WILLETTON CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

**May, 2023**

**Membership of Church Council:**

**Elders**: Lesley Kenny, Deirdre Russell, Diane Boon, Chris Malan, John Boon (Chairperson), Barbara Bennewith (Treasurer), Bruce Read, Lyn Burking

**Councillors**: Julie Maddock, Vivienne Rowney\* co-opted minute secretary) Ed Kenny (co-opted: Congregational chairperson), Wilma Wilson (co-opted: Congregational secretary), Vicki Banks.

\*Although she was absent for the last meeting Vivienne had agreed to this position.

**Minister: Vacant**

**Purpose/Function of the Church Council:**

“The Church Council shall give priority in its life to building up the Congregation in faith and love, sustaining members in hope, and leading the Congregation to a fuller participation in Christ’s mission in the world. This priority shall be reflected in the agenda of its ordinary meetings”

[Reg 3.1.2 (a)]

1. ***Elders and Pastoral Partners:***

A workshop for Pastoral Partners and Elders was held on the 11th April.

This enabled an extensive review of the pastoral care network in our congregation.

Two extra Pastoral Partners have since come on board – Fran Ciupryk and Judy Heath.

Part of this time was also involved in a workshop on mental health issues in the community. This was led by Vicki Banks and we thank Vicki for an interesting presentation and the research and time that she put into the presentation.

1. ***Ministry:***

After spending about 6 months in placement at Willetton, Rev Mark Bell indicated he was struggling with being a Uniting Church minister in a congregational setting and sought Presbytery intervention in assisting in his ministry with us. This resulted in his termination of his placement at Willetton on the 30th April. All of this was done after consultation between Mark, Willetton Church Council, the Presbytery and Synod of WA. A conclusion of placement service was conducted by the Presbytery of WA. Mark has been stationed with Rev Ruth Vertigan at Star Street for three months in the belief that working alongside a UC minister will enable Mark to better discern his future ministry.

Meanwhile the Willetton Congregation and Church Council have commenced the call process for finding new ministry at Willetton. We are requesting a full-time placement. This will take some time and we will keep you up to date as much as possible.

1. **The Future:**

In the meantime, we are endeavouring to find short term supply-either full time or part time to fill our ministry needs. This is proving very difficult. There are few ministers available or willing to do this. Our hunt continues………

So this Congregation will rely on its own resources very much into the future.

John Boon. - Chairperson, Willetton Church Council.

Proposal: That the report be received.

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

**CHOIR REPORT**

As I wrote in my November report, “No choir as yet.  Maybe in 2023?”     Optimistic, here we are already halfway through the year.   Even the combined Carols service is on hold as host church St Andrews in Shelley has no musical leadership.   We rehearsed during Lent for an anthem on Easter Day, but lacked the singers required.    Or Yamaha piano will be tuned in time for the Classical Piano recital in June.

We pray for Janice’s health after recent surgery.

“And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night When utmost evil strove against the Light?

Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight,       Alleluia!”                                               F. Pratt Green.

Deirdre Russell      OAM.

**2023 CONCERTS**

The next **Classical Piano Recital** will be held in our Worship Centre on Sunday 18th June at 10.45am, after the 9.15 service and morning tea.   Please make arrangements to remain if you can, and attend the hour-long recital.   The pieces will be ranged from Bach to 20th century Ravel, and include known works by Chopin and Liszt.  You will be amazed by the talents of these students, who spend countless hours practising to a standard destined for the professional concert platform.  Family and friends are welcome.  Entry: donation to assist with piano tuning.

If there is a demand, we may be able to put together a concert later in the year which involves a variety of items, such as voice and other instruments.  Please email or speak to Lyn about this if you are able to sing or play an instrument, or you know someone who would welcome the opportunity for a pubic performance in front of a supportive audience.

Lyn Muir 14.5.23

Mobile 0418 923 404 email muireal@iinet.net.au

**YouthCARE**

YouthCARE in our area supports Chaplains in our local high schools ie. Willetton, Rossmoyne and Leeming (WRL) and their feeder primary schools.

Our congregation continues to support Chaplains through the WRL committee, both financially and through active representation on the committee.

Your support by purchasing honey is greatly appreciated as is your support on sausage sizzle days at our local Bunnings.

The zone of our WRL committee is changing to include the Lynwood High School.

Full details of this combining will be available shortly.

John Lee, who was our Area Chaplain, has moved to another Chaplain position within the mining industry so we are waiting to meet his replacement. Again, we will provide details of the new appointment, shortly.

The WRL committee asks for your prayerful support during the remainder of 2023 as the new Area Chaplain and the extended committee is established.

Pauline and Bruce Read

**NON-PERISHABLE GROCERIES FOR FREMANTLE**

Again, Thank you to all who have made contributions to the groceries for Fremantle. The level of support from our congregation continues to be outstanding.

We continue to use St Pats in Fremantle for the distribution of our groceries and they are very grateful of our efforts. The number homeless and others in need, in the Fremantle region, seems to increase with time so our donations are important, especially in the weeks leading up to Winter.

A special thank you to Christine Erskine for preparing and stocking the many bathroom/cosmetic bags, that are greatly appreciated at Fremantle, also a special thank you to Jiaming Xu who each week helps with the packing up and carrying of the groceries to the car.

Your continued support is appreciated.

Pauline, Bruce and Fran.

**CANNING LODGE**

We have only been able to go to Canning Lodge a few times this year due to COVID rules.We had an enjoyable afternoon on these days, it was lovely to see some familiar faces.

Sadly Canning Lodge is to be closed ,we will all miss our visits there.

We all received a very generous gift from Canning Council for our years spent volunteering at the Lodge.

Phyllis, Mary, Sofia ,Dorothy and Lin.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**.

The representatives from the seven local churches meet three times prior to the service  and one following a week after.

The service this year was held on the 3rd March, 2023 at the Uniting Church Willetton at 10.00 a.m. finishing in approximately one hour.  Welcome and Greeting given by the Coordinator Mrs. Jan Rose OAM .  The service was prepared, written and dedicated by the women of Taiwan.  ' I Have Heard About Your Faith'.  Service books were handed out to all, therefore being able to follow the hymns and the speakers.    The attendance was 71  with 25 attending from our own congregation. The total number exceeded last year's attendance, which included politicians  and visiting clergy.

The Bible Society of  ( Australia )  made available a short film of the Society's commitments in Taiwan, - supporting women from differing backgrounds for the improvement of their lives.  Our Minister the Rev'd Mark Bell as the guest speaker gave a meaningful and thoughtfully worded sermon  of the Bible Reading. - Ephesians 1: 15-19 -  also presenting prayers for the Offering and the Sending Out , and the Benediction.   The collection on the day was $588.95.  Slips were placed in the service books for people who may want to donate after the service.  At the conclusion , morning tea had been arranged in the hall.

The committee extends sincere thanks to Barbara Bennewith and Vicki Banks for their valued support - attention to details concerning the technicalities for the overheads etc.  Gratitude extended to Barbara  for arranging the programme  prior to the service.   Thanks to Deirdre  Russell  for her assistance as the organist and Neville Louden for assisting with the collection.  Rev'd Mark for his interest, support and thoughtfulness, and to all who helped in different ways including the  supply of the morning tea.  Thank you to all from our congregation who came, - and as it is an  Ecumenical Service, it is good to meet up with friends and people from other churches.

Next year's service will be presented at the Catholic Church St.John and Paul, Willetton, when the service will be written by the Women of Palestine on the theme,  - 'Bear With One Another In Love/'

Madeline Suann, Lynette  Burking and myself were very pleased that our church was available to take our turn.

Phyllis Muller

**LADIES’ EVENING FELLOWSHIP**

The Willetton Ladies’ Evening Fellowship group meet bi-monthly. We finished 2022 with a Christmas themed social evening on the 7thof December at the home of Madeline Suann.

We commenced this year on the 7th of February 2023 with a pleasant evening at the home of Val Dobrowolski.

With Easter falling in the first week of April, including school holidays and then Anzac day, it was decided that we would have a shared meal night out on Wednesday 31st May to cover April and June meetings. Please see today’s Church News Letter for details.

August and October meetings have not yet been planned.

Our group is currently holding a small amount of funds which will be channeled towards the purchase of a new carpet for the hall foyer or where needed.

We are a friendly group and would always welcome new members. Enquiries to Madeline Suann, phone 08 9457 2715.

M H SUANN Convenor of the Ladies’ Evening Fellowship

**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE.**

Membership is 14 , - attendance good.  Each meeting commences in prayer & a member submits

their own choice of reading for  ' Thought for Today .'  Just prior to the end of 2022 our Guest Speakers were  Bill & Dorothy Pringle who gave an interesting  ' Story ' of their 7 years with the Methodist Overseas Mission in the 1950-1960's.  Their lives were greatly enriched by experiencing life on the islands of Elcho & Croker.  Great trust and Fellowship developed with the island peoples. Photos, artifacts and a large map of Australia were shown. Bill and Dorothy were thanked for their generous offer and time, and given a gift in appreciation.   A few members attended a luncheon in December, at a restaurant in Southlands.

Birthdays have been recognised with Happy Birthday sung.  Cards for differing reasons have been posted or by hand to,  F. & D. Rennie, - R. van Bremen, - W. Rivers, - E. Morrell, - L. Low, - L. Burking, - M. Barron, - Rev' F. Hadfield, - Rev C.Gepp, - Rev M. Bell.

Activities have been a Quiz, Two ' Show & Tell' ,   & a ' Sing -A- Long ' of Wartime Songs  as Anzac Day has just occured. Deirdre accompanying on the piano.   Postage stamps have been received & forwarded on to G. Foote.  In April, a donation of $100.00 was given to the church, - to be used where it was most needed.  Thanks to Christine for her contribution to the Trading Table, - to those who generously provide the afternoon tea, and to all who help in different ways.

Phyllis Muller.

**FRIDAY SEWING GROUP**

We have now become an all sorts craft group, meeting on the 1st Friday of each month., 9;30 – 2;30.

A celebration of 20 years was held this month.

New members would be most welcome.

Bring your own lunch. Cost $5.

Val Dobrowolski 94575878

**NEWSLETTER REPORT**

There is not much change in the Newsletter, we have a few people join the mailing list and some have decided they don’t want the newsletter anymore. I will be away during the end of June so Eddie will be taking over from 25 June till 6 August. Before I go I’ll change the mobile number to his but the email stays the same. Eddie has done this before so it’s nothing new to him.

Blessings, Louise & Eddie.