



## **Church Council Update February 2023**

At the meeting of the Council, held on 16 February, the following items were among those reported and discussed:

### **Pastor**

We have been advised that Presbytery has approved the creation of the position of Pastor at St Michael's. The Council will proceed to advertise the position.

### **Project Control Group**

The Project Control Group (PCG) which will oversee the revitalisation of the Church building, consistent with the direction established by the Church Council, has held its first meeting. It was agreed that, as a first step, Council be asked to determine the funds it is willing to commit to the first stage of revitalisation and draw up a priority list of work to be undertaken.

Council approved a list of priorities:

- Disability access through St Michael's Walk door
- Upgrade of Toilets
- Changes inside the church including improved accessibility, more flexible space for worship, events and performances, relocation of the organ console and advice from a disability consultant on non-structural aspects of disability.
- Improvements in heating and cooling.
- Upgrade of the audio-visual system.
- Improved hospitality facilities.

Council also agreed to allocate \$2.5 million to revitalisation and \$1.5 million to heritage conservation and building maintenance.

It was also agreed that, whilst the PCG and the St Michael's Property Committee would maintain close communication, the PCG would focus on revitalisation and the Property Committee on building maintenance and heritage preservation.

### **Committee Structure and Strategy**

Council agreed that the Programs Committee be renamed the Mission Coordinating Committee. The Goals Implementation Group will be discontinued, and its work progressed by a Mission Coordinating Committee. The Open and Affirming Group, the Environmental Action Group and a new Sunday Programs sub-committee will report through the Mission Coordinating Committee, the membership of which will be Ann Kinnear (Chair), Jess hand, Brian Smith and Margaret Mayman (ex-officio).

Chairs of committees and Task Groups have been asked to bring forward their action plans for implementing our strategic goals in 2023.

### **St Michael's as an Open and Affirming Congregation**

Following completion of the process agreed to in September 2022, Council affirmed the commitment of St Michael's to live out the mission of the Church as a welcoming community with specific recognition of the gifts brought by lesbian gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people, rainbow families and marriage equality. It was agreed to write to the Uniting Network, advising of the process already undertaken within St Michael's and asking to be included on the official list of Open and Affirming Congregations.

The Open and Affirming Task Group was asked to develop a process to create awareness of St Michael's status as an Open and Affirming Church within the congregation and the wider community.

### **Church Services**

Val Gill was appointed Vice-Chair of the Church Services Committee.

#### **Holy Week Services**

- It was agreed to resume holding an in-church Maundy Thursday service at 6 pm which will be video recorded and broadcast via YouTube.
- The Good Friday service will be at 10am.

An after-church Program will be scheduled to discuss ways that members of the congregation could participate in the Sunday Gathering through prayers of the people or other roles. It will include a workshop on prayers of the people and look at various ways people could contribute - providing ideas for prayers, writing prayers, or leading prayers in church.

### **Contact & Care and Hospitality**

Catherine Jones and Val Gill were congratulated on providing such a colourful, attractive and hospitable occasion for morning tea following the Midsumma service.

The 'Bright Ideas' box is being used. Ideas will be followed up by the appropriate committee or the office.

### **St Michael's Day**

The 2023 St Michael's Day service will be held on Sunday 24 September.