

Church Leadership

Intentional Interim Pastor

Rob Newton

Elder

Graham Wells

Deacons

Carys De Marchi

Adam Lindsay

Joslyn Mauchline

Chris Neilson

Rob Vandenberg

Ernie Vanderwert

Transition Team

Graham Wells

Jenny Banks

Joy & Ted Gray

Margaret Hartley

Joslyn Mauchline

Lorna McCrae

Rob Vandenberg

Ernie & Linda Vanderwert



April Newsletter 2020

Connecting in new ways

Addressing the Sanhedrin in Acts, Stephen declared, “the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands” (Acts 7:48, NIV). Being temporarily without the convenience of a physical building is a reminder that the dwelling place of God is actually made of people, not ‘bricks and mortar’. We are described as ‘living stones’ by Peter: “As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵**you also, like living stones, are being**

built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

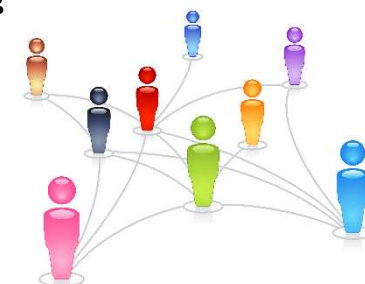
(1 Peter 2:4–5, NIV). Paul provides a similar thought, “you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household,

²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and

prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him **you too are being built together to become a dwelling**

in which God lives by his Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:19–22, NIV). There is no reason why the work of the Spirit in and among us will not continue, and even increase, in this season as He continues to build his temple from ‘living stones’; people who allow His Spirit space to work in their lives.

During this vital time of social distancing and staying at home, it is important that we, as living stones in God’s temple, stay connected, encouraged and Spirit filled; continuing the ministries God has called us to. Many thanks to everyone who is helping to turn this aspiration into reality, by stepping out and experimenting with new technology and connecting online rather than in person.



**Good Friday –
Worship & Reflection**

*Streaming live on
Facebook from 9:30am*

**Easter Sunday –
Worship & Celebration**

*Streaming live on
Facebook from 9:30am*



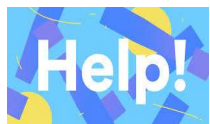
18 Park Street,
Bright VIC 2741

www.brightchurchofchrist.org

Follow us on  : [@brightchurchofchrist](https://www.facebook.com/brightchurchofchrist)

Every Sunday morning, we are streaming the message live on the Bright Church of Christ Facebook page at 10am, *(Cont'd over page)*

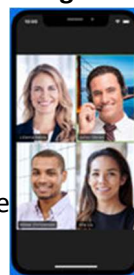
...and following up with Zoom Groups at 11am, to reflect on the message and share **communion**, worship and prayer. We will also be running **JAM on Zoom** at 12 noon. This is a way everyone can stay involved in Sunday Worship, without going to the church property. The Sunday messages will be available on the Bright Church of Christ Website later. There are also some **videos for the kids** being posted on the Bright Church of Christ Facebook page.



We are strongly urging everyone who possibly can to access Facebook and Zoom. It is the way we will stay connected for the next six months. Rob and others are available to help anyone needing help.

The **Wednesday Prayer Meeting** is up and running on Zoom and working well. Please **contact Linda** if you would like to attend. **Prayer changes the future and you can be part of it.**

There several **Zoom Groups** in formation. These groups share **communion on Sundays** and **small group activities** at a convenient time during the week. If you're not yet in a Zoom Group please contact one of the conveners, or a member of the Team.



Conveners: Graeme Mancer, Margaret Hartley, Rob Vandenberg, Graham Wells.

Pastoral Team: Graham W, Carys, Joslyn, Ernie, Linda, Rob.

The **Board** and **Transition Team** will both be continuing their work on Zoom.

Have faith in God's protection, and keep looking up,
Grace and Peace,
Rob

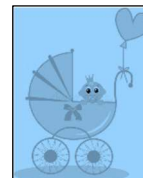


We still gather together for worship each Sunday at 10am to celebrate Jesus as our Lord and Saviour!

Pray CONTINUALLY

Prayer

- Alan McCormack – praise God for his safe passage through the long operation this past week! Please pray that his recovery will go smoothly and be swift. Pray also for Jan, who is unable to visit or be with Alan in Melbourne at this time of isolation. May they both know God's abundant care and love.
- Please remember in prayer the people in our church community who are not connected by modern technology. This is a time when many are feeling alone and we need to be aware of this and keep in touch with them.
- Please commit Joy Gray's daughter-in-law's brother, James Nichols, who has been in hospital in USA for the past week with the coronavirus. He has recently been moved to a bigger hospital and is now on life support. Can you please pray for healing for James, and comfort for his wife Nicole and their three children at this time when they are so far away from family?



CONGRATUALATIONS!

Baby Daniel was born to Om & Rebecca Hung in early March. A brother for Timothy and Elizabeth. Please pray for the family at this time of transition.

A note from the Transition Team: Heritage Celebration

The planned arrangements for the Heritage Celebration on 19th April have been postponed to a date to be fixed, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

We now see this as an opportunity for church members to gather together relevant materials such as photos and newspaper clippings of events in the history of our church. We also ask members to write their own story of eventful times in the history of our church, to use on the timeline to be displayed at the church (at a date to be fixed).

Our plan is to leave the timeline on display for several months as a record of some of the ways that God has blessed his people here in Bright Church of Christ.

