

# WELCOME TO PENSHURST ANGLICAN CHURCH

August 16, 2020

## Nehemiah; “Out of the Ashes!”



Today:  
“The Power of Hope”



## Preaching program

### Current Sermon Series: **Nehemiah; “Out of the Ashes!”**

What’s the future hold for us? Can we rebuild our world out of the ashes of the Covid-19 pandemic? Can grief be a springboard to greater faith? These are some of the questions we will explore in this 12-week series of sermons.

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|-----------|---|------------------|
| August 16 | <b>“The Power of Hope”</b>                        | Nehemiah 2:11-18 |
| August 23 | <b>“Cooperation and corporate responsibility”</b> | Nehemiah 3:1-32  |
| August 30 | <b>“Change Can Stir Up Opposition”</b>            | Nehemiah 4:1-23  |

## AGM 2020

**Our 2020 AGM was finally held two Sundays ago, 2nd August, at 1pm!**

A group of around 30 people gathered in socially-distanced seating to vote on several issues. Two items of particular interest were discussed before they were voted on :

- The **2020 Budget** as proposed by Treasurer.
- The **Building Works** as proposed by the Building Sub-Committee. (An amended proposal asked that the Building Committee be allocated up to \$5,000 to get plans drawn up for the renovations and the installation of a new kitchen in Bart’s old office area.) Both of these items were approved by the meeting.

After that, **a new Parish Council** was voted in. They are:

- **Two Church Wardens** — Michael Lin and Hua (Nancy) Feng. Geoff Scrimmes was appointed the Rector’s Warden.
- **Three Parish Councillors** — Gaye Bishop, Marilyn Mayhew and Suzy Zhou.
- **Two Synod Representatives.**— Marilyn Mayhew and Marina Leung.

**Please give thanks to God for these new representatives who will serve our church community until the next AGM in March 2021!**

Give thanks, also, for **Jeff Powys** who, although no longer a Warden, will keep serving the Parish Council as Treasurer. Our thanks also goes to **Naomi Zrno** who served faithfully as a church Warden for several years.

## Parish Council Report

The new Parish Council met for the first time on Thursday night, over ZOOM. After approving the minutes of the AGM and the Treasurer’s report for July, we got to work on a fairly long agenda.

First, we agreed that the Building Committee would contact a draftsman to draw up a proposal for our kitchen area, as agreed at the AGM. From there, we can

get quotes from commercial suppliers, bringing these back for your consideration.

Next, we talked about the extra work that Pastor Tiny has been doing since Aisen's resignation. We have decided to renew Tiny's contract for another 12 months, plus an additional day a week for the next six months.

We are also considering paying another translator to help with the translation of Bart's sermons into Mandarin.

Finally, Bart has let us know his last Sunday with us will be December 20. We will be in discussions with the Bishop about a locum until our next rector is appointed.

**Would you like to know more?** Have something you'd like us to know? Talk to a Warden (Michael Lin, Hua Feng or Geoff Scrimmes), or to a Councillor (Gaye Bishop, Merilyn Mayhew or Suzy Zhou).

## Coming Back to Church!

**After an absence of over 4 months**, it is wonderful to be back together. So far, we have been getting around 25 people to each of the two services— 9:30am and 11am. Hopefully, that number will gradually build as people feel safer to venture out in public.

Both services are bi-lingual and average around **30 minutes** in length. Sitting in designated, socially-distanced seats, we listen to several reflective bi-lingual songs, repeat a bi-lingual responsive reading from the Psalms, spend time in silent and bi-lingual prayer, and share together in a Covid-safe form of Holy Communion. Despite these restrictions, the main idea is for us to experience face-to-face worship in community once again. And it has been beautiful!

(There is no sermon since the time needed for a sermon greatly increases the risk of transmission. Our sermons will continue to be offered online for now.)

Thanks again to Doris Chan who has set up an online '**booking platform**' on our church website. Thanks also to Michael Lin who is organising **volunteer 'door keepers'** who check temperatures upon entry and make sure our hands are sanitised. For extra safety, everyone also wore their own face mask.

At the end of each service, we use the **alcohol wipes** that were given at entry to wipe down the immediate area in which we were seated. We are also dismissed by seating sections so the doorways do not get crowded. During the time gap between services, a professional cleaner comes in to wipe down all the surfaces (door handles, handrails, sinks, etc.) with an alcohol-based disinfectant.

Although we are unable to allow any extended fellowship on the church grounds after the services, the time spent together in worship is a big comfort to all who are attending. **We hope to see you soon!**

## Please pray!

### **Pray for the selection of a new Rector**

Our Nominators tell us that they are proceeding at great speed to find a new rector for our church. Pray as they deliberate on this very important decision and interview the candidates.

Bart has informed the new Parish Council that his last Sunday at PAC will be on the 20th of December. If no rector is found by then, an interim locum will be appointed by the Parish Council.

### **Pray for the Mandarin-speaking Congregation**

Since the day that Aisen resigned, the Chinese congregation has been without a Minister. Our regional Bishop, Peter Lin, has suggested that we should employ someone temporarily, on a "causal contract" basis (that is, a contract that is reviewed every 3 months). This person would serve only as a locum to cover the interim period until a new Rector is appointed to replace Bart.

Peter added, however, that there is one problem: currently, no Chinese clergy are available to serve as locum, and it may be very difficult to get someone in the middle of the year.

### **Pray for our Missionaries**

**David Lakos**, senior chaplain at St. George Public Hospital in Kogarah.

**Elizabeth McDougall**, Special Religious Education (SRE) teacher at Penshurst Girls High School.

**Michael Duckett** at Macarthur Indigenous Church in Campbelltown.

The **two families in Asia** sharing Jesus' love and grace with their communities.

## PAC Online Banking

Since our church services have been cancelled until further notice, please give your offer-tory by direct debit using the banking details below:

**Westpac Bank, Mordiallo**  
**St Johns General Fund**  
**Account BSB: 032167**  
Account No: 870821