

WELCOME TO YARRA VALLEY ANGLICAN CHURCH

St John's Healesville & St Paul's Yarra Glen



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2021

Our Church is Currently Meeting Online
<https://stjohnshealesville.org.au/online/>

Church Morning Tea, 10:30am Sunday on Zoom
Zoom Meeting ID: 59626620000. Password: 123

OCTOBER MISSION PARTNER FOCUS

Oct 3rd - Rev Adrian Lane from Bush Church Aid

Oct 10th - Rev Brian Rosner from Ridley College

Oct 17th - Rev Andrew Gifford from Church Missionary Society

Oct 24th - Bishop Paul Barker

Oct 31st - Rev Rhys Bezzant for Reformation Sunday

Reflection from Bishop Paul Barker

Dear brothers and sisters,

The lockdown pressure cooker is straining to keep the lid on. Protests, ugly and violent, people breaking lockdown rules, a society fracturing around vaccination are all concerning signs. Australia is risking deep polarization, a stigmatisation of other groups and views, and widespread community fracture. Bleak and weary though this feels, what an opportunity for us to be peacemakers, to love everyone regardless of their vax views, all in the name of Jesus.

Jesus loved the outcast, sinners, tax-collectors, lepers and others, often at great cost. Jesus welcomed Jew and Gentile equally. From the rich Nicodemus to the poor widow, from the Roman centurion to the leper, the gospel of Jesus is for all. And even to me and you, welcomed and loved at the cost of the cross.

Despite the harder work and perceived risk, let us ensure our parishes welcome and love everyone, safely, under the rules of the day, not excluding anyone. The gospel never says, you are not welcome. Let us not be paralysed by fear or seeking our own interests above those of others. Let us extend the welcome and embrace of Jesus to a desperate, divided and downcast world.

Bishop Paul Barker, Jumbunna Newsletter, October 2021

The Roadmap Out of Lockdown For Yarra Valley Anglicans

As a parish in the Diocese of Melbourne, we follow the lead of our Archbishop and Bishops with regards to reopening and returning to in-person services. The position of the Diocese is clear:

- We strongly encourage everyone to be vaccinated where it is medically safe to do so.
- We freely welcome all people to our church and seek to love them in the name of Christ regardless of vaccination status.

The Victorian Government has outlined their roadmap out of lockdown which includes the return to in-person church services. Once 80% of the Victorian adult population is fully vaccinated we can resume physically meeting together. This will most likely come in the first two weeks of November. Once we are permitted to regather, Yarra Valley Anglican Church plans to offer the following weekly Sunday services:

9:30am at St John's Healesville - For Vaccinated People Only

*Maximum attendance: 52 worshippers following the 4s/m rule
(27 in the Church. 25 in the Hall)*

11:00am at St Paul's Yarra Glen - Open to All People

Maximum Attendance: 20 Worshippers. Both vaccinated and not.

Why is the St John's Service only open to the vaccinated?

Firstly, it increases the safety of the service for those with compromised health. Secondly, more people are permitted to attend services where everyone is vaccinated: for a vaccinated-only service we can host 52 worshippers, if not we are capped at 20 worshippers and would therefore need to run at least 3 services on a Sunday.

Why is the St Paul's Service open to all?

Firstly, because the Victorian Government (who has been cautious throughout their pandemic response) deems it to be safe. But more importantly, because we don't want to turn anyone away from hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and so we extend a warm and loving welcome to all people regardless of their vaccination status.

We hope and pray that all our members will joyfully attend and participate in church as we regather in the name of Jesus Christ, choosing the service that suits them. Of course the usual covid-safe practices will remain in place to ensure safety. If you have further questions about the roadmap and return, please get in contact with me or our Parish Council.

St John's Healesville with St Paul's Yarra Glen

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

3:00PM SUNDAY 21ST NOVEMBER AT ST JOHN'S AND ON ZOOM

Nominations of candidates for the offices of

Churchwardens (seeking 2 elected members)

Parish Council (seeking 6 elected members)

Incumbency Committee (seeking 2 elected members)

To be given to the Senior Minister, Reverend Matthew Smith,
by Saturday 13th November 2021.

By order of the Parish Council



Signed

Notice for the Annual Church Meeting is officially given. In preparation for the meeting we are revising the church electoral roll. For any church members (especially new members) who would like to come onto the electoral roll please fill out an enrollment form and return it to me by Sunday October 31st. If you don't recall if you are already enrolled, please get in touch and I can confirm for you.

If you are interested in standing for one of the church offices or can think of someone who would be great for a role please come and talk to me. I'd be glad to give you further information about being a warden, parish council member, the treasurer or incumbency committee member. I'd love to have some fresh faces involved!

Am I A Member of the Church?

It's a question I'm often asked and there are a few ways to answer.

1) Am I a member of the Christian Church?

To be a member of God's universal church, one needs only to have faith in Christ. Once a believer repents of their sin and trusts in Jesus, they receive the Holy Spirit, are adopted into God's family, and become part of Christ's body. With faith comes baptism with water. Baptism is the visible sign that someone has (hopefully!) put their faith in Christ and is therefore a member of His church.

2) Am I a member of the Anglican Church?

In the worldwide church there are different denominations (eg. Roman, Anglican, Baptist, etc) and a Christian can be a member of a specific church denomination. In our context, there are two ways a baptised believer becomes a communicant member of the Anglican denomination. Firstly through 'confirmation' for those who have only ever been part of the Anglican denomination. Secondly through 'reception' for those who are joining the Anglican Church from another denomination. In my case I left the Pentecostal Church and was received into the Anglican Church.

3) Am I a member of this church, Yarra Valley Anglican?

To be a member of our local parish, all that I require is attendance! If you show commitment to our church and regularly attend our services then you are a member and will find yourself in the parish directory. However, to have a say and a vote at our annual meeting or to stand for a church office such as warden or parish council, you will also need to be on the parish electoral roll (by enrolling through a simple form).

Friends, at the end of the day, what matters to me is that you are a member of God's universal church. I don't mind if you aren't an Anglican, as long as you have put your faith in Jesus Christ! However, for those who call themselves members of our church or for those who want to be members here, I ask for your loving commitment to our other members and your faithful attendance at our services. I hope this clarifies the question, but I am happy to talk further on this topic if you wish.

BLESSED TO PRAY

Oct 10th - Malachi 3:14-18 Comfort in Distress

Almighty God, whose sovereign purpose none can make void: give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, knowing that your kingdom shall come and your will be done, to your eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Oct 17th - Mark 11:11-25 The Problem With Religion

God our Father, whose will it is to bring all things to order and unity in our Lord Jesus Christ: may all the peoples of the world, now divided and torn apart by sin, be brought together under his sovereign rule of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oct 24th - Mark 10:46-52 Your Faith Has Healed You

Loving Father, whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for him: give us the will to be the servant of others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us, and yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Oct 31st - Hebrews 10:19-25 Why Belong to a Church?

Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Church Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers: Narelle Allison & her girls; Emma Barnes; Rose Brown; Brenda Cawte; Alec Colombo; Naomi & Peter Hall; Margaret Kennedy; Stan & Iris Sewell; Suse Timmins; Barry & Trish Twist; Gracie Valcart; Annette Thomas & Lenny Barton for their upcoming baptisms.

To be added or removed from the prayer list please contact Matt.

Praying for the Yarra Valley

As we wait for the return and reopen of our church services I have produced an evening and morning prayer booklet to encourage us in prayerfulness. If you would like a copy, please get in touch and we can deliver one to you.

Please be faithful in praying for the Yarra Valley as the lockdown drags on the community finally starts to open up. Pray that we may see spiritual renewal across the valley and that many will look to Jesus and gather with his people, the church.

National Church Life Survey

In November our church will participate in the National Church Life Survey which comes around every 5 years in line with the national census. Anonymous surveys will be made available in paper and online formats. I hope most of our members can participate and complete this survey so the results are helpful for us.

Term 4 & Christmas Rosters

As we reopen we will relaunch the church rosters. Please be in touch with Sandy (0419 506 784) for the Sundays you may be unavailable or if you wish to change or be added to roster responsibilities.

St John's Anniversary Celebration & Building Renovation

The parish council has agreed to postpone our 150th anniversary celebration again until Sunday 27th February because of the lockdown. With the shutdown of the construction industry our building renovation has been delayed by two weeks, however it is now back on track and hopefully will be completed by the time services return in November.

Parish Council & Synod

Parish Council next meets online Tuesday night 19th October. Matt and Simon Green will also participate at Synod online 13th-16th October.

CONTACT DETAILS

Phone Number: 0492 995 608

PO Box 191, Healesville, 3777

St John's, 5-7 Symons Street, Healesville

St Paul's, 43 Bell Street, Yarra Glen

www.stjohnshealesville.org.au

MINISTER: PASTOR MATT SMITH (Day Off - Mondays)

minister@stjohnshealesville.org.au

ADMINISTRATOR: SANDY BERTHELSEN

0419 506 784

sandyphotos@bigpond.com

PARISH COUNCIL

Berys Nixon, Rob Colombo, Peggy Marriner (Secretary),

Narelle Allison (Treasurer), David Green, Simon Green

CHILD-SAFETY COMMITMENT

St John's Healesville & St Paul's Yarra Glen Anglican Church is committed to the welcome, safety, and value of the children under our care and has zero tolerance for child or domestic abuse.

Our family-safety officer is Claire Bennett.

For further information please see the Anglican Church Child-Safe Policy available from the information board.

BLESSED TO GIVE

Please remember to give generously to the Mission and Ministry of our church during this lockdown:

Account Name: St John's Anglican Church

BSB: 063 689

Account Number: 1006 5060

'Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'