

ST JOHN'S DIAMOND CREEK
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday 9 November 2022

Meeting opened at 7.35pm by the Vicar, The Ven Dr. Tim Johnson

1. Prayer and Bible reading

Tim read from Ephesians 2:21-22 and then shared that everything we have as a church comes from Jesus, God's Spirit is present and at work in us as a church, and that the church is a work in progress, being built together. Tim prayed to commence the meeting.

2. Tim acknowledged the traditional custodians of our Country and prayed a Woiwurrung language prayer.

3. Apologies: names (*see appendix A*)

Attendees: names (*see appendix B*)

Chair: Tim Johnson

Minute Secretary: Carolyn Burns

4. **Minutes of previous meeting:** AGM – Wednesday 10 November 2021

Motion: To accept the Minutes of last year's AGM as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Ian Borrie

Seconded: Delle Matthews

Carried unanimously

5. Reception of the Electoral Roll

There are currently 206 names on the Parish Electoral Roll. The quorum required for this meeting is one-fifth of the Roll (42 people). The quorum has been met.

Motion: the 2022 electoral roll be received

Moved: Janece McPherson

Seconded: Adam Coleman

Carried unanimously

6. Notice of Items for any other business

One Motion was received and will be dealt with after the Wardens report.

No other items received. Questions are invited later in this meeting.

7. Senior Minister's Report – Tim Johnson

Taken as read.

This report is a collaborative effort from staff and ministry teams put together as one.

Headwinds and tailwinds

Tim used the words 'headwinds and tailwinds' adapted from a recent Diocese meeting to describe our current circumstances at St John's.

Headwinds: If you are a runner or a cyclist then you know that headwinds are difficult, they do not stop you, but they make things harder and more challenging.

The current headwinds we are facing are:

- Staff transitions: Kirk Mackenzie after 9 years on staff and Kylie Pilkington after 12 years on staff. We are not replacing Kirk's position.
- Financial pressures: increased costs and decreased offertory's
- Reduced weekly attendance after Covid restrictions
- Wider society including our area have an increasing number of people who mark 'no religion' on the census

Tailwinds: the biblical word for spirit is the same word as breath or wind. We have the power of God's spirit behind us to empower all our mission and ministry. God's Spirit is mighty to work in our lives to be strengthened and reshaped and to transform hard hearts outside the church to receive Jesus.

Tim spoke of the good news that we must share about Jesus. We have a multigenerational church congregation, people of all ages 0-99. We have great relationships in our area.

In all of it we need to look to God who is greater than anything that may be against us.

Vision 2025

Reconnect and build a multiethnic and intergenerational network of congregations, Life Groups and mission initiatives for Diamond Creek and the Northern Suburbs.

The vision will need filling out with appropriate strategies so that it can be achieved. We are trusting God to guide us in and rely also on your prayers and support.

Tim thanked the leaders and volunteers at St John's, giving special attention to the following:

- We recently farewelled Kirk Mackenzie after nearly 10 years on staff. He will be taking a position of Senior Minister at PlentyLife Church. St John's has a wonderful record of training people and sending them out to do God's work. Kirk has blessed us so richly in his time here.

- Kylie Pilkington has been our Children's and families minister for the last 5 years and she is stepping down in her role at the end of 2022. Kylie's organisational skills and warmth have been truly invaluable.
- Anna Greenhalgh is stepping down as Warden. Anna has served for the past 6 years. (3 years as Treasurer and 3 years as Finance Warden). Tim acknowledged Anna's strategic, Godly can-do attitude and generosity to people in the life of the church.

Tim thanked all our volunteers and members of the congregation serving and loving in Jesus' name: "It's a team effort...I continue to count as a privilege to lead and serve you as Senior Minister".

Questions:

Carolyn Fairweather: Have we received applications for Children's Families Minister?

Answer: It's been advertised but no applications as yet.

8. Statement of Accounts 2021/2022 – David Woods, Treasurer

Reports taken as read

David expressed that the figures tell a story. St John's is not only a light on the hill, but we are firmly planted in the community with a desire to make Jesus known.

David thanked Dianne Cheraghi for her wonderful bookkeeping skills and support. Supported ably by Henrike Brussaard-Kerr, Tania Grinton and Carolyn Burns. David thanked Anna Greenhalgh for her support as Finance Warden.

The four sections of finance matters are as follows:

1. A 4-page report consolidated income and expense summary for 2021/22
2. Audited accounts 2021/2022
3. Budget 2022/23
4. Auditor

Income and expenditure for the 2021/22

The result for 2021/22 was a financial deficit of \$44,000 compared to a budgeted deficit of \$35,000 (line 27). The main variations between the budget and actual was a short fall in the Offertory of \$15,000 which was partially offset by achieving the thanksgiving target in line 3 and lines 8 and 9 (Bequests and Grants) of the 'Consolidated Income and Expense Summary'.

Expenditure on line 19 (Diocesan Assessment) was \$9,000 overbudget. This was caused by the Parish receiving job keeper in the previous year.

Some confusion reigned as the Offertory income budgeted figures for August and September 2022 had been historically based on the actual figures in the same months for 2021 which were quite high. The 2023 budget has been flattened out.

David emphasised that 87% of income is committed to:

- Staff
- Mission

- Diocese

We were blessed by a substantial donation of \$61,000 for the completion of toilet project. An ADF loan was sought for the balance of the project. Voluntary contributions to the project cannot be ignored and greatly appreciated.

9. Audited Accounts 2021/22 and Budget

Taken as read

The accounts were audited and given an unqualified report.
Page 3 is Balance Sheet for the Parish.
Under liabilities now reflects a 30-year ADF loan for the toilet project.

Questions invited. None were raised

Motion: That the audited accounts for the year ended 30 September 2022 be received.

Moved: David Woods

Seconded: Anna Greenhalgh

Carried unanimously

Consolidated Income and Expense Summary for 2021/22 and budget for 2022/23

The Parish Council has accepted a budget deficit of \$37,000 for the new year.

Key budget assumptions

- Offertory increase 2%
- Increased thanksgiving to \$40k
- Grants are conservative
- Salaries and parish assessment are expected to be lower
- Activity expenses expected to rise because of continuing programs
- Activity income rising also
- All reflects strong commitment to mission
- Additional maintenance charge of \$15,000 in addition to \$37,000 deficit. This is to do with the recent painting of the church building and the upcoming painting of the office.

Questions invited. None raised

Motion: That the 2022/23 draft budget as presented be adopted.

Moved: David Woods

Seconded: Dianne Cheraghi

Carried unanimously

10. Appointment of Auditor – David Woods

Bruce Allen from GNS continues to support the Parish in the role of Auditor. We value his professional approach to the audit and for completing the task in good time to be available for this Meeting.

David moved a vote of thanks to Bruce and a deep appreciation for his Godly service which was passed with acclamation.

Bruce is agreeable to continue in the role of Auditor for 2022/23.

Whilst Bruce has indicated his continuing involvement, he has asked that we formally nominate his firm, GNS, as the firm appointed.

Motion: That Bruce Allen, from GNS Group, be appointed auditor for the 2022/23 financial year.

Moved: David Woods

Seconded: Debbie Wadeson

Carried unanimously

David reiterated: Our Mission is Know Jesus. Make Jesus Known. To make this a reality we need the full support of the parish. Prayer, vision, staff, volunteers and money. This is a package and requires taking risks in all of these components. Finance is not the only component but an important one. This is the story the numbers are telling us.

11. Churchwardens' Report – Mick Fisher

Taken as read.

Covid has affected us all and the church in various ways. Financially, reduced numbers, lockdowns and reduced engagement with some people. For many people it has reduced their ability to give. Mick urged us all to consider we make all effort to encourage people on the peripheral. People that are not so engaged and need to be encouraged to become more and more a part of the church family.

Mick thanked Anna Greenhalgh (Finance Warden) on behalf of Alan Fairweather and himself for the work and contribution Anna has given over the past 6 years.

Mick thanked Alan Fairweather for his dedication of maintaining the church building and property for the good of us all.

Despite the finances we completed the toilet project and creche. These works were carried out professionally and to a great result. The outside of church was professionally painted by a parishioner from the Persian Resurrection Church. Mick expressed gratefulness to be sharing the Church with the Persians.

We welcomed Joel Snibson, Adele and Hannah. Joel is now taking over leadership of the evening service.

Kylie Pilkington is stepping down after 12 years on staff and the last 5 years as Children and Families Minister. Mick thanked Kylie on behalf of Wardens and PC.

We farewelled Kirk, Renee, Jasmine and Kira. Mick expressed how proud we are of Kirk as he has grown while being here and now, we send him on. We will miss him and are particularly grieved that we are not able to replace him. We must always consider what we can and cannot do.

We have had a tough year, but we praise God for our grand church and family.

Questions invited, but none asked.

Motion: That the Churchwardens' report be received.

Moved: Mick Fisher

Seconded: Bev Ward

Carried unanimously

Dianne Cheraghi put forward a motion of thanks.

Thank you to all the Wardens and Parish Council for their diligent work through the last year, and particularly to the maintenance work that has been done around the property, including the Bage St unit. Praise God for raising up such faithful servants for our Parish.

12. Election of Wardens and Parish Council

There are three Wardens positions and three nominations. Two are elected positions and one is appointed by the Vicar. Alan Fairweather and Natalie Coleman are elected unopposed. Mick Fisher has once again accepted Tim's appointment.

There are six Parish Council positions and six nominations. Four positions are elected and two appointed by the Vicar. The Vicar has appointed Graham Batcheler and Leah Rudd to Parish Council and David Woods, Vicki Miller, Dushi Arulanantham, and Chloe Manson are elected unopposed. The Wardens appoint the Treasurer, and this will be David Woods.

13. Election of Incumbency Committee

With a single parish electoral roll, two people are to be elected as parish representatives on the Incumbency Committee. Therefore, Chris Grinton and Jacinta Berndt are elected

unopposed. The Wardens will also appoint one of their members to the Incumbency Committee at their first meeting.

September 2023 marks 10 years that Tim has been here at St John's. Tim was initially appointed as priest in charge for 3 years, then he was appointed as Vicar for a further 10 years. Hence, Tim's 10-year anniversary will not trigger an incumbency process.

14. Parochial Statistics

Tabled at the AGM

These statistics include the month of October 2021 when we were in lockdown.

The average attendance in each of the congregations shows a sense of rebuilding.

At the 8am service, numbers are stable averaging 29 and as high as 40.

At the 10am service there is a feeling that we are smaller in number. Some people have moved to 8am.

We need to continue to encourage others who have been disconnected and let staff know if there are people we need to reconnect with.

The digital numbers have dropped since people have come back in person. People have set new patterns in how they watch the service each week.

Questions invited but none asked.

Motion – The Parochial Statistics for 2021/22 be received

Moved: Leah Rudd

Seconded: Janeece McPherson

Carried unanimously

15. Other Reports

Questions invited but none asked.

16. Any other business

No other business

17. Close in prayer

Tim Johnson 8.47pm

APPENDIX A

APOLOGY REGISTER

Terissa Fidock	Sanjeev Rajathevan
Charlotte Chidell	Reza Cheraghi
Lyndell Whiting	Robyn Gorfine
Leanne Turnbull	Margaret McNicol
Barry Hollingsworth	Olga Forsyth
Jan Hollingsworth	Pam Fletcher
Linda Cridland	John Schmidt
Jarod Graetz	Jean Schmidt
Tim Hemsworth	
Joanne Hemsworth	
Nikki Isaks	
Pat Lovegrove	
Lawrence Howes	
Maureen Joel	
Leigh Greenhalgh	
Ken Manson	
Roslyn Manson	
Alison Knuckey	
Sue Batcheler	
Pam Barras	
Isobel Fisher	
Rosaleen Rudd	
Nerida Fidock	
Andrea Fidock	
Lenny Barras	

APPENDIX B

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

NAME	NAME
Rod Smith	David Smith
Scott Pilkington	Ross Isaks
Mick Fisher	Carolyn Burns
Chloe Manson	Pam Woods
Philip Wadeson	Janece McPherson
Richard Tonkin	Damien Knuckey
Andrew Barras	Tania Grinton
Belinda Grinton	Chris Grinton
Valerie Phillips	Neil Barras
Ellie Plumridge	Leah Rudd
Alan Fairweather	Victor Jetten
Mark Pilkington	Peter Fidock
Sue Jetten	Natalie Coleman
Dushi Arul	Beverley Ward
Vicki Miller	Dianne Cheraghi
Warwick Miller	Sally Lutter
Rod Gorfine	Janice Smith
Debra Wadeson	David Woods
Anna Greenhalgh	Kirsten Grinton
Graham Batcheler	Carolyn Fairweather
Kylie Pilkington	
Nola Borrie	
Delle Matthews	
Chris Fisher	
Ian Borrie	
Adam Coleman	
Janet Tiller	
Chris Tiller	