



Newsletter #26

13th September 2020

St. David's Presbyterian Church, Toukley

Our vision: is by the year 2030 to transform our community with the love of our Lord Jesus

COVID19 update from Charles Street (COVID19 Coordinator)

We are pleased to announce that at the Session meeting on Thursday evening, it was decided to **resume with face-to-face services, in a limited format from 20th Sept.**

To ensure a safe and compliant return the following measures will be taken:

- **Invitation & Registration:** If you have indicated that you would be willing to attend, you will be invited and asked to register. This is to ensure we do not exceed our maximum allowed in order to adhere to the social distancing requirements. Therefore, Paul and/or one of the elders will be reaching out to you personally to register you.
- **Maximum allowed numbers:** To ensure we can adhere to the social distancing requirements; we can only allow 50 people in the Church building and 20 in the Hall. As a result, we will prioritise those members who do not currently have access to the online services.
- **When you arrive:** There will be some new requirements and procedures to follow when you attend services face-to-face. These include:
 - While wearing face masks is not mandatory, they are encouraged in particular where social distancing cannot be maintained.
 - Your temperature may be taken using a laser thermometer, and **you will not be allowed to enter the Church should your temperature be above 37.2 degrees**
 - Your details will be registered to ensure we have a record of who attended, and so that we can contact you should there be a need
 - You will be required to use the hand sanitiser upon entry, and follow the social distancing rules at all times
 - You will also not be allowed to attend if you show any flu, cold or COVID symptoms. Therefore, **please do not attend church face-to-face if you have ANY flu, cold or COVID like symptoms.**

Important: We will also continue with online services as well as the distribution of sermon packs, to ensure we still reach and connect everyone.

A decision was also made to resume JAFFA in Term 4. More information will be shared with JAFFA parents about the revised format closer to the date. **Also, the Craft Group will resume in Term 4.**

The safety of our church family is always our first priority and we will therefore continue to monitor the situation closely each week. We will also continue to follow government and Church Office guidelines and recommendations. Therefore, all of the above will be reviewed at each Session meeting, or as needed should the situation change.

Offerings

Your offering to support the work of our church can be deposited into the Church Bank Account: Greater Bank: BSB: 637-000 & Account: 781725919.

We are very thankful to God for the generosity of our Church Family!

August's total offering was \$8884, which is an average of \$1777 per week, well below our budget for 2020 of \$2400 per week.

Missions

As we have been unable to have any Missions fund-raising this year, **the Elders & Committee of Management ask you to prayerfully consider making a donation to our Mission Fund. Please use reference "Mission Fund" for your donation.**

Prayers

- ❖ Please pray for God's comfort & peace for **Leon Walther & family** grieving the loss of dear Bev; and for **Beverley Rapmund & family** grieving the loss of dear Harold.
- ❖ Pray for **Pat Abel's daughter, Karen Rooksberry**, recovering from kidney surgery.
- ❖ Pray for **Rob & Chris Smillie's granddaughter, Haley**, undergoing rehabilitation.
- ❖ Pray for **Pam Charlesworth**, recovering from nasal surgery.
- ❖ Pray for **Rosemary Gough** having treatment for oesophagus problem.
- ❖ Pray for **Jade Nocera's father, Mick**, having cancer treatment.
- ❖ Pray for healing for **Penny Macdonald** suffering from a very painful shoulder.
- ❖ Pray for **Joy Millican's sister** who is unwell at this time.
- ❖ Pray for **Denise Bell** undergoing various tests for a brain condition.
- ❖ Pray for **Lyn Peter's husband, Warren**, recovering well from recent knee surgery.
- ❖ Pray for God's comfort for **Toni & Andy Quennell's friend, Kerrie**, who lost her husband.
- ❖ Pray for **Jan Mackinnon** recovering from a fractured shoulder.
- ❖ Pray for **Ann Ross** undergoing rehabilitation following hip surgery.
- ❖ Pray for **Lorraine Griffiths** waiting to have treatment for an oesophagus problem; and for **her grandson, Shane and wife Sarah**, expecting a baby.
- ❖ Pray for **Philip Carter** recovering from gallbladder surgery.

Operation Christmas Child is now operational

Shoebboxes are available from Church, please call **Philip Carter on 0400 486 371** for further details.

New Chairs

We have purchased new chairs for the church hall, and so the old chairs (17 blue chairs and 4 red chairs) are available for purchase at \$5 each; call Lina if you would like some.

Lina Bester on leave.

Lina Bester will be on leave until 18th September. If you have any urgent matters, please call Paul. Pray she has a well-deserved & refreshing rest.

Pastoral Care

In the past few weeks, quite a few of our church family have mentioned that they are starting to struggle with the isolation and lack of contact with family and friends. Today marks 6th months since we last met as a church family. Please pray this week for our church family and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you on who you could contact.

Congratulations to Nicola & Rhyse Aquilina!

Congratulations to Nicola & Rhyse Aquilina on the birth of **Oliver Anthony Aquilina**, born on 5th Sept at 11:53pm weighing 3.78kg. Baby Oliver is doing well as are his mummy and daddy.



Good News and Gratitude Box

In this box we aim to put something once a week that we are thankful for. Something to add to our prayer list to praise our Great God for. **Please contact Lina if you have something to put in our box.** It can be the smallest little flower that brightened up your day or a big answer to prayer, a call from a grandchild or a smile from a stranger. Let us praise God for all our blessings.

Thank God for His awesome creation! How beautiful are this mummy swan (a pen) and daddy swan (a cob) & their babies (cygnets) spotted at Lake Munmorah! (submitted by Maureen Bevan)



Scripture in our Schools

Special religious education (**SRE**), also known as **Scripture**, is taught in all our local primary schools, for 30-45 minutes per week. All the teachers are either Christian volunteers or ministers/pastors. They have the wonderful privilege of teaching young children from the Bible about Jesus and God's plan for us. There's nothing better you could do than share the Good News of Jesus with young people. As Romans 10:15 says: **"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news [of Jesus]"**.

Is God calling YOU to teach SRE in our schools?

Training is available. Contact Rev Paul on 0418 812 166.

A Bit of Fun

What does love mean to 4 to 8 year-old children...

'When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So, my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.' Rebecca- age 8

'When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.' Billy – age 4

'Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.' Chrissy – age 6

'Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.' Terri – age 4

'Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and just listen.' Bobby – age 7 (Wow!)

'If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.' Nikka – age 6 (we need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)

'During my piano recital, I was on a stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore.' Cindy – age 8

'My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.' Clare – age 6

'Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.' Elaine-age 5

'Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford.' Chris – age 7

'Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.' Mary Ann – age 4

'I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.' Lauren – age 4

'When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.' (what an image) Karen – age 7

And the final one: The winner was a four-year-old child whose next-door neighbour was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbour, the little boy said, 'Nothing, I just helped him cry.'

From God's Word

1 Corinthians 10:13 *No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*

A fellow servant of our Lord Jesus, Rev Paul