

'THE WAY'



In Christ | With Christ | For Christ

Welcome to 'The Way'

The first edition of a new communication

'Behold I make all things new,' says the Lord. (*Revelation 21:5*) I find those words both exciting and comforting as we, like all churches coming out of the pandemic, take this opportunity to reflect, so that all we do from this point on is as our God wills.

We have seen God's purpose for us in our summer sermon series in Colossians. In that series we saw Paul's five marks of a healthy, happy and authentic church:

1. Rooted and established in Christ; Christ at the centre of all we do.
2. Growing in our knowledge of God.
3. Living as disciples of Jesus; individually modelling our lives after his.
4. Living as Jesus' family, the Body of Christ, corporately as brothers and sisters together.
5. Living with good news to share; living a Jesus-centred life in which we engage with the mission of God.

The function of this new communication, which we have chosen to call *The Way*, is to share with you how we will work to ensure all five of these marks are present. It will share what might be called 'the big picture stuff.' *The Grapevine* will continue to provide the weekly information.

Editions of *The Way* will come out as needed, informing you of the many exciting things that are going on at St. John's. So much has been happening, and I am aware that it is seldom mentioned, in writing or during our announcements after our morning services.

The Way will also be, we trust and pray, be an encouragement to you, so that as we walk the way together with Jesus, we might all flourish and grow and be made more and more in the likeness of his Son. We trust and pray, too, that as we walk together in loving, missional discipleship, our Church will be increasingly forged into the image of our Founder to the increase of His Kingdom and Glory of His Name.

With love, prayers and gratitude for you.

Richard