



ST MICHAEL'S 2008

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ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH
120 COLLINS ST, MELBOURNE
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People of St Michael's when invited to be involved in some activity or task, have often said -
"It's a pleasure to do it."

In their own way, perhaps, they were reflecting the words of Rabindranath Tagore -

I slept and dreamt that life was joy,
I awoke and found that life was service,
I served, and behold, service was joy.

ST MICHAEL'S: A SHAFT OF LIGHT

The current phase of St Michael's enters its 38th year. Consistently, we have tried to bring together the two fascinating disciplines of religion and psychotherapy.

There have been people in both disciplines who have suffered. But our story has continued to touch thousands of people in stimulating and helpful and expansive ways.

From the beginning, we focussed on the vital common themes of religion and psychotherapy –

- development and growth
- coping and adapting
- recovery and resilience
- better relationships and better ageing
- the positive moods and emotions
- a happy, healthy, flourishing existence.

“No ‘man’ is an Island, entire of itself;
every ‘man’ is a piece of the Continent,
a part of the main”

(John Donne)

We each live in the context of our past, our present AND our future yearnings (and anxieties). We each live in a context of our culture and community, relying on each other and on the protective institutions of society.

St Michael's see the hypnotic power of violence, destruction and waste across cultures and deeply in religion. We have persistently proposed an alternative: A positive psychology and a positive religion that will have deep and significant effects on people -

- their health and well-being;
- their coping with life's crises and conflicts;
- their successful ageing;
- their enjoyment of the arts;
- their mind's expansive pursuit of life's many 'secrets' and mysteries.

In 2008, St Michael's relevance and uniqueness will be in the important benefits people will gain from its vital integration of psychology and religion.

We have a highly intelligent motivated congregation that will show what it means to be a supportive therapeutic community. And we have our established relationship with Cairnmillar, widely regarded as the pre-eminent place for counselling and psychotherapy.

Everything we will do in all of our programs will fall under this colourful umbrella where the two disciplines are working together.

All who are part of these two significant institutions have potential benefits unavailable anywhere else at this time.

Over 37 years, many good goals have been achieved. As we enter our 38th year, new goals await us.

In 2008, your enthusiasm is invited. You will be encouraged to benefit from this ministry to the mind and spirit,
to emotions and human behaviours
to health in its deepest personal and social contexts.

Our goals will be -
enhancement of the mind and spirit,
of health and well being,
and a better personal and global survival.

We have here the positive ingredients for a centre and community of psychology and religion.

A therapy of the mind, emotions and soul.

Deanery V will focus on this central cause

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING IN 2008 - DIFFERENT, BETTER.

With a new year, governments may roll-out their policies, companies may re-state their goals, and all of us in our own sphere of life may pause to consider what we can realistically expect, what is our fantasy of the future, and where we will spend our time and on what we will focus our energy and passion.

As you read this booklet on St Michael's, you may be thinking of it as one of the "extras" of your concern - just part of your "double life". But if St Michael's can give you a more positive perspective on life's conflicts and frustrations; if St Michael's can introduce you to a different group of intelligent searching enjoyable friendships; if St Michael's can open to you some great human concerns and causes; IF - then St Michael's will become a focus of your energy and passion.

One person said, "sixty minutes at St Michael's on Sunday mornings makes all the difference to my 60 waking hours through the week."

A UNIQUE PLACE

St Michael's has become a unique place in Melbourne. Sunday by Sunday it sees large congregations. At least 15,000 people visit St Michael's throughout the year. Its close links with Cairnmillar and the work of counselling and psychotherapy open us to a range of valued resources and helpful programs.

We estimate that about 3000 people regard themselves as "somehow" associated with St Michael's. In 2008, we would like that number to double. We want more people to recognize that a 2008 religion can be released from the negative, angry and irrational religion of the past. We have long been on the side of a life-enhancing positive religion - intelligent, challenging and celebrative. We fully endorse Edward de Bono's H+ Religion - a religion that embraces happiness, health, humour, hope, and more!

Taskforce: H+ Religion:

RESOURCES TO LIVE

Our search is for a religious philosophy that gives people resources to live and cope better with their life challenges - a religion that is positive, inclusive, liberating and therapeutic. It aims to bring contemporary psychology and practical theology into a meaningful conversation and by doing so, create important resources for health and well-being, for happiness and cross-cultural acceptance and growth, and ecological awareness.

St Michael's is about people. People live in the context of relationships, communities, culture, and nation. People are also necessarily deeply dependent on the resources of the Earth, and so St Michael's constantly reminds us all that we can do something to save Planet Earth from violence, destruction and waste.

Planet Earth: St Michael's:

THE CHURCH ITSELF

Of course St Michael's is also a building: a remarkable architectural treasure. All of Melbourne should take immense pride that it has this unique edifice in the heart of the city. Surprisingly, most of Melbourne's people have never stepped inside this building! Recently, we have completed its external restoration, and the gardens have been creatively remodelled by the Japanese garden landscaper Akira Takizawa.

THE CORE EVENT

St Michael's CORE EVENT is the Sunday Morning Service. Everything flows out from that core event. People travel sometimes great distance to be part of something different, affirming, uplifting, helpful.

Director of Music, Rhys Boak, and I plan to provide a high quality experience of words and music, of symbol and ritual, of past and future. We are always greatly supported by large teams of volunteers and by our excellent administration staff.

The Sunday morning CORE EVENT is a full-blown St Michael's event as some people start preparing the place at 7 am, and activities may go on until well into the afternoon.

For the Sunday Morning Service Rhys Boak has already planned an impressive spread of music for 2008 - soloists, instrumentalists, choirs. You will be informed of these in advance so that you can plan to bring

other people to hear some of Australia's very top musicians. All of them are very pleased to be invited to perform at St Michael's.

THE NEW FAITH

For my part, I will continue to engage you in the search for a New Faith. Many aspects of the 'old faith' have clearly lost appeal or are regarded as stark nonsense in the light of contemporary science and scholarly research.

I am particularly conscious of the many people who come to St Michael's in their times of anxiety and grief, their relationship convolutions, and their search for some new meaning to their life.

I hope more people will find their way here in such times; and I hope they will find their journey here will be rewarded by the help they receive: not only from me, but from the supportive and therapeutic community we have developed here at St Michael's.

A DELTA

In 2008, we will more clearly commit ourselves to become a wide DELTA of support, stimulation, and friendliness.

St Michael's has a wide reputation and the Internet will enhance this further in 2008. During the year, I shall go to Europe to respond to an invitation to present a series of addresses on the way capitalism erodes or enhances the human soul; the way our social values have affected the Australian ecology. This sounds quite a challenge, but I hope the whole of St Michael's community might see this as yet a further outreach and affirmation of our thematic approach.

OUR "BRAND"

St Michael's is for people, for the planet, for a Positive Revitalizing Religion, a Therapeutic energy for mind and soul.
All are vital for a New Faith.

WHAT'S NEW IN 2008?

1. The Delta -

The Delta of a River fans out at the mouth of a river, often like a triangle and thus like the Greek letter, delta Δ

Deltas have very fertile soil, enriching the land through which they flow. It is interesting to take your encyclopaedia and note the various deltas and how valuable they are to their people populations:

- the Mississippi Delta, the Nile Delta, Irrawaddy in Burma, the Mekong in Vietnam.

We see St Michael's programs, Sundays and weekdays, are like a Delta.

In 2008, we want more people to be enriched by the St Michael's Delta... to be swept along by the Flow... to "go with the Flow."

It is important that we FLOW into new ways of doing things - into better ways. So much of our behaviour and our thinking are locked in the past. The flow of the Delta carries us FORWARDS to do things better and help create a better humanity.

Edward de Bono wrote -

"But to do better you have to want to do better. The new millennium needs people who want to do better: Thinking has been, and will continue to be, the key for designing a better future... but only if we start to do it. A few people have started."

Yes, we have started. Look at what we are trying to do. Will you be one of our supporters?

You could join St Michael's, but you may be already "joined" elsewhere. So simply be one of our supporters.

That's NEW:

Just be a supporter.

And we will keep you informed on what this astonishing church is doing - as it goes through one renaissance after another, as it tries to do things BETTER - even "significantly better."

A WIDE DELTA OF SUPPORTERS

We invite people to show they will be a SUPPORTER
because of the causes we support;
because of our attempts to bring a positive practical religion
into everyone's thinking.
because we want to get beyond the divisiveness and violence of
negative religion;
because we can do better than quarrel over lines of scripture
written thousands of years ago.

We invite people to be our supporters whether they attend St Michael's or
not.

(It's like being a supporter of your football team. You pay a
membership fee as a supporter and you pay a gate fee every
time you attend).

TO BE A St Michael's Supporter -

1. Say "yes" to our good causes
2. Attend, when possible
3. Pay a Supporter's Contribution of \$100 a year, or according
to your circumstances.

Supporters Task Force:

WHAT'S NEW IN 2008?

We aim to do something helpful for –

FAMILIES OF BRAIN DAMAGED YOUNG PEOPLE.

These families carry heavy burdens, many emotions of grief, anger, despair, guilt, anxiety.

These families know the pain of a lost future, a lost relationship, a lost dream.

These families run into many “brick walls”

Is there anything we can do? Yes there is.

Become a supporter of a program for Families of Brain-damaged young people.

Committee/Team

We aim to help –

PEOPLE WHO FEEL THEIR GRIEF WILL LAST FOREVER

In 2008, we will hold a LIFE AFTER LOSS group.

It will be based on my book “Life after loss.”

People have said:

“It changed my life.” “It got me to begin again.”

Is there anything you can do? Yes there is.

Become a supporter of this program.

Committee/Team

We aim to help –

PEOPLE WHO KNOW UPS & DOWNS OF SELF WORTH

We will establish a group called

LADDERS TO SELF WORTH.

All of us go up and down the ladders of self confidence and self-worth.

All of us know there are times when self-confidence takes a battering.

Everyone is somewhere on the ladder of self worth.

Is there anything you can do? Yes there is.

You can be a supporter of this program.

Committee/Team

WHAT'S NEW IN 2008?

WE WILL HAVE "NEW SEARCHERS" GROUPS.

A few years ago, the Searchers were an infectious success. Many had people sitting in the corridors – they could not get in.

In 2008 we will hold "NEW SEARCHERS" groups:

- (i) After we jettison the "old faith" based on biblical literalism – what will "new faith" look like. The first searchers group will be –
Searching For The New Faith

Taskforce:

- (ii) The Damage to the Soul: Done by Capitalism and Militarism

Taskforce:

- (iii) We need a NEW MORAL COMPASS. The old one no longer holds much meaning.

Vladimir Putin said, "It is not possible today to have morality separated from religious values."

Listen to the Human Spirit – Expand Humanity's soul. Mikhail Gorbachev wrote: "Today our main job is to lift the individual spiritually, respecting his inner world, and giving him moral strength."

Taskforce:

- (iv) An enlightened Spirituality in our contemporary culture.
Julie Hall will run this group. Her previous searchers groups have been immensely successful and created wide interest. This group in 2008 will be a similarly stimulating and expansive experience. She will call it -

COSMIC CO-CREATORS: this evocative searchers group will link the multiple roads to an enlightened spirituality and our personal and global identity.

Julie Hall & Co

New Searchers Groups – What can you do?

Yes - you could give them your support. An intelligent New Faith needs more people to be less dogmatic or closed-in, and become New Searchers. Support this group by attending, by participating.

WHAT'S NEW IN 2008?

There will be FOUR highly relevant seminars –

Work and the Balance of the Whole Life.

Getting the Balance Right.

Spirituality and the Work Place: Who Cares?

Adam Jones & Co.

The World Parliament of Religions – to be held in Melbourne in 2009.

Committee

Science – The Fantastic discoveries and the appalling disasters.

Committee

Social behaviour, social values and self respect in a high-tech mobile phone society.

(See also Moral Compass)

Committee

ONE-DAY SEMINAR –

A Different Way To Do Your Counselling.

For Clergy and Pastoral Carers.

An introduction to the Cairnmillar Contextural Modular Therapy (CMT)

How this form of Counselling and Therapy transforms the way of helping people.

Committee/Team

JOINT VENTURES & COLLABORATION

We have had a long joint-venture and collaborative relationship with Cairnmillar.

In 2008, we will look for New Joint Ventures –

(a) For our SAGE program.

There are now several organisations doing positive work in the field of successful ageing. Perhaps they will collaborate with us. There are numerous bodies caring for the elderly. Our work with the psychological and emotional health of older people may be of interest to them.

Team

You can help by alerting these groups to our long engagement in this field.

- (b) For our Kindergarten Field Officers Program (K-FOG).
For nearly 20 years, this group has been active. These field officers are highly skilled people visiting over 250 Kindergartens – helping little kids (less than 5 years of age) with their emotional and behaviour problems.

Team

- (c) For our Interfaith programs.
We would like to attract Joint-Ventures to accelerate the growth of understanding between different Religious groups.

Taskforce

- (d) For our Music Program
We will seek to encourage closer collaboration with music groups, organisations and teaching institutions. St Michael's had proven to be a superb place for young people to gather valuable experience in their music presentation and performances.

Committee

- (e) The Grief Seminars
We will seek collaboration with funeral directors and any agency helping people with their bereavements.



The Website

More people now have a computer. Our new web-site will give a better picture of all the events of St Michael's. What's happening?

Go to the website – www.stmichaels.org.au

People around the world are tapping into our website.

Management

Your email address.

If you would like us to know you email address – tell us. It is another way of keeping in touch. And you don't have to throw out a lot of paper. You can just press a button to "Delete".

Team

Teams Co-ordinator

We will establish an upgraded way of welcoming people:

Even old friends when they visit your home, like to be told they are welcome. Everyone who comes to St Michael's makes a decision – "Today, we will go to St Michael's." When they arrive, even if they have come a hundred times before, they want to be told they are WELCOME.

We want them to feel –
THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO BE.

In addition to "old friends", we have many thousands of visitors every year –

(a) On Sunday mornings	1500
(b) Our week-day tours	3500
(c) The Weddings and the Christenings	6000
(d) The funerals	1000
(e) The concerts	1000
(f) The visitors to Mingary	1000
(g) Other events	1000
	<u>15,000</u>

We will form Welcome Teams on Sundays. Encourage them.
We will upgrade all of our brochures and publicity materials.

1. Each team will gather more grass-roots people to be in the Welcoming Team.
2. Each team will be thoroughly encouraged to recognize the importance of their task and mission -
 - a) To make positive contact with every visitor.
 - b) To realize every visitor could be a vital ambassador for St Michael's.
3. Each team will be proactive and creative without being intrusive.
4. Each team will be proactive before and after church and in the Halls.
 - Ie 20 minutes before service
 - 10 minutes after service
 - 30 minutes in the Halls
 - 60 minutes planned activity

Team Leaders		Teams
February	1. Heather Martin	Jeanette Noy Gwen Waters Richard Siegersma
March	2. Elizabeth Green	Graeme Adamson Liz Moss Bill Morgan
April	3. Max Telfer	Wilf Sawatzky Pamela Smart Bill Morgan
May	4. Russel Handasyde	Lyndell O'Brien Stuart Reid Ken May
June	5. Julie Hall	Bill Morgan Peter Kingsbury Wal Reid
July	6. Trish Stewart	Bill Morgan Ian Cox Margaret Smith
August	7. John Foster	Russell Watson Helen Hardham Laura Beckett
September	8. Trisha Lever	Catherine Cleghorn Mike Neville Simon McCall
October	9. Anne Wilson	Jim Roberts Wal Berryman Ian Smith
November	10. Pamela Blood	Joy Arnot Neil Blood Marilyn Cobain

WHAT'S NEW IN 2008?

1. The 2008 John Waters Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to Hande Aydin, a psychologist from Ankara, Turkey. She has been very positively commended by her professor in Turkey. Our current John Waters Scholar – Diana Frazzei from Romania – will complete her time with us in March. Please help both of these people feel that St Michael's is a good place.
2. Psychologist Lauren Stock, Dr Macnab's assistant with SAGE and the Mood Clinics has left us to return to her home town of Portland. Her position has been filled by Margaret Karafilowska who will begin work in February. Like Lauren Stock, she has been one of our interns, and is presently engaged in work for the Cairnmillar Master of Psychotherapy degree.
3. New psychology interns have already been recruited for the SAGE program 2008. They are Allie, Jovana, Nichola and Natasha.
4. They will work under the supervision of Dr Lynette Kramer, our Manager of Mingary.

We will have a 3-week visit from the Reverend Dr Steven Koski of Oregon, USA. We knew him first when he came here in 1986 as our Assistant Minister – straight from Divinity School in Chicago. He did outstanding work with us. He then went to Brougham Church, Adelaide, where he also established the Cairnmillar Institute Adelaide. For ten years it was a flourishing organisation. He returned to America to be Minister of a large suburban church in Chicago, and from there he went to Bend in the state of Oregon. He will be with us as Guest Preacher from May 4-18. He will also give three "week-night" seminars.

Committee/Taskforce

Weddings – What's new? In 2008 we will take steps to ensure that a wedding at St Michael's is very special. Now that the church building and the gardens are restored, we can see that more people will want to be married here. Our challenge is to ensure that when all the wedding guests walk into St Michael's, and walk out the doors, they will say, "This is a very special place. All of Melbourne should know about it."

A vigorous Wedding Committee may devise plans to keep in touch with these people, to ensure they know about significant events - Easter and Christmas and St Michael's Week.

Committee/Team

WHAT'S NEW IN 2008?

3. Visiting musicians of great note.
Yes we will have several of our earlier visitors re-visit –
Rosia Pasteur (Violin), Judith Dodsworth, Paul Hughes, Mark Skillington (Trumpet), Bonnie Smart (Cello).
We will also welcome back Jerzy Kozlowski (Bass Singer), Jeffrey Tozer (Piano), Amir Farid (Piano), and Julie Raines (The Harp). and there will be first appearances from Elizabeth Anderson (Harpsichord) and Sonja Lipschitz (Piano).
5. On June 15, we hope to have a full service involving a large group of French Horns – we are calling this a Fascicle of French Horns. On that day, we will do less singing. We will be part of a celebration of French Horns at worship!
This will be a FIRST EVER. Don't miss it!
6. CHOIRS – yes, once a month.
St Michael's Singers
Eltham East Primary School Choir
Berwick Youth Choir
7. For St Michael's week we hope Daniel Diestelkamp and his wife Dorothea (Germany) will be back with us again – their fourth visit.
And maybe there will be a FANDANGO in the Courtyard in St Michael's Week.
8. Visiting speakers –
 - We will have Rabbi Morgan of Temple Beth Israel
 - Professor Lindsay Falvey on Buddhism
 - A speaker on The World Parliament of Religions (to be held in Melbourne in 2009)
 - Tim Acton to speak on Travel. (Last year he gave over 60 talks on Travel as well as his weekly radio talks)

WHAT'S NEW IN 2008?

You probably wonder where your Sunday offerings go?

How are they used?

In 2008, each month will designate a specific cause –

March: Brain damaged young people: a family information and support program.

April: The Mood Clinic for Stroke Survivors

May: The Mood Clinic for Breast Cancer Survivors

WHAT'S NEW IN 2008?

We propose establishing a talent and interest bank of our members. There are many in St Michael's who would like to be engaged – but are never asked.

What are your talents? What are your interests? What could you give to St Michael's?

a little of your time?

say 'Yes' to being a "Supporter."

Committee/Taskforce

- i. The Bells will ring at 12 every Thursday and Friday.
- ii. There will be an organ recital at 1pm every Thursday.
- iii. Three conversations on Sunday mornings

Committee

- a. Tim Acton
The Pleasures of Travel for Older People.
- b. Two Poems
 - 1. W.H. Auden – "Funeral Blues"
 - 2. William Carlos Williams – "A Black Woman Carrying A Bunch Of Marigolds."
- c. Dr Macnab will talk with Steven Koski looking back over 20 yrs.

Q: What do you think?

We could offer TWO prizes in 2008 – each to the value of \$1000 with framed certificates.

- i. For bagpipes
- ii. Yodelling

By taking these two groups, St Michael's will reach out to the communities hitherto unknown to St Michael's.

We will interlace the judging with relevant poetry, stories, photography and displays.

Taskforce:

WHAT'S NEW IN 2008?

Q: What do you think?

In 2008 we could encourage–

- i. the development of a theology of beauty and creativity.
We will call for ideas and proposals to make a pioneering contribution to a cross-cultural appreciation of Beauty. Any interest will be encouraged.
- ii. the development of a wider interest in theology, imagination, and the arts.
- music, literature, poetry, architecture, mythology and art.
- iii. special attention might be given to specific poets and specific artists.

Taskforce:

WHAT'S THE SAME IN 2008

The SAGE program. For people 45-95 years of age. They are shocked to find how psychology can help them live happier, healthier lives.

It is all about H+ -

Health, happiness, hope, humour, help, habits, hardiness, high moments, strong hearts, new horizons, healing hurts, a better humanity.

This program is quite unique. For just on 20 years, St Michael's has been active in creating a more positive attitude to enjoyable successful intelligent ageing.

In 2008, we will explore different ways to get more people attending this program.

It is all about a sensible wisdom to everyone who wants to grow older. Maurice Chevalier, the French actor, back in 1970, said "I prefer old age to the alternative." (He lived 84 years.)

We assert that for people over 60, their psychological health, will be more important than their physical health; their emotional balance will be more important than their bank balance.

MORE IN 2008

1. The Mingary program has been an outstanding success over its six years. It has THREE parts.
 - (a) The Mingary Quiet Place in Russell Street
The new signs are in place
More people use Mingary as a place to PAUSE.
Be a supporter of Mingary. HOW?
By telling people about it.

It is a place for people who are tense and stressed;
for people who are grieving;
for people who have been through shocking tragedy and trauma.
The rocks, the water, the light, the wing of the dove are powerful symbols –
they touch us in the depths –
they turn us to the heights.
Tell people. Everyone who has been there says it is a SACRED place.
 - (b) The Counselling Service of Mingary –
There are at least ten trainee psychologists staffing the Counselling Service. They are supervised by an experienced registered psychologist – Dr Lynette Kramer. She has been manager of Mingary since it began.
 - (c) There are the Friday and Sunday seminars of Mingary
In 2008, they will follow the themes of -
THE HUMAN CONFIDENCE CYCLE
How confidence grows,
is lost,
develops again,
How your confidence affects EVERYTHING
CONFIDENCE in yourself
CONFIDENCE in other people
CONFIDENCE in a helpful, just society
CONFIDENCE in your belief system
CONFIDENCE in your systems of soothing, of reasoning, of hope, of faith.

IN 2008, WE WILL TRY AGAIN

We will try to introduce a high quality tapestry into St Michael's. Still hopeful – it might reflect a poem written by Dr Macnab for such an icon. The poem speaks to every traveller or visitor who enters the Church and approaches the tapestry. Whatever their background, or even the pains of their life-journey, the tapestry would challenge them to embrace all the exuberance and ebullience that Life can yet provide. It also would reflect a constant inclusive theme of all who have attended St Michael's – "all are accepted".

In spite of everything, we can become part of a "surge of exultation."

Taskforce

The tapestry greets the traveller.

Ah! Memories of so many places
Pause before this overflowing anticipation!
Tyrannous flatlands, myopic myth
Miniature loneliness
Ambiguous searching –
Pause before this complex invitation!

Evasive Source of Vitality
Here discloses exuberant streams
Of nascent life: Age's most expansive song.
All accepted in the surge of exultation
All marvellously embraced – in this –
Ebullient energy of celebrated Light.

A CELEBRATION AND COMMEMORATION IN 2008

2008 marks twenty years since the stained-glass windows were installed in the ground-floor of the Church. Sadly, Klaus Zimmer died at the end of 2007. He was the artist who created and installed this magnificent panorama of colour and story that will be an evocative adornment in St Michael's for generations.

In 2008, we will remember Klaus Zimmer, and we will celebrate his remarkable work.

ONGOING PROGRAMS 2008

Here - follows a list of our many ongoing programs.

As in previous years, people will be appointed to committees to ensure that these programs operate well.

We need to be clear about the objectives of each program;

We need to monitor the activities and progress regularly;

We need to be active to promote the programs;

We need to have a supporting process in place.

All the Committees are divided into FIVE Deaneries.

The committees will meet regularly with their Dean and Deputy Deans and report through that process.

When we take into account all the activities of St Michael's, there are over 80 committees.

The Five Deaneries are -

- A. Household
- B. Church Services
- C. Contact and Care
- D. Programs and People
- E. Bridges to the Mind and Spirit

1. ST MICHAEL'S - CMI CONNECTION

To provide ongoing support of key programs of concern to both St Michael's and Cairnmillar. To provide an Annual lunch to stimulate the awareness of these programs and invite you to be a 2008 supporter.

2. WEEK DAY TOURS

Provide visitors with information, points of historic and contemporary interest, encourage creative support.

3. PASTORAL CARE

Aims to provide a mantle of care over all who are members and all who consider they have an association with St Michael's.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS ALERT

This group provides information, invites action on matters of social justice and human-rights.

5. ST MICHAEL'S SAVES PLANET EARTH

Points to the many ways we can all do something to exercise our ecological concern and responsibilities.

6. GLOBAL CONCERNS

Conducts a regular stall to raise funds for local and international needs. Approximately \$13,000 raised in the year for Rotary Wheelchairs For Kids, Homeless People, Seeing Eye Dogs, Aussie Helpers, Causes in Bangladesh, Ghana, and the Royal Flying Doctor Services.

7. WEDDINGS

Providing displays at Wedding Expos.
Creating awareness of St Michael's.
Ensuring an outstanding Weddings Program.

8. CHILDREN

Providing care and enjoyment.
Awareness of St Michael's as a "good place".
Families assurance on Baptism Sundays.

9. BAPTISM

Baptisms take place usually on the second Sunday of each month. Regularly involves three or four families and their extended family and friends. Can we find ways to keep in touch with them?

10. WOMENSPACE

A program to highlight and study women's concerns, and the place of women in society.

11. MENSTALK

Men talking about men, the health of themselves and the world.

12. NEW HORIZONS

For friendship, discussions, doing things together.

13. LUNCH GROUP

After church each Sunday: a large group for discussion, friendship, enjoyment.

14. LIBRARY AND BOOKSHOP

Books for borrowing.
Books for purchase.

15. RECORDING OF SERVICES

A CD of Sunday addresses for purchase.
In 2008, videos will also be available for purchase.

16. MEET THE MINISTER

From time to time a specific morning tea is provided for people to meet the minister. This event is by invitation, so if you would like to come, please do not hesitate to let us know of your interest.

17. THE SECURITY TEAM

To provide a security network for the minister and congregation.

18. MUSIC

Joins with the Director of Music and the Minister in planning the Music programs and concerts.

19. POETRY GROUP

Dr Peter Kingsbury will continue his popular poetry readings and creative poetry writing. **YOU?**

20. MEDITATION


Marion Robertson will continue her highly valued meditation group after each church service.

21. TALKBACK

Ron Weiher and Clive Smith conduct a lively "talkback" on the Sunday morning address.

22. BOOK DISCUSSION

We have a long history of satisfying book discussion groups that meet in several homes across Melbourne.

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1. The opportunity to be engaged in an intelligent, informed and constructive way - to make a positive difference.

Many people say - We had a gut-full of old-time religion way back then. Today St Michael's says - Here is a New Time Religion that is highly relevant and practical. We take the negative out of religion and put something positive in its place.

Many people say - Religion is responsible for so much of the violence in the world. We want no part of it.

But Science is responsible for so much violence. Capitalism is responsible for so much violence. Like Religion, they will continue to be with us.

What can we do? We can do our part to make Religion, Science and Capitalism all work towards a better humanity.

2. St Michael's will open to you various strands of a 21st Century religion, often expressed in everyday secular terms -
 - helping you cope better with life;
 - helping you find better meaning in life;
 - helping you make contact with better friendships;
 - helping you feel better and BE better.
3. St Michael's will open you to inspirational resources -
 - the words and addresses
 - the music
 - the people
 - the programs
4. St Michael's in its close relationship with Cairnmillar. identifies you with a unique and widely acclaimed internationally recognized joint venture.

St Michael's is thus integrated with a pro-active therapeutic community - that emphasises professional caring, friendship, support and prevention, and creating pathways to health and well-being, social justice and humanitarian responsiveness in places around the world.

5. We have a strong social-justice/global concerns program. We are responsive to the calls of Amnesty International. We are strong supporters of medicines sans frontieres and many such causes.
6. On top of all these, St Michael's is a fantastic place for weddings. Expert-professional guidance from start to finish. Magnificent places for memorable photographs - on the steps, in the gardens, around the rocks.
7. You can help important causes contribute to a better world.
8. You can be part of discussions to develop a new moral compass in a global world.

WHAT CAN ANYONE EXPECT FROM ST MICHAEL'S?

1. A chance to live your life and cope better.
2. Important causes that help change the world.
3. An intelligent positive practical religion.
4. New Perspectives on current moral and social concerns.

People come -

Searching for a different more positive word;

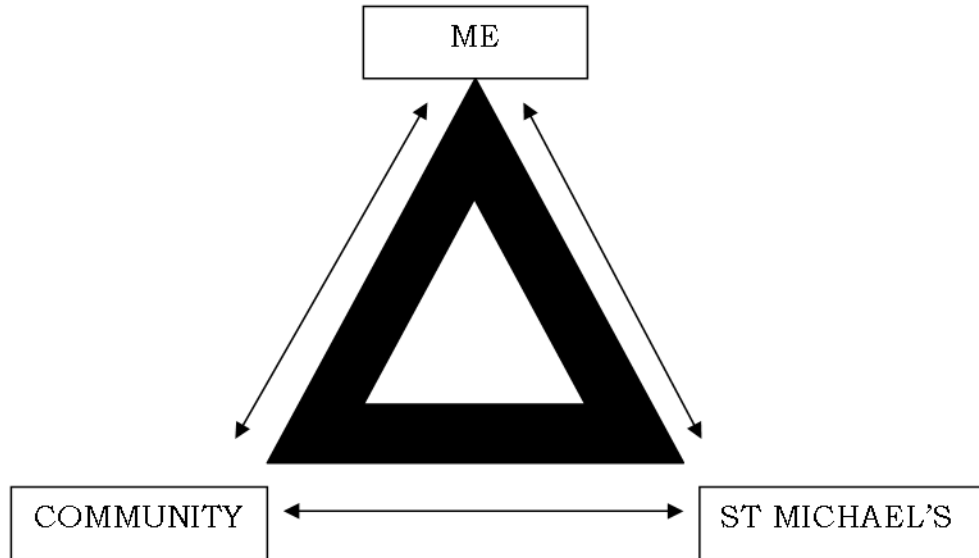
Hoping to find intelligent empathetic non-judgmental friendships;

Looking for a new religion, a new faith, a new meaning and purpose.

In 2008

There are six things you could do for the St Michael's Delta:

1. Simply be a supporter by -
 - saying, "yes I will support it"
 - giving encouragement
2. You could give a little bit of your time.
3. You could be a volunteer - just a couple of hours.
4. You could give your monetary support: \$100 a year
5. You could be a good presence about the place.
6. You could tell others about St Michael's.



IF YOU WILL BE A SUPPORTER, Tell us.
Your association with us is important.
If you will be a monetary supporter, simply write a cheque: \$100 per year!
Join us when you can or when you wish.



There is a huge gulf between the closed book position (it is all in the Bible) and the position that says - there are no settled ways. Recently Louise Bourgeois presented a radical art exhibition in the New Tate Gallery in London. What she said about art could be said about religion:

“What modern art means is that you have to keep finding new ways to express yourself, to express the problems, that there are no settled ways, no fixed approach. This is a painful situation, and modern art is about this painful situation of having no absolutely definite way of expressing yourself. This is why modern art will continue, because this condition remains, it is the modern human condition.”



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Disclaimer:

The programs and dates mentioned in this document are subject to change, according to circumstance.