



# The Scots' Church Melbourne

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN VICTORIA, FOUNDED 1838

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15 December 2020

Dear friends

## Looking forward to 2021

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour and to look forward to hopefully better times than those we endured in 2020, it is timely to give you an update on what's happening at Scots' Church and what you can look forward to in 2021.

### Progress in filling the Senior Minister vacancy

The combined congregations meeting on 13 December voted to call **Rev Philip Macleay Campbell** to be the 14<sup>th</sup> minister of the Pastoral Charge. Three commissioners have been appointed – one from each of our linked congregations – to take charge of the Call. They are:

- **Peter Armstrong** for the Scots' general congregation;
- **Andy Sentosa** for the Indonesian Christian Church congregation; and
- **Ronnie Adahali** for the St Stephen's Flemington congregation.

Communicants will be invited to subscribe to the Call and adherents to concur with the call. This opportunity will be held open until Monday 18 January, after which, if the threshold has been met,<sup>1</sup> the Call will be handed to the Interim Moderator for presentation to Presbytery.

Phil and Louise Campbell are now back in Brisbane and Phil is taking extended long service leave. If all remaining steps in the Call process are completed in good time, we might expect to see Presbytery inducting the 14<sup>th</sup> minister of the Charge into his Senior Minister position sometime around mid-March next year.

Please pray for Phil and Louise as they prepare themselves for what lies ahead.

### Pulpit supply for Scots' morning and evening services

We are grateful to **Rev Mike Raiter** for agreeing to fill the pulpit at Scots' for the 11.00AM and 5.00PM services right through to Sunday 21 February. He will also conduct the 10.00AM Christmas Day service. The morning services will be conducted in the traditional manner worshippers are used to, and the evening services will be more informal and more contemporary in style.

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<sup>1</sup> Rule 4.126.3 of the PCV's Code Book requires at least three-fifths (60%) of the number of communicants of the Charge to subscribe to the Call, in order for it to proceed to Presbytery.

## **Milestones for Andrew Wong: one down and one to go**

Our Minister for St Stephen's Flemington, **Andrew Wong**, was officially licensed on 15 November. Not long after, our Kirk Session requested Presbytery to have Andrew ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments. If Presbytery agrees, we might expect an ordination service at St Stephen's some time in March next year. Please pray for Andrew and his wife Garam and for Andrew's ministry to St Stephen's and the Flemington Mission.

## **Staff changes**

Our Church Administrator, **Sebert Ruddock**, officially retires at the end of the year. We thank him for his excellent and dedicated service to the church in that role. Happily, it's not the last we will see of Sebert. When **James Nuske** recently retired as Honorary Treasurer, The Scots' Church Board of Management appointed Sebert to that position. Sebert will also be providing some behind-the-scenes mentoring to staff for the next little while.

Because of Sebert's retirement as Administrator, the Session's Staffing Committee has re-defined the responsibilities of **Jonathan North** and **Murray Hirst** and upgraded their remuneration. The responsibilities that belonged to the Administrator have now been divided between Jonathan and Murray. **Wendy Gregory's** responsibilities have also been revised. Effective from 1 January:

- Jonathan North becomes our **Administrator Operations**;
- Murray Hirst becomes our **Financial Controller**; and
- Wendy Gregory becomes our **Administration Secretary**.

In another change, **Monterrey (Monty) Chandra** was appointed on a permanent part-time basis as an administrative assistant, effective from 1 November. Monty has primary responsibility for maintaining and updating our Scots' Church website. He did a great job of that during the many months of lockdown, as you no doubt know and appreciate.

## **The Leaflet goes seasonal in 2021**

The Kirk Session unanimously adopted a proposal from *The Leaflet's* editor, **Miss Rosalie Strother**, to change from a bi-monthly to a quarterly cycle. This will reduce Rosalie's and the various contributor's workloads and help the church economise the costs of production.

Because of this change, there will be no *Leaflet* produced for February. The first edition for 2021 will be the March (autumn) edition, followed by the June (winter) edition, the September (spring) edition and the December (summer) edition. This new cycle marries neatly with our quarterly Communion Sunday celebrations of the Lord's Supper.

Session expressed its heartfelt thanks for Rosalie's excellent work with *The Leaflet*.

## **Sponsoring a ministry apprentice at RMIT**

The Kirk Session unanimously endorsed a generous funding sponsorship of **Mr Harrison Sawyer** who is due to commence a two-year full-time ministry apprenticeship with the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES) through the Christian Union at RMIT. RMIT is one of two universities within the parish bounds of the Scots' Church, the other being Melbourne University.

Scots' will be contributing \$1,000 a month towards Harrison's apprenticeship stipend. Please pray for Harrison as he seeks to minister the gospel to RMIT students and connect them to churches such as Scots'.

### **Cantata 61 is now online**

A video recording featuring principals of the Scots' Church Choir singing Bach's cantata, *Now Come, Saviour of the Gentiles*, can be watched on YouTube from the Scots' Church Website.

It is sung as it was composed, in German, but if you click on the "CC" icon along the bottom of your screen, you will be able to read the English subtitles.

Our grateful thanks to our Music Director, **Douglas Lawrence** OA, the musicians and the film director and crew for this first-class production. And particular thanks to **Elizabeth Anderson** for providing the sub-titles allowing the non-German speakers to understand the inspired words of Holy Scripture as they are sung.

### **Wednesday organ recitals**

Session has discontinued Wednesday afternoon worship services at Scots' Church for at least the remainder of the Senior Minister vacancy.

In their place, starting next February, there will be a Summer organ recital series. Stay tuned for further information.

### **Board of Management appointments**

Under PCV rules, half the elected managers retire each year, although they can stand for re-election for a further two-year term if they wish. This year, **Lillian Chuah**, **Elizabeth Charles**, and **Barbara Noisette** did not stand for re-election. We thank them for their past service.

The Kirk Session appointed 6 managers to the Scots' Church Board of Management. They are:

- Re-election: **Margaret Conradi**, **Jennifer Pilgrim**, **Rosalie Strother** and **Jodi Tregale**.
- New nominations: **Stallone Joel** and **Sarisha Joel**.

We thank them for agreeing to serve the church by taking on this responsibility.

### **A proper farewell for Richard and Rosemary O'Brien**

**Rev Richard O'Brien's** retirement from pastoral ministry officially commences from 10 January. Because of COVID restrictions on crowd numbers and food handling, it was not possible to organise the sort of send off he and Rosemary deserve; at least not before 10 January.

We are hopeful that a proper function can be organised safely and legally for some time during the first quarter of 2021. That is Richard and Rosemary's wish, too.

May the Lord bless you and keep you this Christmas and throughout 2021.



**REV PHILIP COURT**  
Interim Moderator



**PETER ARMSTRONG**  
Session Clerk