

Dear Church family,

I'm writing on the evening of Ash Wednesday, February 17th. I appreciated being able to reflect today in church on God's word on the subject of repentance. I continue to have so much to repent of, as we all do - isn't it marvellous that Jesus blood covers it all!

Engineering report on our church building

We've just received back an engineering report considering the stability of our church building. That's the kind of thing we have to do, meeting as we do in a church built in the 1840s without a physical foundation. There's good news - the church building is structurally sound. It won't fall over any time soon. But there's also bad news - I'll put it in the words of the engineers report: 'the movement at the front SW area of the building has accelerated over the last two years and is now at a point where remedial action is required to address the risk of continued movement that can lead to significant structural damage.' We'll be getting quotes in order to undertake this 'remedial action'. We don't expect it to be cheap.

From our February Parish Council meeting - Financial Results, Cupboards and Plaques!

The operating loss for the year 2020 came in at \$8,935, compared to the budget for a loss of \$81,980. We had budgeted for such a large loss, to pay for the kitchen upgrade, out of the money raised from the sale of the Firle property. Thanks especially to strong giving and JobKeeper, we had a far better financial result than budgeted. Praise God for that.

As well as receiving our full 2020 results (with many thanks to Richard), at our February Parish Council meeting, we did other things: We approved the purchase of a cupboard outside the kitchen to store plates and cups and other items that don't currently fit in the new kitchen layout. And we approved the installation of a plaque on the site of the grave of John Baker and his family. Listen to our 173rd birthday sermon if you want to find out about this former Premier of South Australia and Melbourne Cup winner who was a member of our church.

Quarterly Prayer Meeting this Saturday 20th February 11am

Please attend and pray for our church! If we want God to be at work, in our Parish, we should be asking him! Let's make this a priority. As usual, it will be at the church, in the hall complex.

Scrapping of Overflow at 10:30am

After our re-shuffle of pews and adding of chairs, we are confident that overflow won't be needed at 10:30. The overflow role will be removed from the next roster.

John Warner is being commissioned as the new Bush Church Aid Regional Officer

John's Commissioning Service will be this Monday 22nd February at Trinity City Adelaide, 6:30pm for a 7pm start. This is an important and good appointment for this mission partner of ours. John asks that we pre-register using the link [here](#).

Annual Vestry Meeting Sunday 28th March

Like the last two years, we'll have the meeting at 1pm. As mentioned in last week's update, we'll have a motion related to the question of the old pews, and church seating, as well as the other usual business. More details to follow, but as usual, there will be a chance for people to stand for various positions. Can I ask those who are writing reports to send them to Richard, at office@stgeorgesmagill.org by March 7th, so there is time to collate them and send them out ahead of time. This year, Vestry Reports will include a 'Strategic Plan Report', reporting our year in terms of the Strategic Plan's actions and goals. It will also include other reports, from our various ministries, as in previous years.

Richard Earley is our new Safe Ministry Coordinator

The Safe Ministry Coordinator is a new role that is mandated for all Anglican churches in our Diocese, as of January this year. It involves assisting our church

in complying with screening requirements, record keeping of working with children checks and safe ministry training, monitoring and reporting on Safe ministry processes and practices in our Parish, and reporting abuse. We are thankful to God for Richard taking on this role, in addition to many other ways he serves our church.

Bible Studies starting up.

The various Bible studies are kicking off for the year, starting in February. Now is a great chance to join a Bible Study. There are Bible studies that meet Monday nights, Tuesday nights, Wednesday nights, as well as Tuesday (womens group) and Thursday at 12:30pm. We also have an Internationals Bible study ministry on Saturday nights. If you've been meaning to get into a Bible study, but have not managed to, now is an ideal time to join. If you need some help to find a Bible study, contact David Purton on dcpurton@marshwiggles.net. You can tell him which days of the week you're free, using this [link](#), and he'll recommend the best group for you.

One of our new Bible studies will be led by David and Susan Bassett, at their home, on Tuesday evenings. We're looking for new members for this new group! If you'd like to join this Bible study in particular, please email David on dasjbassett@gmail.com.

Next Meeting to Discuss Potential New Evening Service Sunday 28th February 6:30pm

Our last meeting produced some good discussion, as we focussed around questions of hospitality and supper. We also heard a 15 minute interview of a pastor who had planted a new service at their church. Our next meeting is Sunday 28th February at 6:30pm. We'll have some important announcements to make then.

Last Evening service Prayer Meeting on Zoom 5pm this Sunday

This Sunday will be the last zoom evening service prayer meeting. We'll explain what's coming next in the meeting on the 28th February at 6:30, which will take

the place of the Zoom prayer meeting. The Zoom link for our last evening service prayer meeting is [here](#). The meeting code is 842 1086 8372. The password for the meeting is 878265.

10:30 Church still be accessible by Zoom

We will still be streaming our 10:30 church meeting via Zoom, throughout the summer. Zoom church will still go out using the same Zoom code, as before <https://zoom.us/j/400678771>. To enter the zoom meeting by phone, the number is 7150 1149. Then enter the relevant 9 digit meeting code.

General Church Prayer Meetings

There is no zoom prayer meeting this Saturday, as we'll have our in-person quarterly prayer meeting. Our normal zoom Saturday prayer meetings run 11am-11:40am. The zoom code for these meetings is <https://zoom.us/j/544859603>.

From the Bible

Here's the key verse on repentance that we looked at in church today:

"Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. 30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead." Acts 17:29-31

Mike Russell