# Leading at St. Stephen’s

**INFORMATION FOR NOMINATING FOR ANY CHURCH OFFICE**

**ST STEPHEN’S ANGLICAN CHURCH, WILLOUGHBY**

*It is both a privilege as well as a responsibility to be involved in any level of church leadership. If you are elected as a member of the Church Council, [[1]](#footnote-1) you will have a significant part to play in shaping the future direction of St. Stephen’s and so it is important to consider what will be required of you.*

**Before you sign the Nomination Form please read the following[[2]](#footnote-2):**

**Our Mission:**

*to make followers of Jesus Christ*

## Our Vision

*to become a church of which Jesus would be proud*

**Our Strategy**

*To plant a kingdom presence in every community*

CORE VALUES

1. Effective Teaching

We believe that the proclamation of the Word of God under the direction of the Spirit of God brings life-change. Effective biblical teaching informs the mind and challenges the will and is foundational to the task of making us more like Jesus and equipping us for the task of making followers of Jesus Christ.

*2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Colossians 3:16.*

1. Prayer

We believe that prayer is an expression of our dependence on God, who brings about his purposes in response to the prayers of his people.

*Ephesians 6:18; Matthew 6:5-13; 1Timothy 2:1-4; Philippians 4:6.*

1. Evangelism

We believe that lost people matter to God and so matter to us. We are therefore committed to reaching out with the gospel, locally, globally, individually and collectively.

*Matthew 18:14; Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 5:30-32; 15; 1 Peter 3:15-16.*

1. Leadership

We believe that the church should be led by men and women with leadership gifts, people who are committed to biblical values and living a godly life.

*Romans 12:8; Act 6:2-5; Nehemiah 1-2; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; 1 Peter 5:1-14; Hebrews 13:17.*

1. Meeting together

We believe that meeting together regularly for prayer, praise and worship and the building of relationships is necessary for our spiritual growth and is a priority for us.

*Acts 2:44-77; Colossians 3:16-17; Galatians 6:1-5*

1. Spiritual Growth

We believe that every Christian should be fully devoted to Christ and his cause, and that normal Christian living is joyfully to submit relationships, work, money, possessions, time and abilities to Christ’s rule.

*Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 2:6-7.*

1. Cultural Relevance

We believe that the church should be culturally relevant whilst remaining doctrinally pure. We therefore aim for “accessibility” in all we do. We are committed to a creative engagement with our culture.

*1 Corinthians 9:19-23; Acts 14:8-18; 17:16-31; 1 Corinthians 14:22-25.*

1. Generosity

***We believe*** *that we are to give generously, show mercy and live justly. Recognising that everything we have is entrusted to us by God, we are committed to sacrificially serving our neighbours by using our gifts and resources for the needs of others - especially the poor - and working for justice for the powerless.*

Deuteronomy 15:7-11 Luke 10:25-37; Deuteronomy 10:17-22; James 1:27; 1 Timothy 6:6-10; 1

John 3:16-20; Hebrews 13:5; 2 Corinthians 8:8-9; Acts 4:32-35; Micah 6:8.

1. Relationships

***We believe*** *the gospel creates a new community where we see different classes of people loving one another, people who could not have got along without the healing power of the gospel. Our relationships with one another should be modelled on Christ’s love and forgiveness of us. We are committed to integrity, transparency and accountability in all relationships.*

*Galatians 3:28-29; Romans 12:14-21; John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13; Matthew 6:14-15; Ephesians 4:32-5:2; Matthew 18:21-35.*

1. Community

We believe that the local church is an outpost of God’s kingdom. Therefore we are committed to an engagement with our community in all its diversity, working to bring transformation and renewal of both individual lives and neighbourhoods.

*Matthew 5:13-16; Jeremiah 29:4-7; John 17:15-18.*

1. Excellence

We believe that all we do must be honouring to God and that only our best is good enough for Him. We therefore commit ourselves to achieving the highest standards in all that we do.

*Colossians 3:17; Malachi 1:6-14; Proverbs 27:17; Philippians 1:9-11; 4:8.*

1. Equipping

***We believe*** *that we are called to serve God both in the church and in every area of life by, using our gifts and abilities. Therefore we are committed to encouraging and equipping Christians to serve Christ wholeheartedly and effectively.*

*1 Corinthians 12; 14; Ephesians 4:11-13.*

Leadership Values

Key Parish Council Leadership Dates for 2021

We hold a leadership planning day each year. This is an important time together as a leadership team. In 2020, the Planning Days will be held on Saturday 18 October. If you are on Parish Council, it is expected that you will make this meeting a priority.

**2021 Meeting Dates:**

Monday 29 March (Annual Congregational Meeting)

Monday 19 April

Monday 17 May

Monday 21 June

Monday 19 July

Monday 16 August

Monday 20 September

Saturday 16 October

Monday 15 November

As a member of the leadership team at St. Stephen’s Willoughby, I will:

1. **Lead a life committed to the Lord Jesus**

I recognize that this involves a whole-hearted commitment to growing in my relationship with Christ, and modelling that in every area of life.

I therefore take personal responsibility for developing my spiritual life; maintaining my own spiritual disciplines of Bible reading and prayer, and meeting regularly with the church family in worship and teaching from God’s word.

1. **Uphold the Doctrines and teachings of the Church**

I am committed to uphold the teachings and doctrine of St. Stephen’s.

1. **Model a whole-hearted commitment to the Church’s values and strategies**

I will show by personal example, my own commitment to the church’s values and strategies, recognizing that as a member of the leadership team I am called to lead by example, and that not to do so will be destructive to the work of the Kingdom at St. Stephen’s.

1. **Exercise a whole-hearted committed to the work of the team and its members**

I recognize that I am part of a team, and as such, I am called, not only to work with the other members of the team, but also to share in taking responsibility for my fellow team-members. I therefore commit myself to the other members of the team. I will seek to encourage and pray for them, and as I expect them to call me to account in maintaining these values, so I will do the same for them. I will also take every opportunity to thank and encourage other volunteers I work with.

1. **Maintain a positive, faith-oriented attitude**

I recognize the privilege of serving God at St. Stephen’s. Therefore, I undertake to do all I can to demonstrate a willing spirit. I believe that God has promised to supply all our needs for the work to which he has called us. I will therefore seek to show my own trust in God, and to display a Godly, infectious and enthusiastic attitude.

1. **Be honest and open in my relationships with my co-workers**

In my relationships with my co-workers, I will not allow conflict to go unaddressed, and I will not indulge in gossip. I will be open with my fellow-leaders, and where there is disagreement, or a spirit of “hurt” or resentment, I will deal with this at the earliest opportunity, taking Matthew 18:15 as my guide.

1. **Work wholeheartedly**

I will carry out all that I do in the knowledge that it is done for the Lord and his glory. Therefore, I will work hard and to the best of my gifts and abilities, aiming for the best in all I do.

1. **Pray Regularly**

*Without the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit, nothing will be achieved for God. Aware that we are utterly dependent upon him, I commit myself to pray regularly for the work, my co-workers and myself.*

**NOMINATION FORM FOR ANY CHURCH OFFICE**

**ST STEPHEN’S ANGLICAN CHURCH, WILLOUGHBY**

**In undertaking to stand for this position of leadership at St. Stephen’s, I confirm that I:**

* **have a living faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour**
* **am in good standing in the community and at home**
* **am committed to the aims of St. Stephen’s and its Key Values**
* **am committed to furthering the Lord’s work through St. Stephen’s**
* **believe I am appropriately gifted for the role**
* **will commit the time necessary to fulfil this role.[[3]](#footnote-3)**

**please detach the form below and return to the WArdens (MICHELLE CHASE, robert cooper or Allan Saxby) or the church office**

**✄………………………………………………………………………………………..**

*I am a member of the Anglican Church of Australia, I have been baptised, and I am not less than 18 years of age. I have usually during 3 months within the past 12 months attended divine service at St Stephen’s Church or as part of an associated congregation of that church. I do not claim to be a parishioner of any other church of the Anglican Church of Australia. I declare that I am not a prohibited person within the meaning of the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998.*

*I consent that the following information will be disclosed to the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) noting that certain details will be disclosed on their public website:*

*1. Information for ACNC and then their website - Family name, Given name, Date of birth, any other name known, position held*

*2. Information supplied to ACNC but not publicly disclosed - Residential address, business hours phone number, mobile phone number, email address*

**DECLARATION to be made by Nominee:**

I have read the notes on the ‘Election of Church Officers’ and am willing to be nominated for the position of …………………………………………………..

If you are nominated for council but not currently serving, please would you come to the Annual Congregational Meeting prepared to say something briefly about:

* + Your Christian experience
	+ What, (if any) are your current involvements at St. Stephen’s
	+ What you hope to contribute as a member of the council.

Having prayerfully considered the qualities which should be looked for in a Church Officer,

 **I/we nominate (name) ………………..………………..................................................................**

**in the forthcoming elections for the office of a (position):**

**.…………..……………………………………………………………………..**

**Signed …………………………………………..…Proposer**

**Signed ……………………………..………………Seconder**

**Dated this ……………………day of ……………………………. 2021.**

**Signed …………………………………..**

1. These comments are directed particularly to Wardens and council members but the principles also apply to nominators and synod reps as well. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. If you haven’t read the booklet ***“Reformission”,*** please get a copy from the Church Office [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)