

WILLETTON UNITING CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024

1. OPENING DEVOTIONS

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Congregational Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Twelve invitations were sent to Clergy of neighbouring churches, Chaplains and members of Parliament to attend the Induction Service for Rev Toby Keva.

Two acceptances were received.

5. REPORTS:

\* Church Council

\* Minister

\* Finance - Income and Expenditure to 31 March 2024

\* YouthCARE

\* Non Perishable Groceries for Fremantle

\* Music Ministry - Outreach Concerts

\* Newsletter

\* World Day of Prayer

\* Friendship Circle

\* Ladies Evening Fellowship (Verbal)

\* Use of Buildings (Verbal)

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

Close of Meeting:

## WILLETTON CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

May 2024

### Membership of Church Council:

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

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

Minute Secretary: Vivienne Rowney

**Minister:** Rev Toby Keva

### 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)]

Rev Toby Keva commenced full time ministry at Willetton from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 and has quickly settled in and made himself known and appreciated to the congregation. Toby is an experienced minister of the Word and brings a great deal of knowledge and resources to the role.

He has presented to the Church Council a discussion document ‘*Handbook on Governance, Goals and Plans for the Willetton Uniting Church 2023-2033*’ which will provide for the Council the basis for discussion and direction for the years ahead. One of the key aspects of this document is that responsibilities and roles are clearly delineated by minister, Elders and Church Council.

The Church Council have appreciated Toby’s conduct of worship. He makes sure that all age groups are catered for and is prepared to introduce new music. Toby’s conduct of the Easter worship program enriched the congregation particularly and made it special and meaningful time.

At the February meeting the Church Council agreed to repeat last years successful Easter/Fun Fair. That event produced a ‘profit’ which was used as seeding money for the Fun Fair for 2024. Diane Boon and Barbara Bennewith volunteered as coordinators and planning was commenced. The Fun Fair was again a successful event for the community. Many members of the congregation were involved that made the event an enjoyable experience. A survey is being conducted to ascertain whether it can be repeated next year or adopting some changes.

We express our gratitude to Pat Whipple who has retired as leader of the group who prepare the elements for communion. We give thanks for her dedication to this role.

It was agreed at the last council meeting that we rebrand ‘Mission’ to ‘Outreach’. Vicki Banks has coordinated the Mission group and we thank her for the role she played in her leadership of that group.

After over twenty years in the job I decided that it was time to 'retire' from the Church Council position of chairperson. Some ongoing health issues added to my decision. It has been a privilege to serve the congregation at Willetton in such a way. I believe that the council has acted as a team at all times which has made the job so much easier. I will continue to serve on the council and help out whenever I am needed. I am sure that Bruce Read will continue the vital work of the council, in his new role as chairperson. My thanks to the councillors and elders who have given me their utmost support.

John Boon

John Boon.

Chairperson, Willetton Church Council.

Proposal: That the report be received.

## **MINISTER'S REPORT**

It is a great pleasure and privilege to be a part of the community of God in Willetton Uniting Church. My family and I have felt so welcomed and loved by the people in the church since we first arrived here. We truly feel that Willetton Uniting Church is our spiritual home now, and we are deeply grateful for the opportunity.

I have now met most of the people in Willetton Uniting Church, and I have to say that I have been impressed by the depth of faith, devotion, and dedication of the people in the church, especially those who volunteer in different roles. I really look forward to working together with everyone in Willetton as we all discover what God has in store for us.

### **Music**

It has been a great pleasure to work with our pianists, Janice Barret and Deirdre Russel, and Mark Burt, our vocalist. All are accomplished musicians and singer with decades of experience between them, playing music and singing songs for the church and beyond. Music has always been an important part of my ministry and I look forward to continuing our musical collaboration, blending our different styles to enhance our worship experience. It is also my hope to include more talented musicians and singers into our music ministry in Willetton.

I would also like to express how much I have been impressed by the quality of the public singing during our worship on Sunday. I have to say that it may be one of—if not the best public singing that I have ever experienced in the Uniting Church!

More works need to be done, however, on the sound system now that we have more than one musical instrument in our worship service. The current sound mixing board was not set up for this kind of arrangement. I will soon be meeting the sound technician who will help us decide the best system to meet our current needs.

### **Children Ministry**

Diane Boon and Chris Malan have led sessions on Sunday for the children who attend our worship service. There are at least seven children in the 'book', including mine. We hope there will be more people who are willing and capable to lead as teachers for these children on Sunday. A vibrant and healthy children ministry is crucial if we are to attract, retain, and nurture younger families with children into our church.

The crying room has now been functioning—with multiple board games, books, and colouring pages—and been used by families with little children, including mine. The speaker in the crying room is now working. That means, parents can still listen to and follow the worship service while they are accompanying their children in the room.

### **Goals, Strategies, and Governance**

A document that formulates a governing structure that I hope will preserve and enhance a healthy working relationship between the Minister and the Council has been presented and approved by the Council on 13<sup>th</sup> March. The document aims to provide clear boundaries and guidelines between different parties in the church, especially between the Minister and the Council. This document is to be the 'playbook' for our ministry here in Willetton Uniting Church for the next ten years.

The document also outlines goals and strategies to achieve those goals within the next ten years in Willetton Uniting Church. A second meeting will be held on 31<sup>st</sup> July to finalize the next section of the document concerning the strategies to achieve the ten-year goals.

Please let me know if you would like to view the document.

### **Confirmation**

By the time of our general meeting in 19<sup>th</sup> May, the Confirmation group will have met three times on Wednesday afternoons. The group has six participants, including three who are new to the church and are seeking to become confirmed members of our church. In every meeting, the participants are invited to discuss about a particular topic that is related to the Christian faith, and to share their own insights and stories that are related to the topic.

It is hoped that, at the end of the journey, the participants will take the next step and confirm their baptisms during our worship service.

### **Working Days**

My working days are on Sunday to Monday and Wednesday to Friday. During the week, I will be available to meet people in the church on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. It will be much appreciated if people can make an appointment beforehand if they wish to see me in those days.

My days-off are on Tuesday and Saturday.

### **Stewards**

A meeting for all the Stewards will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> May. The main purpose of the meeting is to refresh our Stewards about their duties on Sunday and to update the current list of duties that had been thoroughly prepared by Ed Kenny, the Chief Steward.

Occasionally, there has been uncertainty amongst the Stewards about what to do on Sunday. I hope the meeting can help lessening the confusion that occasionally occurs. The updated list will be visible accessible to all the stewards to refer to when they are on duty.

### **Easter Holy Week Services**

The Holy Week services for this year consisted of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

On Palm Sunday, some people brought palm branches to the church. The palms were later used in different parts of the worship service.

Maundy Thursday service was a candle-light service to commemorate Jesus' life from his birth to his death and resurrection. The Elders kindly prepared and arranged candles on top of a black fabric in a beautiful cross formation for the service. The songs were all from the Taize community, which is well known for their meditative and reflective style of worship. The service started late in the afternoon when there was still light and ended in the evening when it was dark.

Good Friday service continued Maundy Thursday theme by using the same candles used during the Maundy Thursday service. During the service, the Readers and Elders read different readings and prayers, reflecting on the events during Jesus' crucifixion and death. The women who attended the service were later invited to scatter dried leaves around the cross to commemorate Jesus' death. After the service ended, people were asked to leave the church in silence.

Easter Sunday service continued the Good Friday service. The cross, the whip, the nails, the crown of thorns, the purple fabric, and the dried leaves were all liturgically taken away by the Stewards from the worship area to symbolize the defeat of death by Jesus' resurrection. Before the service started, the Elders redecorated the worship area with Easter banners. Hot cross buns were later served in the hall during morning tea.

With love and grateful heart,

Rev. Toby Keva

**WILLETTON UNITING CHURCH**

**Income & Expenditure to 31 March 2024**

<b>Balance from 2023</b>		\$149,889		\$149,889
		<b>BUDGET 3 MONTHS 2024</b>	<b>3 MONTH ACTUAL 2024</b>	
<b>Income</b>				
Offerings		\$23,500	\$21,569	-8.22%
Facilities Use		\$1,625	\$1,097	-32.49%
Other		\$937	\$1,232	31.48%
Manse		\$8,450	\$9,480	12.19%
Sub Total		<u>\$26,062</u>	<u>\$33,378</u>	28.07%
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Ministry		\$27,785	\$27,615	-0.61%
Parish Operating		\$1,807	\$1,819	0.66%
Property		\$5,375	\$3,051	-43.24%
				-
Chaplaincy		\$500	\$0	100.00%
Mission & Service		\$1,275	\$1,260	-1.18%
Manse		\$2,992	\$7,403	147.43%
Sub Total		<u>\$39,734</u>	<u>\$41,148</u>	3.56%
<b>Net Operating Result</b>		-\$13,672		-\$7,770
<b>Operating Balance</b>		\$136,217		\$142,119
		\$0		\$0
<b>Balance at 31 March 2024</b>		\$136,217		\$142,119

**Equity Accounts for period to 31 March 2024**

	<b>Bal</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Exp</b>	<b>Balance</b>	
Transfer Accounts	\$1,300	\$2,023	\$3,323	\$0	
Group Accounts	\$1,727	\$270	\$154	\$1,843	
Other Accounts	\$2,902	\$1,845	\$1,051	\$3,696	
Fund Raising	\$10,333			\$10,333	
Sub Total					\$15,872
<b>Final Balance all accounts @ 31 March 2024</b>					\$157,991
Represented by					
Cheque Account		\$ 12,117			
Fixed Deposit				\$ 30,000	
Bonus Saver A/c				\$ 115,062	
GST owed by ATO				\$ 812	\$157,991

## **YouthCARE**

YouthCARE in our area supports Chaplains in our local high and primary schools.

As previously advised, the name of our local council is now the “Canning River South YouthCARE Council” as Lynwood High School has been included to add to the Willetton, Rossmoyne and Leeming High Schools. The council also covers the feeder primary schools to the 4 high schools.

Mr Choy Lee is the Area Chaplain. Choy a very busy man as he is required to plan, liase with the various school principals, supervise and support the chaplains and keep it all on an even keel. Very busy indeed. Our prayers in support of Choy will be valued.

Thank you to all those who purchased honey and sausages from our local Bunnings when YouthCare was running the sausage sizzle. We anticipate that these and other fundraisers will be repeated during the rest of 2024. Details and dates will be shown in our weekly newsletter.

Pauline and Bruce Read represent our congregation on the council and will be very happy to provide further info and answer any questions you may have regarding school chaplains in our area.

An organisation chart showing the names and faces of the chaplains in our area is available on the notice board in the church foyer.

Pauline and Bruce Read

## **NON-PERISHABLE GROCERIES FOR FREMANTLE**

We are very pleased to confirm that our congregation’s provision of Non-Perishable Groceries to St Pats in Fremantle has continued through the first half of 2024.

Our contributions to the homeless and needy in Fremantle are collected, sorted and distributed by the folks at St Pats on our behalf. The need does not diminish.

Thank you to those who consistently bring groceries to Worship each Sunday.

Many have told us how easy it is to forget to bring their gift each Sunday, so hopefully we can all install our thinking/memory caps each Sunday morning. Even the smallest item adds to the help we provide.

Again, we thank the Combined Probus Club of Leeming (Stan and Noreen Snook) for its continued support of our project.

Thanks to David, Annie and Jaiming Xu who each week help with the packing of bags ready for transporting to Fremantle. Thanks also to Christine Erskine who makes and stocks bathroom/cosmetic bags that are very valuable.

Your continued support is appreciated.

Fran, Pauline and Bruce



# MUSIC MINISTRY

## Outreach Concerts

### 1. Classical Piano Recitals

With the support of a piano teacher with advanced students, we have in the past been able to put on a low cost (admission by donation) one-hour concert after the morning tea following the 9.15 worship service; usually in mid-June. The attached photo of performers is from the 2021 concert.

If there will be support from the congregation for one of these classical concerts in 2024, I will contact the teacher to see if he has a number of students able to put together a one-hour concert for us. The best date would be either 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> June to avoid the long weekend and school holidays.

### 2. Variety Concerts

For parishioners who are not classical music devotees, the alternative (or in addition) would be to investigate the possibility of a “variety” concert, which would include voice (singers and poets) and instruments other than piano. Late July or August would be a good time to hold one. If anyone knows of someone talented in the alternative performance skills, please let me know.

Please indicate by show of hands whether there is support for

No 1,

No 2,

Both types.

Lyn Muir 0418 923 404

[muireal@aussieb.com.au](mailto:muireal@aussieb.com.au)

## NEWSLETTER

There is not much change in the Newsletter, we have a few people join the mailing list that have decided they don't want the newsletter anymore, and some new ones who are very welcome. Also, there are few people who have problems with the newsletter arriving not in the inbox but in their junk box. I hope that Eddie has sorted that out. I will be away from the end of June so Eddie will be taking over from 30 June till end of July. Before I leave, I'll change the mobile number and the email address to Eddie's. Eddie has done this before so it's nothing new to him.

Blessings,

Louise & Eddie.

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER. ECUMENICAL.**

The convener Jan Rose OAM called meetings on the 17/11/23, 9 / 2 /24 & 8 / 3 /24 for the Reps. from seven local churches, namely - St. Andrew's, - & Christ The King, ( Anglican ) Baptist, - St. John & St. Paul, & Queen of Apostles, ( Catholic). Seventh day Adventist, & the Uniting Church.

The service for this area was held at St. John & St. Paul Catholic Church in Willetton on Friday 1 / 3 / 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

The country of Palestine had been chosen for 2024 many months ago by the organizing committee. The War beginning in October, 2023 had caused great uncertainties for the committee & forthcoming planned services around the

world- but in due course a decision was made to go ahead as planned, and the service books as printed would remain.

The service had been written by an ecumenical group of Christian women of Palestine. They had prayed and worked together over the last four years to bring us the service, based on the theme ' I beg you...bear with one another in love,' taken from Ephesians chapter 4.

Each person was handed a small book to follow the service , which also included information pertaining to the country both historically and up to the present day. This year the service was low key due to the war in Palestine by the Hamas & Israeli. The service was conducted in the same format but without the flag, decorations, a guest speaker or a sermon. Music throughout was beautifully rendered by an accomplished musician, so helpful for the hymn singing , - & the Powerpoint presentation was excellent.

The collection has been handed to The Bible Society of Australia, for their careful distribution to projects within Palestine.

Our service was attended by Seventy (70) men and women, which included eight (8) from our church. Appreciation is extended to all, including Rev. Toby Keva who attended.

After the one hour service the congregation enjoyed morning tea and the ability to catch up with friends and meet new people from other churches. This being an ecumenical service, it enhances the community, & gives one opportunities for further understanding of other churches and their peoples. Friendships have been made.

As Jan Rose has said, ' there is always room for more committee members, men or women. ' All are welcome.

SHALOM ( In Palestine the women greet one another with the word 'SALAAM' which means ' Peace be with you ' )

M. Suann, - L. Burking, - and P. Muller.

## **FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE**

This year commenced on the 28th Jan. with a short meeting after church, regarding activities for our meetings throughout the year.

Meetings for February, March and April have been held.

At present there are fourteen members, and the attendance has been good.

Meetings always commence with Prayer. 'Thought For the Day' is presented by a member reading an inspiring item of her own choice. Each contribution is always interesting and meaningful. Birthdays have been recognised. So far our Activities have been board games and two quizzes.

A roster has been drawn up for 'Thought for the Day' and the 'A/noon teas.'

Louise Riedel is the Treasurer. Our last large donation was to Frontier Services in October, '23.

The Bring and Buy Trading Table, thoughtfully maintained by Christine. At the April meeting, it was decided to donate all the money received at the trading table towards toiletries for the homeless. Christine sews the material bags for these items to go in. Delivered with other goods to Fremantle.

Get Well cards have been sent to several people, plus a Sympathy card given to the Drage family on the day of the funeral of the late Noel Drage.

Similar to church morning teas, we have decided to have only biscuits for afternoon teas. On special occasions there would be 'extras'.

Many thanks to all for their contributions, fellowship and caring, - Dorothy who comes from Gosnells each month. Also the members are grateful for the use of the hall and kitchen on our selected days.

Anyone who would like to join us once a month is most welcome.

Phyllis Muller.