



# Manningham Uniting Church

*Incorporating former Doncaster East, Pilgrim-The Grove & Templestowe Uniting Churches*

## Monthly News from the Interim Church Council

February 2012 Issue 5

### 2012 Learning Journey

#### What is the “2012 Learning Journey”?

It is a project being organized by the Ministry Team and Interim Church Council which will span the length of 2012. It continues the Journey to a Shared Future which has led four separate congregations to form one church focused on being at mission in our community. The aim of the “2012 Learning Journey” is to encourage readiness for mission and invite congregational transformation in order that we can better respond to our changing world and the church’s place in the community.

#### What does it involve?

The 2012 Learning Journey is a project in which the whole of the Manningham Uniting Church will participate. In fact the strength of the project lies in the participation and involvement of our whole church, from every congregation, from young to old, from new to mature Christian.

The “2012 Learning Journey” involves four different streams, some of which overlap at particular times.

- Congregation’s Learning Journey
  - Every single person in the Manningham Uniting Church is invited to participate.
  - Commences with a “Launch Event” (Feb 19<sup>th</sup>) followed by a five week “Listening Groups” project throughout Lent.
  - A number of “Equipping Events” throughout the year. (Teaching series, seminars, retreats etc)
  
- Church Council’s Learning Journey

- As well as participating in the “Listening Groups” project of the Congregation’s Learning Journey (see above), the Interim Church Council will spend time each month raising its awareness and equipping itself to face the challenges of this greatly changed church in this rapidly changing society and world.
- A number of “Equipping Events” throughout the year. (Teaching series, seminars, retreats etc)

- Elder’s Learning Journey
  - Gathering together our Elders to coordinate ongoing pastoral projects and equip for the changing nature of the role.
  
- Ministry Team’s Learning Journey
  - Supported and coached by Ecclesia Consulting.
  - Individually continuing education and post-graduate study.

The 2012 Learning Journey will also involve coordinated worship, preaching and teaching themes at particular times, for example during the “Listening Groups” project in Lent

#### What are the “Listening Groups”?

During the liturgical season of Lent, every member of the Manningham Uniting Church will be invited to participate in a weekly small group for a period of five weeks. The aim is to promote fellowship across our church, listen to some of the stories of God’s work in each other’s lives and reflect together on God’s call for our church’s future. Each group will be working through a common course of reflection material provided for them that will run in

# Manningham Uniting Church Monthly News

conjunction with a coordinated preaching and teaching plan.

Learning from the groups will be gathered and fed into the decisions that shape of our church's future directions. Groups will be organized by locality with a preference for including a blend of people from different congregations and ages. By each member undertaking a short-term and finite commitment to listen to God and listen to each other we prayerfully expect this project to be a significant moment in the new shared life of our church.

## Will there be chances to gather together with our whole church?

Throughout this year as part of our 2012 Learning Journey we are planning a number of occasions for our whole church to gather. The first of these is the Launch Event on February 19<sup>th</sup> which will be the sole worship service for the Manningham Uniting Church that day.

We aim to hold the next event, (a "Learnings Event") following the conclusion of the Listening Groups project to celebrate what we have learnt in that time and to indicate how those learnings are shaping our way forward together. This event will be held shortly after Easter.

At our church's budget meeting late last year it was noted that we would need to revisit some of our projections and consider further items as both our financial reality and the needs of our future become clearer. This may occur at the Learning Event post Easter.

## Catch-up with Church Council News

### Coordination Group

During this Interim Period the task of leadership and governance is extremely complex. To assist our Interim Church Council with this, Vision Groups and Functional Teams have been established to consider and input on strategic options for the future (Vision Groups) and on how to best cooperate on what we currently do (Functional Teams).

In order to give Council the space required to focus on issues of vision and the big-picture questions that face us, Council has established a Coordination Team in order to support the Functional Teams. The Coordination Team comprises some Church Councilors and key leaders from each of the sites and is intended to be a smaller group that is "light on its feet" and which can implement and coordinate some of the many practical recommendations from the Functional Teams. Church Council will manage the issues of running the current life of our church through the work of its Coordination Team while conversing directly with the Vision Groups.

### Ministry Hub

Responding to the commitment in The Stage Two Report to form a Ministry Hub, in which we locate our church's Ministry Team, administration offices and personnel, Church Council has discerned the most appropriate, immediate location for the hub to be the Wood Street Manse. As with any time you move house, this decision involves financial, logistical and organisational implications, therefore the decision will form part of the revised budget

#### MINISTERS

Rev Lucas Taylor Mb 0404 022 851  
[lucas@doncastereactuc.org.au](mailto:lucas@doncastereactuc.org.au)

Rev Jason Kioa Mb 0400 331 805  
[jasonkioa@pilgrimuca.org.au](mailto:jasonkioa@pilgrimuca.org.au)

Rev Andrew Boyle Mb 0409 869 009  
[aboyle56@optusnet.com.au](mailto:aboyle56@optusnet.com.au)

#### SITES

152 Andersons Creek Rd Doncaster East  
T: 03 9842 3370

147 Woodhouse Grove, Box Hill Nth  
T: 03 9891 6329

20 Westfield Drive, Doncaster  
T: 03 9848 4685

104 Atkinson St, Templestowe  
T: 03 9846 1285

# Manningham Uniting Church Monthly News

being developed for congregational approval at a meeting post Easter.

## Ministry Team - who is my Minister?

While it is by no means unusual, many of us in our church may not have experienced more than one ordained minister working as part of a Ministry Team before. Previously we existed as separate churches, each with one minister we could call "our own". In this re-formed church however, we have three ordained ministers (plus a mix of paid and volunteer lay people) who minister amongst the nine distinct worship cohorts (seven weekly plus two monthly) that are a part of our church.

So what does that mean for your relationship with the minister you previously identified as "yours"? Who are the rest of the ministers to you? Who is "your" minister?

We can address that question in two ways. The first is to affirm that all three ordained ministers serve the whole of the church. That means that if you identify most strongly with the one minister who was previously "yours" then that relationship continues undiminished.

Alternatively if you find yourself connecting with one of the ministers from the other former congregations, that's fine too. The bonus is that you now also have two additional ordained ministers who you may connect with.

If you have particular pastoral needs or events that you would like to invite a minister to support (such as baptism, wedding, funeral etc) then you should feel free to invite whichever minister you feel comfortable with. If one of us is unavailable we now have two others who can assist. As a Ministry Team we feel no "territory" belongs to us and are endeavoring to share in

worship with each congregation in order to build those relationships.

The second way of responding is to affirm that while we may have three ordained members, our Ministry Team is in reality every member of our church. Each and every follower of Jesus must respond to the call to love, support and encourage each other in community as the body of Christ and to witness to our broader community.

We trust that this will be an exciting and pivotal year for our church we look forward to your participation.

## MINISTERS

Rev Lucas Taylor Mb 0404 022 851  
[lucas@doncastereactuc.org.au](mailto:lucas@doncastereactuc.org.au)

Rev Jason Kioa Mb 0400 331 805  
[jasonkioa@pilgrimuca.org.au](mailto:jasonkioa@pilgrimuca.org.au)

Rev Andrew Boyle Mb 0409 869 009  
[aboyle56@optusnet.com.au](mailto:aboyle56@optusnet.com.au)

## SITES

152 Andersons Creek Rd Doncaster East  
T: 03 9842 3370

147 Woodhouse Grove, Box Hill Nth  
T: 03 9891 6329

20 Westfield Drive, Doncaster  
T: 03 9848 4685

104 Atkinson St, Templestowe  
T: 03 9846 1285