



## ZOOMING ALPHA COURSES

### *Merri Creek Anglican*

Over the past month Merri Creek Anglican has been running both the Alpha introduction to Christianity course and the Alpha Marriage course. Participants meet on Zoom for the first part, and then the link to the Alpha video is posted in the chat. The introduction to Christianity course has been extended past the eight weeks so that participants can explore further topics. The marriage course has 25 couples participate including two non-church couples who are connected to Merri Creek via friends and the playgroups. Peter Carolane says that these evening courses work really well on Zoom – the marriage course in particular works because most of the course is done by the individual couple using the video and course materials. The course convenor, Revd. Rebecca Miller, stays available on Zoom throughout the night in case the couples need to ask questions or debrief.

- *The Reverend Peter Carolane*

## MAINTAINING IDENTITY

### *St Stephen's Greythorn*

With the first lockdown parish council put our focus on doing the basics well. We don't have the capacity or competence to stream services so we used the online services provided by others. We concentrated on keeping our church community together by using WhatsApp and Zoom for pastoral connection, mainly music, prayer gatherings and Bible studies. We encouraged parishioners to offer neighbours practical help via a simple card (using [www.canva.com](http://www.canva.com) to help with a professional look). Highlights include parish council focusing on growing prayer and dependence on God during this time, using Zoom for Youth discipleship groups, and people doing a free Ridley online course together.

With the second lockdown we started zoom services to maintain our identity as a worshipping community, encouraging our members to invite their friends to join us online. We're using excellent mp4 songs available by donation from [here](#). New initiatives include encouraging prayer partnerships and promoting [www.graphicfaith.org.au](http://www.graphicfaith.org.au) as we seek to make disciples for Christ.

We've been dependent on rental income for many years so Covid-19 has presented a financial crisis alongside the challenge of maintaining ministry. It's early days, but it seems to be working. I am encouraged that giving continues to meet budget and we're continuing to see most of our members engage.

- *The Reverend Rod Morris*



mainly  
music est. 1990

Monday 10.00am

Join us via this zoom link

Contact Fiona 0403 664 364

[www.ststeves.org.au](http://www.ststeves.org.au)





## Candles at curfew Lights of hope

The Archbishop is encouraging Victorians to light a candle each night at 8pm and place it into a window of their home as a sign of hope as the newly introduced curfew takes effect across greater Melbourne. *"Together we can spread the light as a sign of hope in these dark days."* **Click here** for more information to light hope in the community!

## EVEN WITH STAGE 4 RESTRICTIONS YOU WILL NOT BE FINED FOR LEAVING YOUR HOME TO ESCAPE FAMILY VIOLENCE

*You are allowed to leave your home at any time to escape family violence*

If you need to leave your home because you are unsafe, the curfew will not apply to you, and if you need to travel further than 5km to be safe, you will not be fined.

Help is still available.

Contact safe steps Family Violence Response Centre on 1800 015 188 or [msafesteps@safesteps.org.au](mailto:msafesteps@safesteps.org.au)

or use their webchat function between 9am - 9pm Monday to Friday by **clicking here**

In an emergency, call 000. For more information available **here**.

Please share this information with your Parish community.

If you have any questions, please contact Robyn Boosey,

Preventing Violence Against Women Program Manager on [rboosey@melbourneanglican.org.au](mailto:rboosey@melbourneanglican.org.au)



## VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE

*The Reverend Shane Hubner*

From 20 August to 22 November, The Reverend Shane Hubner will endeavour to walk a pilgrimage from his parish of St Peter's in Box Hill to each of the five Cathedrals of the Province. Obviously while in lockdown he can't do this for real so it will be a virtual pilgrimage. Rev'd Shane will walk 10km a day around his home & will plot his progress on a map as if walking around the Province. See the blog **here**. Total of 945km or about 95 days! This pilgrimage is also a fundraiser for the Whitehorse Community Centre, who assists the homeless. For details on where donations can be made please **email here**.



*Dear Colleagues*

***Most of us have never experienced our movements being restricted to this extent or requiring paperwork to justify exceptions. It feels very different. As I have been finding over these past weeks our praying our collects take on a new dimension – as with the Prayer for this Sunday:***

*Mighty God and ruler of all creation, give new strength to our faith, that we may recognise your presence even when all hope seems lost. Help us to face all trials with serenity as we walk with Christ through the stormy seas of life and come at the last to your eternal peace. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

***Be assured of my prayers during this time as we all continue to pray for our leaders and government, those providing essential services and for those in other countries less resourced to meet the challenges the pandemic presents or as with Lebanon suffering further crises.***

## WINTER ZOOM SERIES

*St Peter's Eastern Hill*

If you can't come to us, we will come to you with the launch of a new Zoom webinar, winter series. **Click here** for more details and to register for the first webinar with Prof. Dorothy Lee.

– *The Reverend Dr Hugh Kempster*

*Click here for this weeks' video message from the Archbishop*

*Please keep sending your stories to inspire...  
+Genieve*