

Church Council Update March 2023

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

Project Control Group (PCG)

The terms of reference for the Project Control Group, which is to oversee the revitalisation of the church property, have been signed by all parties.

The priority listing drawn up by Church Council was endorsed by the PCG. These are:

- 1) Disability access through St. Michael's Walk door
- 2) Upgrade of toilets
- 3) Changes inside the church
 - a) Improving disability access by levelling the floor from St Michael's Walk to Mingary entrance extending from the bottom of the aisle steps to the chancel, making the chancel and front seating area accessible to the congregation, audiences, worship leaders, speakers and performers and providing access to Mingary from St Michael's Walk
 - b) Providing flexible space for worship, events and performances
 - c) Relocation of the organ console upstairs
 - d) Obtain and implement advice on non-structural aspects of accessibility such as stair-nosing, handrails and balcony safety
- 4) Improvements to heating and cooling
- 5) Upgrade of audio-visual system
- 6) Improve hospitality provision

The next step will be to appoint a lead consultant for the project.

Church Services

Members of Council were pleased to note both the increase in children attending the service and the intention to provide books, toys and activity materials. Councillors were shown selections from the hand-crafted bags kindly made by Carlene Gosbell for holding these materials.

Margaret would welcome suggestions for inclusion in the prayers of the people. These might be prayers for situations of concern for groups of people, matters of social or ecological justice, or prayers of thanksgiving. Suggestion forms are available beside the Bright Ideas box in the hall.

Appointment of Pastor

A search for a person to fill the new position of Pastor has been commenced. The position description is available from the church office and St Michael's website.

Minister's Study Leave

Dr Mayman will be undertaking study leave from May 2 until June 5.

Property Issues

Council noted the very slow progress on remedying issues that have arisen from the next-door building renovation. The Council is grateful to the Property Committee and Glen Tonkes for their oversight of these matters and liaison with Synod Property Services.

Medically Supervised Injecting Service

Margaret spoke at a media conference in support of a medically supervised injecting service in the CBD. Her comments were included in The Age and on Channel 7 news. A photo of Margaret with the other speakers appeared the CBD news. The Council made a decision to support the provision of such a service in 2021 when it was last being considered by the State government.

Congregational Meeting Dates

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 30 April 30.

Council Elections will be held on Sunday 26 November.