

Church Leadership

Intentional Interim Pastor

Rob Newton

Elders

Graham Wells
Margaret Hartley
Rob Vandenberg
Linda Vanderwert

Deacons

Carys De Marchi
Adam Lindsay
Joslyn Mauchline
Bruce Neilson
Ernie Vanderwert

Sunday Services

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

- Sunday 3rd January: Rob Newton's final service. Rob will be preaching.
- Sunday 10th January: Message by Cameron Purse.
- Sunday 17th January: Message by Rob Vandenberg.
- Sunday 24th January: Message by Ray Smith.
- Sunday 31st January: Commissioning service for Matt Hornby.
Message by Michael Vanderee (to be confirmed).



January Newsletter 2021

"This is what the LORD says— he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, . . . 'Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.'" (Isaiah 43:16–19, NIV)

January is typically a time of contemplating new things.

For Bright Church of Christ, January 2021 is clearly such a moment.

Our Transition Team have navigated a year of reflection - aimed at renewing and empowering this congregation for a fresh season with new leadership. Their engagement with this task was inspiring and commendable. I for one, feel excited about the outcome, culminating in Matt Hornby's appointment as pastor. I believe all this has been orchestrated by the Holy Spirit, and expect 2021 will be an invigorating time, as - along with Bianca, Zach and Zeph - Matt settles into Bright and into this role. Be expectant, be receptive, God is doing a new thing.

In preparation our Transition Team worked through many areas including:

- Mission and Vision. We clarified our purpose, to be a people transformed by Jesus and imparting hope to others, with the mission statement: *'Our purpose is to equip our congregation to reach our neighborhood for Jesus'*. The next practical steps in this mission emerged as a vision statement centred on teamwork, *'to plan and implement team-based outreach, discipling, and caring ministries that will work collaboratively in accomplishing our mission'*.
- Leadership and Governance. We reviewed our governance and affirmed the model of one cohesive Leadership Team comprising elders and deacons working together, amongst whom the pastor serves as an elder, and leads the team as it carries out its designated responsibilities.



18 Park Street,
Bright VIC 2741

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- Growth and Development. We identified three areas calling out for growth, 1) experimenting with different approaches to community outreach, 2) being more intentional in discipleship, and 3) bringing greater emphasis and opportunity for spiritual gift discovery and development.
- Pastor's Role. We acknowledged the pastor is not called to personally do all the ministry, but rather to facilitate activation of the body through equipping of individuals and teams. The responsibilities of the role thus require a combination of personal action and intentional delegation to others. In our pastor profile we detailed the call that emerged through the process around three words: 'Inspire - Equip - Coordinate'.
- Inspire. Guiding our Leadership Team and congregation in the collaborative process of discerning, promoting, and implementing mission and vision.
 - Equip. Overseeing teaching and training ministries according to our mission and vision.
 - Coordinate. Managing the day-to-day activities of the church.

I believe God has led Matt to respond to this call - to inspire, equip and coordinate mission and ministry in collaboration with our gifted and devoted Leadership Team. I am also confident that the mission of Bright Church of Christ will prosper in the years ahead.

It has been my joy and privilege to serve God amongst you all in 2020. I have no doubt Matt and his family will appreciate the same love, acceptance, and collaboration that I have.

Thanks to all, and abundant blessings in 2021.
Grace and Peace,
Rob

Financial Matters

Tithes and offerings received for December were \$7,519 plus \$500 in donations for the Global Mission Partners Christmas appeal.

Tithes and offerings can be transferred electronically to the CBA Bright BSB 063645 Account 10022514.



Praise

- Praise for sending Rob & Rhonda to us and the work they have been able to do amongst us despite the difficult circumstances of 2020.
- Praise for the work the Transition & Pastoral Search Teams have been able to achieve this year.
- Praise for our new pastor, Matt Hornby.

Prayer

- Smooth move to Bright for Matt and Bianca, and a successful search for accommodation.
- Anointed and timely ministry from our various guest speakers over January.
- Ongoing recovery for Geoff Cook, Mary Wells, Alan & Jan McCormack.
- Those who are travelling.
- Refreshing for all our leaders.

Opportunity to help others

Used Stamps – we collect used stamps in support of Global Mission Partners' work in the Pacific region. Please place your stamps in the collection box under the window in the cottage.

Bottle Caps – we have previously asked you to save caps from milk and juice bottles. However, we have recently been advised that these are no longer required.

Appreciation

At the start of a New Year, it seems appropriate to mention those, who over the past year, carried out various tasks around the church which are necessary but often not seen or noticed. Over 2020 the following people have worked behind the scenes.

Ernie has worked hard in the gardens at the church. He has been ably assisted this year by **Bruce Neilson & Ken Lewis**.

Carys prepares the elements for communion every week.

Ernie, Linda, Carys, Beth Reed & others clean the church buildings.

We thank these people for their faithful service to the Lord by the work they have done in our church.