

# Chalmers

• PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH •

Report to Melbourne East Presbytery, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

From: David Assender, Interim Moderator

The congregation have been very appreciative of the preaching from Andrew Venn, Bagoes Seta, Kevin Childs, Nick Arundell, Phil Daffy and myself.

Nick and Joy Arundell won't be officially starting until February, but they have already been very active in getting a team together to start the new contemporary ministry. They want to start with 20 new members and we have 12 so far. The team are very musical and creative with different forms of media. They have met four times in the last eight weeks to pray, plan and prepare.

We shared a special moment last Sunday when Nick took the service and preached on covenant baptism and then I baptised their new daughter, Annabelle Mary Arundell.

A new manse has been purchased for almost the exact amount as in the plan we proposed to Presbytery. It is a five-year-old double story townhouse only 15min away from the church, more than adequately meeting the manse requirements. The church office and individuals required to be notified of these actions have received our communications. Our trustees and Board of Management handled this wonderfully. Nick and Joy are in the process of moving in this week.

We have moved \$600,000 into the sites reserve fund, interest of which will cover our income shortfall over the next five years.

The renovations have begun. The re-stumping of the church is complete. Almost all of the new equipment for the contemporary ministry will be installed by January to begin our evening services in February, when we have an influx of new university students beginning to move into the area. We've held a couple of working bees to shuffle furniture around and fill up a skip to prepare for the new works.

Both Nick, the congregation and Swinburne Christian Union are keen for Nick to work one day a week to support the student ministry at Swinburne, which will begin in March. We are also talking with some of the local schools about a relationship. As I think I mentioned in a previous report, our area has the highest concentration of private schools in Australia. With a little creativity, we could make some valuable connections with those families.

With everything else, as communicated to Presbytery in June this year, I'm encouraging Nick to have a more detailed plan for Presbytery perhaps by June or July next year. That is, of course, if the congregation agree to call him.

To the praise of His glorious grace.