

Nearly Winter NEWSLETTER

ST. STEPHENS, BELMONT



choose 5 buttons, or stones or hearts pray!

Our Church calendar year is just flying by, it is hard to keep up with everything that is happening.

Firstly, I hope that you are all feeling well and had a chance to enjoy the Anzac long weekend, and then to celebrate Mothers Day.

The last week I “attended” Conferences on line in Wales, Ffald-y-Brennin Day of Prayer, Police Chaplains Meeting with Shane Patten The Archbishops’ Road Show in Geelong, (live)

Alpha Leaders Conference from London.

Each one had a different perspective on re-imagining the Church.

Since Covid the church has had to look at new ways of being Church, as lockdown restrictions ease what is church going to look like?. The general consensus is that we cannot afford to just go back to where we were before, but take this most amazing opportunity to spread the good news of the gospel in new and exciting ways. Never in the last 500 years has there been greater more exciting way to reach out to a people so desperately in need.



“Abide in me, may your joy be complete”



The pictures on the next page are some of the resources available to help us pray and remind us each day.

While many churches have resumed live services, many are also choosing to stream live, or have an on line service.

Some are running Alpha online and are have huge success rates with the number of people who want to attend. People are often more willing to engage on line as it is not as threatening as entering a church or someone's home. Also younger people are naturally used to the internet for much of their every day living

Having said that St Johns in Highton is running Alpha with three groups and has a waiting list ready to start up a new course as soon as that one finishes.

The Gospel Readings John 15 of the last two weeks have been all about bearing fruit, fruit that will last. Jesus said, "I have chosen you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit"

Now abide in my love, this is my command that you love one another.(we do)

Now is a great time to consider how do we at St Stephens bear fruit in our lives, church community?

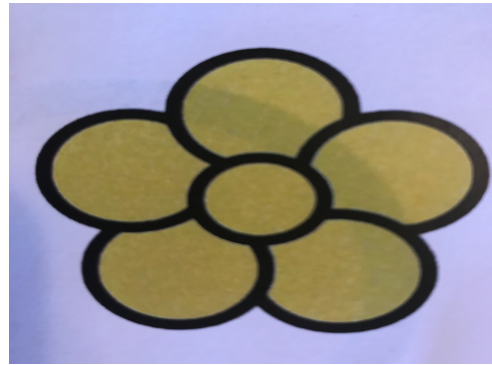
One thing that we can all do is pray.

Thy Kingdom Come is a Global Wave of Prayer from Ascension to Pentecost. The Archbishop of Canterbury initiated this several years ago and since then it has become worldwide across many denominations. He asks that every Christian prayers for 5 people for 10 days to come to know the love of Jesus.

There are heaps of resources available, we have many available for you at St Stephens or you can look up the web site and choose what you might like to use as a prompt. Ascension is this coming Thursday so may I encourage you to get cracking, join people around the world and commit to pray for 5 people for 10 days.

We will be setting up a prayer station in the church and also one outside in the garden for anyone going by to sit and pray.

They come with some prayer suggestions, are fun and engaging



THY KINGDOM COME



You might choose to pray in Home Groups, Family, with a friend on your own, it doesn't matter whatever suits you just pray.

Let us see His Kingdom Come in power as we pray with one heart and mind. Blessing in abundance
Rev'd Liz

