

Prayer for Easter:

Almighty God, you have conquered death through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant us by your grace to set our mind on things above so that by your continual help our whole life may be transformed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in everlasting glory. Amen

MARMINGATHA

Stories to Inspire

FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021



REFRESHING FAITH IN A POST COVID WORLD

In November 2019, St. Philip's Deep Creek Anglican Church in Doncaster East unveiled a new vision – to be a welcoming and growing multigenerational church with refreshing faith in Jesus Christ. Having refreshing faith isn't a new desire for any of us, but I'm sure, we at Deep Creek wanted to articulate how we experience and express the good news of Jesus, and how we want to be in the world. It doesn't hurt that 'Deep Creek' is a refreshing kind of name!

Launching a new vision means keeping it regularly in the conversation, investing in it and using it as a yardstick for church health. But it also means bringing the physical or built environment into line with it as much as possible, as we are whole creatures, experiencing worship bodily, communally, emotionally and more. The limitations of "online church" highlight this.

As Deep Creek had been living with some unusual and unfinished aspects to our worship space for some time, we decided that we could make the most of lockdown to create something in the sanctuary (we have a large auditorium with a platform up the front, rather than a traditional church space) which would give a more refreshing aesthetic for those watching online and a sense of place, containment and identity for those meeting in person when restrictions lifted.



Above is the previous staging set up and building without the new wall. Below is the new staging in use on a normal Sunday.



We engaged a local staging company who had lost much of their usual work in television sets and shopping centres and worked with them to design a modern "reredos" – a screen to cover the back of the "stage" area. We also asked them to create a new wall behind the screen with a hidden door to the back rooms and to extend the platform with a section designed for the lectern and communion table. We commissioned a new Communion Table to match the screen as the church had not had a purpose-built table for some time.

The cross was to be central to the design of the reredos, as it is to our faith, but we wanted a link to our vision and identity, so the company recreated the shape of the original "Deep Creek" in our area (the Mullum Mullum creek) to flow above and around the cross. Each segment is movable, and the design elements contain rows of LED lighting – the colour and brightness of which can be changed according to need and even liturgical season, giving us a chance to engage with the church year in ways that are appropriate to the more contemporary and charismatic approach of our worship.

The new screen, staging and table were installed in time for Christmas 2020, and we were able to interact with them in new ways for Easter 2021 as you can see in the photos, covering the lighted cross with a black cross on Good Friday which opened on Easter Sunday to add further beauty, light and joy to the stage.

– Rev Megan Curlis-Gibson



NEW ALTAR PLATFORM & CHANCEL FLOOR AT CHRIST CHURCH SOUTH YARRA

When the first pandemic lockdown hit, Christ Church Parish Council made the decision to take advantage of the closure period to plan for works that might in normal times be highly disruptive. The decision was made to replace the "temporary" altar platform which had been installed in 1980, and modified in the early 1990s. That platform, covered in red carpet, was no longer fit for purpose, and the altar rails surrounding it were unstable and unable to be repaired.



Above is the new platform in keeping with the heritage of the church.

The parish engaged Conservation Studio architects to prepare designs that;

- a) replaced the existing platform with a timber-finished platform more in keeping with the heritage of the church,
- b) respected and enhanced the heritage value of the main worship space,
- c) improved both the visual impact and the acoustic qualities of that space, and
- d) re-ordered the worship space to remove clutter and bring the lectern forward.

Following parishioner donations it was further agreed to refurbish the floor in the Chancel, removing the wall to wall red carpet and reinstating a central carpet runner modelled directly on that visible in 1870s photographs. The remainder of the floor was finished in black Marmolium, which is a modern eco-friendly version of the original floor finish for that area.

The work was contracted to begin just as the second lockdown began and was largely completed during the church closure period. The recent installation of the replica heritage carpet has completed the project. The impact, visually, acoustically, and liturgically, has if anything exceeded the expectations of the parish. It has indeed been a case of turning adversity into opportunity.

– Rev Craig D'Alton



SEMINAR CHANGE OR SUPPRESSION (CONVERSION) PRACTICES PROHIBITION ACT 2021
Bishop Genieve has invited Dr Tim Jones to lead a seminar on issues arising out of the Victorian Parliament's recent passing of the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021.

Monday 19 April 4pm via Zoom → [Click here to join](#)

Meeting ID: 894 9399 9423

Passcode: 571 527

REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

Marmingatha Episcopate Conference
17 – 19 May 2021

Optional reTreat

Monday afternoon until Tuesday Morning

Episcopate Conference

Tuesday afternoon until Wednesday afternoon

>> [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#) <<



THY KINGDOM COME

Click here to see the video regarding this year's plans for Thy Kingdom Come **13 to 23 May**. This includes new resources & lots of ways churches, families & individuals can be involved.



Click here for this weeks' video message from the Archbishop

*Please send your story to inspire for May...
+Genieve*