

Prayer:

O God, who taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

MARMINGATHA

Stories to Inspire



FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2021

PENTECOST IN PERSON

*St Stephen's Richmond &
St Bartholomew's Burnley*

On Pentecost Sunday, 23 May, the co-operating Parishes of St Stephen's, Richmond, and St Bartholomew's, Burnley, gathered at St Stephen's, Richmond, for a combined Eucharist & Roast Lunch. Despite a few apologies, the occasion was well attended. There was much red to be seen, both in clothing and of the fruit of the vine. The Vicar, Fr Matthew Healy, preached on Acts 2:1, noting our COVID experience with that of the gathering of a remnant of Jesus's disciples on Pentecost wherein the promise by Jesus to be clothed with power from on high was fulfilled.

- Rev Matthew Healy



HYBRID MINISTRY DURING COVID & PENTECOST

St James Ivanhoe

By the grace of God, over the lockdown period in 2020, the whole parish went well in meeting, praying, and worshipping online. No ministry stopped; our enthusiasm increased instead. We have started more zoom Bible Study groups; we have new people contacting us for their faith issues after seeing our online services. Our leaders and parishioners have been very adaptive. We keep serving in any capacities under any circumstances. When we managed to get back to church ministry physically, we saw our congregations as strong, and even stronger than before. The parish team efforts and solidarity has been obvious. While we have a couple of big funeral services, all of us do come back to support and assist.

Our people asked for more spiritual input during lockdowns, as inevitably a few depressed and uncertain personal and family matters arise. Our pastoral team has worked well to care and comfort all those who are disturbed and troubled. Our people asked for a daily devotion and a pastoral message to strengthen their faith. We have been doing this since August 2020 without missing a day. We provide the daily Spiritual bread for many. While we have this privilege to meet again in church, our various global ministry goes on.



We have no geographic limits and boundary for our hybrid ministry to all who turn to us for Christ. The joyous 2021 Pentecost celebration empowers all of us. We know we will adapt and survive well. Even we may stop, pause, and stay home again to experience Christ and all His visible and invisible blessings.

- Rev Jessica Cheung

GOD'S BLESSINGS FOR PARISH DREAMS

St John's West Brunswick

I like to dream of what God might do at St John's. I dream about our church community being a place where we grow in our knowledge and love of God and one another as we more fully understand what Jesus has done for us and how we are to live for him. I dream of our love for Jesus and one another overflowing to our community as we reach out with acts of love and sharing our love for Jesus.



As I dream of our church community growing and reaching out to the wider community around us, I might occasionally dare to think that we might not only do this ourselves but that we might send out people who will take the love of Jesus with them and build and encourage other communities. At some point I was part of another church that sent me. St John's supports CMS missionaries that other churches have sent out. But might we dare to ask God that we would train and send out others? Pre COVID, that might have been a ten-year goal at a stretch!

During COVID two families moved on from St John's. We no longer had a Sunday School. We were left with very few children and teens remaining as well as fewer adults. January 2021 our sole goal was survival, to remain viable and to slowly come back to church. In 2019 we had some new people join St John's. They stayed with us during the COVID lockdown and helped in various ways. As we emerged from lockdown two of them approached me and asked me if they might be able to serve in ministry with us.

Katherine and her husband Brett had newly arrived. Katherine produced a Kid's talk video nearly every week during lockdown, also produced craft and other material for kids to do at home. Brett and Katherine have started gathered a group of friends, many that currently don't attend church and they meet monthly in what they call Garden Church. Brett previously served at a University with AFES (Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students) and is currently discerning where God might be leading him in the future. He asked me if he could serve at St John's and he is now helping leading services, preaching, and helping to re-start our English Classes.



Kamran is an old friend who got in touch with me in 2019. He wanted me to meet a friend of his who was a Muslim and had become a Christian. They are originally from Pakistan. They visited our church along with Kamran's family and decided to stay. Kamran's children were confirmed this month and he and his wife and another family member were received. Kamran begun the year of discernment at Ridley College and is serving at St John's alongside Brett. God-willing Kamran will be accepted for ordination later this year.

Nearly half of our families moved on during COVID and with them most of our children and teens. Another family joined and now we have two Ridley students from our own congregation serving and training for ministry. We also have a kid's spot and activities for our kids every week. This is not something I would have dared to dream of and yet God has blessed us.

Recently I preached from Acts 8 on Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch. Philip was quietly minding his own business and ended up finding himself speaking about Jesus to a court official from the palace of Ethiopia and then baptising him. We are thankful for God's blessings to us at St John's and recognise that we can't take much credit, but just enjoy how he is choosing to use us by His Holy Spirit.

- *Rev Steve Sonneman*



MARMINGATHA MINISTRY CONFERENCE

Foothills Conference Centre

Mooroolbark - 2021



The lanyards lay waiting in anticipation for the attendees to arrive – finally the Marningatha Episcopate would be able to see so many together after so long apart.



Preventing Violence Against Women (PVAW) Manager, Robyn Boosey speaking about the program success to date and where we go from here. This included interviewing Rev'd Angela Moore for an on the ground insight into what it meant for her parish to pilot the whole of church approach.



Archbishop Philip Freier praying for Robyn Boosey, PVAW Program Manager and her continuing work with the program.

WEBINAR

Taking action for an environmentally sustainable Diocese

Date: **Saturday 29 May** (tomorrow)

Time: 10-11.30am

Click here to see more detail and to register.

Social Responsibility Committee (SRC)



PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (PVAW)

*Forum Recording
from Saturday 15 May*

You can view the recording of the main session **here**. Please do share this with others in your churches and networks who could not attend.

We are looking into if we can make the workshop recordings available and will let you know if we can.

Robyn Boosey – Program Manager

Everyone who attended the Marningatha Episcopate reTreat and conference valued the gift of being able to gather together. It was made very worth it with the rich contributions of Gregory Seach, Tim Johnson and Bob Derrenbacher. Thank you also to the Archdeacons leading the worship including the music and to Kathleen for her coordination and support.

I do look forward to being able to gather next year with everyone from the Episcopate. I will be able to confirm the dates for May 2022 shortly.



Click here for this weeks' video message from the Archbishop

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