

# A note from the Rector

## Annual Vestry Meeting

Thank you to all who made the meeting in many ways an enjoyable event to Chair. The meeting was an opportunity for me to gain greater insight into the interpersonal relationships amongst the members. The discussions revealed that all share a love for St John's and the ministry of St. John's. The tabled reports were very insightful. Thank you to the various members who submitted a report. I will be looking at the various issues that came from the floor during the meeting. I will be taking my reflections of these issues to the Parish Council. I commend the AVM for how Fr Ernest was honoured.

Parish Council consists of the newly elected; who are

- ✓ Chris Russel (Rector's warden)
- ✓ JK Seo (People's warden)
- ✓ James Winter (People's warden)
- ✓ Elizabeth George
- ✓ Bill Killinger
- ✓ Janet Long
- ✓ John Tompson
- ✓ Stephen Woodhill
- ✓ TBA

The first meeting of the new Parish Council will be on the 10th of May. For this meeting, I am asking that everyone attend in person. At this meeting, we can then discuss if the consecutive meetings will be in person or zoom.

## Parish Fair

Over the years, I had heard many good reports about St John's Gordon Parish Fair. I have already experienced the last Parish Fair. My reason behind attending the last Parish Fair was to determine if your Parish Fair could be reproduced in my previous Parish.

The Parish Fair is, of course, planned to raise finances for the Parish. It is also an opportunity to have fellowship by working together. It is also a very positive way of lifting the profile of St. John's within the local and broader communities. During this event, it can be possible to be creative in how we promote the activities and ministries of St. Johns.

One reality is that events like the Parish Fair don't just happen. They take time to plan, and promote, prepare for and finally time to run the event. You would all agree that a team is necessary for organising the Parish Fair. The tentative date for the Parish Fair is **Saturday the 9th of October**.

Please mark your diaries and plan to support this fun event. I have discussed the Parish Fair with Pat Gaudry and then asked Pat if she would lead the Parish Fair team. Pat has agreed. On the day of the Parish Fair, there are many people involved. I now ask would you like to assist Pat as part of this organising team? The date of the first meeting will be 11am on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May.

## Bible Study – with the Rector

As the next school term has commenced, I will be launching a Bible Study with the Rector beginning on Thursday the 13th of May. This Bible Study will follow the 10am Communion Service held in the Chapel. Starting time for this Bible Study will be 10:50am; the venue will be the Rectory. The first Bible Study will be on a series on the First Epistle of John. You are invited and welcome to attend.

## Need to contact the Rector?

There is no landline phone in the Rectory, and we rely on a dongle for the internet. I check the emails at the Parish Office several times a day. I own a smartphone, so I can also receive text messages. You can also leave a message at the Parish Office. I share the above as several times I did not receive the emails promptly. The surest way to contact me is to phone or text me on my mobile: **0401 950 724**.

## Biblical reflection:

The reflection today is based on Sunday's reading Psalm 118.

*It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust  
in humanity.<sup>9</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to trust in nobles. (118:8-9)*

When you see the name LORD written as such, it is the name of God, YHWH (Original Hebraic name of the LORD). Some modern Bibles, instead of writing the LORD, write YAHWEH. (This is how the Hebraic name of the LORD would be pronounced).

At first glance, we can all nod our heads in agreement with the above verses. The Psalmist is reminding his hearers of the sovereignty of the LORD. Have you pondered: "What does it look like to take refuge in the LORD? That is a serious question. *How* do you take refuge in the LORD? The following steps may bring clarity:

- I. In our prayers, ask God to prosper the work of humanity.
- II. Then as that work comes to fruition, praise God for answering that prayer.

It is easy to trust in our own abilities or the abilities of others. As we submit everything to the sovereignty LORD through prayer, we are acknowledging that the LORD can answer our prayers through and in other people. He can also answer in miraculous ways.

As you have experienced, many Christians have been praying that the LORD will prosper the scientist's work in developing a vaccine for the Coronavirus. Now we give thanks to the LORD for the vaccination programme.

What I am suggesting is all of life – we commit to the LORD in prayer. This action displays our faith and trust in the sovereignty of the LORD. Our prayers to the LORD include the enjoyable as well as the difficult times in our respective lives.

To take refuge is more than taking shelter. To take refuge indicates security. Our security comes through knowing the Lord Jesus as our Saviour. The fact that the LORD will shelter us indicates our significance and worth in His eyes and another demonstration of His love for us.

There is an older hymn that clarifies the idea of refuge is our security.

I will sing – F.H Rowley (1854-1952)

4<sup>th</sup> Stanza

Days of darkness still may meet me,  
sorrow's path I often tread;  
but his presence still is with me,  
by his guiding hand, I'm led:  
*Yes. I'll sing the wondrous story  
Of the Christ who died for me,  
Sing it with his saints in glory  
Gathered by the crystal sea.*