



Manningham Uniting Church

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

Monthly News from the Interim Church Council

December 2011 Issue 4

The First Manningham Uniting Church Budget

On Sunday December 11th, at our first meeting of the Manningham Uniting Church Congregation, we will be invited to adopt a budget for the 2012 calendar year. Over the past couple of months the Finance Committee and the Church Council have been working to bring the ministry, mission and operational priorities of our four former congregations together into one financial document. This has not been a straightforward task because each of us have, to some extent, managed our "households" differently. The priorities of each have been to a greater or lesser extent different so the task of reporting in this new budget has been a process of careful consideration and negotiation.

The budget as presented is an operational budget, a synthesis of the priorities of our former congregations. We have not had time to undertake the careful deliberations necessary to shape a budget which reflects the commitments we made to new mission and ministry priorities at the end of Stage Two. The complexity of the issues we need to address are very significant and our progress at times seems slow, although we

as a council feel we are beginning move ahead now.

Our task as a re-formed church is not simply one of changing the ways we do things but considering how we may bring about transformation in the form and nature of our church to meet the challenges of our time and our situation in the City of Manningham.

In order to begin the new year with congregational agreement for our financial priorities the council is seeking your support for the 2012 budget at the meeting on December 11th.

As this budget is essentially a centralising of the four individual 2011 budgets it has to be acknowledged that, at this stage, it lacks provision for the necessary transition management to put into effect the commitments of Stage Two. These include, amongst other things, the commitment to a central ministerial and administrative hub, training and education for the our church leaders as we learn and are equipped to reshape our life together and extra ministry support, a necessity in this time of significantly increased workload for all. Church Council will seek support from the congregation for these priorities in the new year. To date we have not had time to identify, agree upon, nor quantify all of

Manningham Uniting Church Monthly News

these tasks. This will be an undertaking in the next couple of months as appropriate consideration is given.

We hope you will be able to join us for the meeting on the **Sunday December 11th** and for a **BBQ to follow**. The meeting will be held at the church at **152 Andersons Creek Road, East Doncaster** and will commence at **12 midday**. Copies of the budget are available in your church foyer or can be obtained from **John Hyne on 8848 0998** or hyne@applewood.net.au. There will also be a budget information session following worship services on Sunday 4th December (for Westfield Drive between the two morning services)

Chew The Fat

Part of the cause of our slow progress is the sheer volume of deliberation council and other groups have to do on all sorts of issues. We often have to look at how things have been done in the past and then consider how we want to do them in the future. This is hard work.

Yet, while we are all eager to explore new possibilities together, these demanding meetings seem to preclude conversation that allows us to simply do a bit of wondering about the future together.

So a few of us thought that we would provide a regular opportunity to “chew the fat” – that great Australian practice of just passing time together and chatting about what comes up.

Some from the former Doncaster East congregation have been doing this of a Monday morning for a couple of years at a coffee shop at the Pines Shopping Centre. We’re extending the invitation to this event for you to join in if you want to.

Do you have an idea you would like to explore together with others? Is there a question you have about what our future might look like? Do you want to understand better what’s going on in this uncertain time? Do you want to get to know better the fellow worshippers of our God?

There are no wrong questions.

There are no irrelevant concerns.

There are no dumb new ideas.

It’s just a time for a chin wag!

When: each Monday from 9.30am till you need to go.

Where: The Coffee Club, The Pines Shopping Centre. (near Aldi)

Who will be there: you and at least one of the ministers.

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