

St John's Anglican Church Bentleigh

PARISH NEWS

July - August 2022



624 Centre Rd, Bentleigh 3204

bentleighanglican@bigpond.com

www.stjohnsbentleigh.org

www.facebook.com/st.johns.bentleigh

9557 2226

Vicar: The Rev'd Santa Packianathan

M: 0438 509 669

E: spackianathan@melbourneanglican.org.au

Our Purpose:

'To be a centre of God's love and hope in Bentleigh & Bentleigh East'

From The Vicar

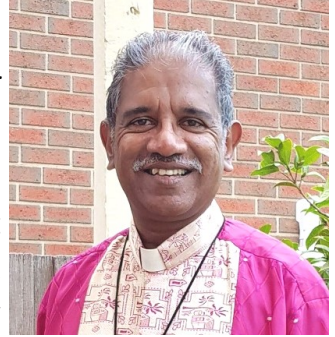
Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:” (Ecclesiastes 3.1¹)

As I write these words, the Bible verse above always reminds me that time does not wait but continues to move on rapidly. For example, it has already been a month since my commissioning as Vicar of this parish. Even

though I have written several reflections for the weekly pew-sheet, this is my first article for the *“Parish News.”* (If you the reader have an idea or two for another title for this magazine that reflects our existing mission statement, *‘to be centre of God’s love and hope in Bentlygh and Bentlygh East,’* please let me know!) I am thankful to everyone for your prayers and words of encouragement as the Packianathan family gradually settle in St John’s and in Bentlygh.

Over the past month (and slightly before that), I have been familiarising myself with the church grounds, including the different rooms in the church with different keys and, meeting and listening to the parish staff (Alex, Cindy and Heather). Besides the wardens and parish councillors, I am thankful to the parish staff, for their assistance and guidance during this month, which I am sure will continue! In addition, I have also been observing and having conversations with parishioners about matters relating to this parish. Of course, my practise of observing and listening to all of you will continue indefinitely as the very long history of this parish cannot realistically be fully known and understood within a month! Julie and I have also begun visiting parishioners as part of getting to know everyone in the parish. Despite many challenging situations that had arisen over the years, I am thankful and praise God for everyone of this parish who have engaged with the community in Bentlygh & East Bentlygh in many varied ways since worship began in 1852.²



This past week, I chaired my second parish council meeting where we (the parish council) considered slight changes to the Sunday worship pattern as a preliminary step towards being more welcoming to people who are not familiar with Christian/Anglican worship. It is my hope that these changes will lead to a larger church that is more vibrant and livelier and will lead many to commit their lives to Christ. These changes will not remain stagnant but will be adapted to changing circumstances as I believe necessary. I am thankful to the parish council for their in-principle support of these changes listed below:

- First Sunday of the month – Holy Communion for both services
- Second Sunday of the month – Holy Communion (8.30AM), Praise, Prayer and Proclamation (10AM)
- Third Sunday – Holy Communion for both services
- Fourth Sunday - Holy Communion (8.30AM), Praise, Prayer and Proclamation (10AM)
- Fifth Sunday – Combined Holy Communion Service at 9.30AM

These changes will begin from September 2022. It is more important to promote these as all age worship services to encourage other age groups to join and participate. The Praise, Prayer and Proclamation services will provide opportunities for parishioners to 'briefly' share their praise stories and/or prayer stories. I hope that this will encourage us all to confidently share the gospel in other settings too. Being a shorter service, there will also be time to incorporate a message for the younger members of this parish. At this stage, I anticipate that live streaming will follow the existing pattern and there are no changes for the Wednesday morning Holy Communion service. Parish Council has also given their support to review/update our existing *Mission Action Plan* (which will probably begin after the dedication service on 21 August).

Like last month, hardcopies of my report to the July Parish Council meeting will be available on Sunday (24 July). Please also read the minutes of the Parish Council meeting displayed on the noticeboard.

Although I am a late comer to the parish building project, I am delighted to commend the great and wonderful work of Revd Dr David Powys and Revd Grail Bryce done before my arrival and the two committees who are continuing to work earnestly towards the completion of the building project and planning for the ***'Service of Dedication of Renovated Church Buildings and Naming of Renovated Church Hall'*** on 21 August 2022 at 9.30AM. Archbishop Dr Philip Freier will preside and preach in this service.

Both committees have been busy this past month and they will be busier in the days ahead. Please do pray for both committees and please contact the churchwardens if you can assist on 21 August. Considerable progress has been made in the building project in the month that I have been in this parish, both internal and external and you should see more over the coming days.

Finally, two gentle reminders. The first is about the ongoing COVID matter where the strong health advice is to encourage wearing masks in indoor settings. Secondly, a reminder that we should also be mindful that Christmas/New Year 2023 is not far away. 😊

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with all of you." (2 Thessalonians 3.16¹)

With prayers and blessings

Santa 😊

Soli Deo Gloria!

¹All Bible texts are from the NRSVA translation from www.biblegateway.com

²<https://bentleighanglican.org.au/building-progress>

Dedication and Naming of St John's Church Hall

St John Anglican Parish

(624 Centre Rd Bentleigh)

Everyone is invited to a Service of Holy Communion with
Dedication of Renovated Church Buildings
& Naming of renovated Church Hall

Sunday 21st August 2022 at 9.30am

by the Most Revd Dr Philip Freier

Archbishop of Melbourne

(RSVP by 16th August to: Church Office 9557 2226 or
bentleighanglican@bigpond.com)

All parishioners, former and present, their family, and friends of St John are warmly invited to join the service on 21 August at 9.30am.

Some updates on building works: What a relief for everyone to see that the renovation works are almost completed. The curved glass window has been installed last week, see photo below on the left. The works in the new kitchen is progressing well, see photo below on the right, once the appliances are installed the kitchen will be ready for use. There are only some minor works left and the renovations will be done!



Induction Service

A little over a month ago on Tuesday 21st June the Reverend Santa Packianathan was inducted at St John as its Incumbent. The Right Reverend Bishop Genieve Blackwell and the Venerable Greg Allinson, Archdeacon of Kew, presided the induction service.



Bishop Genieve presented the Archbishop's license

The induction service was well attended both by St Michael and St Luke Anglican Parish Dandenong parishioners and St John parishioners, clergy friends of Santa, as well as a few representatives from the Stonnington Deanery. Over 30 viewers watched the service live, some from overseas, family and friends of Santa in Malaysia.



The procession at the beginning of the Commissioning Service

We thank God for the smooth running of the service and to all who have contributed and attended the service. A special thanks to Jill Baker who arranged for the refreshment and a big thank you to those who contributed to the feast.



Photo above left: Josie Shaw bringing one of the symbols of ministry, the baptismal ewer filled with water.



Photo above right: Bishop Genieve presented Santa and Julia to the congregation. They were welcomed with applause.

Parish Council

10 members of St John's congregation, and our Vicar, meet once a month to discuss and reach consensus agreement on managing the spiritual, mission, financial and the physical issues of our church towards our purpose: 'To be a centre of God's love and hope in Benteigh and Benteigh East'.

Our meetings begin with prayer and contemplation of a reading from the Bible.

An Agenda is prepared for each meeting, listing some of the matters required by the Diocese of Melbourne, matters required for the day-to-day running of the church, and issues brought up by members of the congregation.

The three Church Wardens, who are members of the Parish Council, have responsibility for providing everything required for conducting Divine Services, safety of the members of the congregation, for the maintenance of the buildings and the overall management of funds.

The Treasurer, using some outside resources, manages the details of the finances of the church.

Together, the Parish Council works towards balancing the possible with the dreams we hope for our church. The physical welfare of our Vicar, the provision and upkeep of the Vicarage, is part of our duties. Outside expertise is required, for example, church architects to design, with input from the whole congregation, the new kitchen, hall, toilet and front entrance works. Also, for the maintenance of the whole complex, the plumbers, painters and electricians, and more.

The Parish Council works to enable smaller groups towards having a close and happy community, the various groups which gather in the Narthex, for tuition, for craft and chat, the music events held last year, the St John's Day Feast, Ladies Guild, Orana.

Events, such as the Dedication of The Pickford Hall and the Induction of new Vicars, are organised mainly by small committees, but the Parish Council has responsibility for them.

Through our Synod representatives, we also have input to the Synod, of the Diocese of Melbourne.

We are not a church standing alone, we are part of a structure of people, acting through prayer and study, to work towards an orderly, safe, caring community showing God's love for his world.

Rosemary Martin, Parish Secretary

Parishioners' News



The news of Denise Logan's passing was received recently, when Rosemary got to talk to Denise's daughter a few weeks ago, and she learned that Denise passed away last year on 14th December 2021.

Denise was a long time parishioner and often attended the Meditation on Tuesday. Before moving to care (late 2020) she received the weekly Care Bulletin and recording of the service in USB stick during lockdown delivered by Lisa Eames! Denise is laid to rest in Cheltenham Cemetery.

Another parishioner of St John went to be with God. Meryl Grieve passed away on 15th June 2022. Her funeral service was held at St John on 8th July 2022. She had been involved in many fundraising events and always supported St John via Stewardship Giving.

We give thanks for the life of Denise and Meryl.



Giving Thanks

Thank you God for giving us Santa, Julia and their family, who are both workaholics, and slowly making a few changes. Changes are good. *Jean Phibbs*

English & Maths Tutoring

At St John during school term every Thursday from 3.30-5pm students from Secondary College and higher primary school years (gr 5/6) can receive free English and Maths tutoring. Tutors are retired English and Maths teachers. *Roger McGrail*



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Supporting Dixon House

Supporting Dixon House on an ongoing basis helps, in these hard times, to provide assistance to local families and individuals in need. Presently, they would greatly appreciate donations of breakfast items such as jams, Vegemite, and peanut butter. Donations can be left at St John's or you can take them directly to Dixon House, 2 Dixon Street, Clayton. Your support is gratefully received. *Gwen*

Bentleigh Kids & Craft Market

from 9.30am - 1pm

Sat
27 August

Sat
24 Sep

New & pre-loved items, Crafts, Plants and more
Sausage sizzle, Coffee, Tea & co



- The **Craft, Chat & Cuppa** mornings are going very well, with a few people attending each Monday. We have people from several suburbs around the area, over a range of ages. Some are skilled crafters and others are looking for help, or a new craft to start. Bring something you are working on or learn a new craft or teach someone your skills. We are friendly and good listeners, so join us on Monday mornings in the Narthex, St John's Anglican Church Bentleigh, at 10am until 12 noon, during school terms. For more information contact Shirley on 0412 457 725.
- **Ladies' Guild** will meet after 10.30 Holy Communion on Wednesday, **August 17th**.
- **Orana** will meet Wednesday, **August 24th**, in the Narthex. Please bring your donations for Dixon House, non-perishable food, and baby clothing and necessities such as baby wipes and wraps.
- On 28th August **the Men's Munchers** will meet for dinner at 6pm at the Bentleigh RSL, 538 Centre Rd, Bentleigh VIC (Parking at rear). Please feel free to give Ross a call on 0414 988 923. Next meeting: 22 September at 12.30pm.
- **Bentleigh Kids & Craft Market** will be held on the **27th August 2022**, from 9.30am until 1pm, in the Narthex and on the Centre Road lawn. We have arts, books, crafts, toys, soap, jewellery, knitwear, sausage sizzle, plants and much more. New, handmade and pre-loved items. Buy a sausage for lunch, join in the fun, see you there. More details call the office on 9557 2226. Dates for 2022: SEPTEMBER 24TH, OCTOBER 22ND, NOVEMBER 26TH
- Do you want to know more about gardening, make new friends and enjoy good conversation? Join **the St John's Bentleigh Garden Club**. We meet at the Church, corner Centre and Tucker Roads. 7:45pm on the last Tuesday of the month (next meeting 26th July; 30th August). **All Welcome**. We have Guest Speakers and a show bench. **Enquiries Shirley: 0412 457 725**.

Kids Hope at Valkstone Primary School

Congratulations to the Principal of Valkstone Primary School for 21 years, Mrs Marilyn Koolstra. Many years ago Marilyn attended primary school at Valkstone and later she became the school principal there! After over two decades of service at Valkstone she will retire this year in August and there will be a special assembly on her last day at Valkstone on Friday 5th August at 2.30pm.



The school's motto 'Aiming for Excellence' is visible and felt in all Marilyn does for Valkstone PS. For the wellbeing of the students she has supported the Kids Hope Programme at Valkstone Primary School. St John has been part of the programme for many years.

Jean Phibbs is one of a Kids Hope volunteer from St John, along with Heather Saba and Roger McGrail. Jean said that Kids Hope has been such a good programme for her and highly recommend that you consider becoming a volunteer. There are many lovely children who need a special friend. Please see next page an article from another school's principal.

Do you have one spare hour a week?

Do you have a desire to see young people thrive?

Have you considered becoming a Kids Hope Mentor?

Please speak to Heather, Roger or Jean to find out the benefits of being a mentor. Training will be offered later in the year.

More information? **Call Heather 0422 133 802**

A PRINCIPAL'S REFLECTION



With schools struggling to find their feet after the pandemic, Kids Hope has been inundated with requests for more mentors for their students.

“The Kids Hope program is so important to our school. I hear it, I see it, I feel it. I hear it when the kids are laughing or talking and interacting with their mentor. I hear it when I have parents and students asking me for a Kid’s Hope mentor. I see it when I look at my waiting list of the children who need a mentor.

But most importantly, I see the positive change in the behaviour of our students over time. On behalf of their families thank you, and on behalf of our school community thank you, and from the bottom of my heart thank you. Thank you for giving our kids, hope!”

Assistant Principal, VIC

Source: Kids Hope July Newsletter (21.7.2022)

<https://kidshope.org.au/communications/id/1027>

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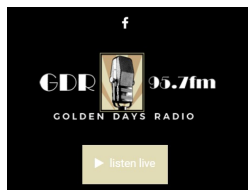
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*St John's events are advertised
on **GDR 95.7fm**.
Tune in to Golden Days Radio to hear
What's On at St John's Bentleigh!*

Regular Worship Services

Sunday morning services are at 8.30am and 10.00am

Wednesday Holy Communion Service 10.30am

You can access our weekly service as it occurs, or at any time afterwards, by going to
<https://youtube.com/channel/UCwvuRjxqlX4njbrwZJBqNXQ/live> .

Online Giving: St John's Anglican Church Bentleigh

BSB 083 337 Acc. No. 51 5 354 967

Vicar - The Revd Santa Packianathan
Every day except for Thursday

Children & Families' Minister - Heather Saba

Parish Musician - Alex Scutt

Administration Assistant -

Cindy Utari - 9557 2226

Tue, Thurs, Fri

9.30am-12pm, 12:30pm - 4:00pm