoff Furness, husband of June. Geoff and June greatly appreciated the Ministry of Dr Macnab and became members in 1989, thus having a very long involvement with St Michael's. Geoff died on 6 September 2018.

Verna Dempster was a member of St Michael's for nearly 30 years. She had a beautiful smile, an infectious sense of humour and a lovely singing voice. She greatly enjoyed singing the hymns. Verna regularly contributed small cakes which she had made for the Global Concerns Table. Verna died on 4 September 2018.

Lois Elmer was a very involved member of St Michael's, becoming a member in 1989. Lois was a member of the Door Reception Team. She was very perceptive when undertaking her duties and was particularly observant of, and caring about, the people who passed through her door. Lois died on 22 January 2018.

Jim Roberts became a member of St Michael's in 1994. He was elected to the Church Council and undertook the very important role of organising the Church Council Elections for more than a decade.

He also served Communion, was a member of the Door Reception Team and was part of the team of people who counted the offering each week. St Michael's was a very important part of Jim's life. Jim died on 11 April 2018.

Jean Savulesco was very involved for many years at St Michael's, becoming a member in 1985 and serving on the Church Council in the 1990's. Jean was very involved in the serving of tea and coffee in the Hall for many years. Jean died on 4 November 2018.

Valerie Shaw travelled regularly from Leopold to attend St Michael's and became a member in 1999. Valerie was a very bright and caring person who made many friends at St Michael's and supported many people, even when she had many difficulties herself. Valerie died on 16 June 2018.

John Williams, father of St Michael's Church Councillor, Tracey Wood. John was a real gentleman who frequently attended St Michael's with Tracey. He enjoyed meeting many St Michael's people, who in turn enjoyed meeting and talking with him. John's Thanksgiving Service was held at St Michael's. John died on 24th November 2018.

PASTORAL CARE

The members of the Contact and Care Team are available to talk with, or assist people, who are experiencing difficult times.

If you would like to speak with us: find us on a Sunday

(our name tags have 'Contact and Care' printed in red beneath our names), or contact a member of the team via the Church Office. All matters remain confidential.
Lyndell O'Brien - Dean of Contact and Care
Joy Arnot and Liz Green - Deputy Deans

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH

MINGARY COUNSELLING

Over the year, Mingary Counselling Service, our quiet achiever, continues to deliver. The low-cost service has been accessed by a large number of people and has provided vital training to five 5th year and six 6th Year Cairnmillar Interns.

Each year it is evident that the service remains a valuable resource to the wider community of Melbourne.

The Last months of this year have been exceptionally busy. As demand for counselling, especially Vocational Assessments (which already have a 2019 waitlist) have

increased there is a need for growth in staff working hours and intern numbers.

In 2019, the service will remain under the direction of Dr Lynette Kramer. There will be an increase in the number of 6th year interns from six to eight. A request has been made that the two clinical supervisors Dr Liza Ng and Dr Gerke Witt increase their Mingary onsite hours. These proposed staff increases are necessary in order to continue to operate Mingary at a high professional standard the it has always operated at and to support the higher number of interns.



Mingary Counselling Service

Confidential, low-cost counselling

If you are seeking relief from painful or stressful experiences, assistance with major life changes or help reducing anxiety, fear and uncertainty, call Mingary Counselling Service to make an appointment today.

Or visit The Quiet Place: a peaceful, nondenominational sanctuary for people of all cultures.
Open 9am to 5pm weekdays; 8am to 1pm Sundays; enter from the Russell Street side of St Michael's.

Director: Dr Lynette Kramer, Counselling and Clinical Psychologist

www.mingarycounselling.com.au | (03) 9654 5120

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

with The Rev, Dr. James Donaldson

Christmas Day

Tuesday 25th December, 9am:

“The Incarnation-The Gifts of God at Christmas”

Music: Lessons and Carols with the St Michael's Singers

Sunday the 30th December, 10am

“The Incarnation- A Closer Look at the Pilgrimage of the Wise”

Music: Rhys Boak (Organ)



Merry Christmas