

Movement for Religious Renewal

The Christian Community



After many years of preparation to have a Christian Community church in Melbourne, in 1996 a small group of people managed, with the help of a very generous donation by Grace Heaney, and with the significant financial support of the International Foundation of The Christian Community in Germany, to raise enough funds to buy a disused 100-year-old weatherboard Anglican Church in need of repair, and to establish our Community. There were many working bees to paint and repair the building. Hartmut Borries was sent to us as our priest and regular Services commenced in December 1996

After a few years, and with increasing numbers of people being involved, we welcomed Lisa Devine as our additional priest. A building committee was formed, as the toilets in the backyard were very antiquated and leaked, the chapel had dark brown walls and uncomfortable pews, the side hallway needed widening and the kitchen was very small. There was no office and the only place to set up tables under cover was in the side hallway. Leading architect Greg Burgess was commissioned to design extensions and renovations to the building. The Community was invited to update meetings and a large group of people agreed that we should go ahead with the project. Loans (mainly interest free) from members and friends all around the world were raised, which meant we did not need a bank mortgage. After many trials and tribulations, in 2005 we were able to move from our temporary home in a Uniting Church hall into our now beautifully renovated buildings.

The Christian Community has been blessed with kind and heartfelt support since its early beginnings in Melbourne; it is because of the passion and great commitment of so many that we are here today. As you may know The Christian Community physically exists because of the financial support received from the Community. This support pays for all tangible expenses relating to the Community such as electricity, maintenance and most importantly our Communities' priests. This calendar year we are unable to meet these expenses as we have an operating deficit of approximately \$23,650. Our projection is that this deficit will unfortunately grow in the next few years if we are unable to address this shortfall now.

It is in response to The Christian Community's financial need that we have been motivated to launch our first Annual Appeal. Our intention is to give everyone an opportunity to respond in whichever way they can. You may already be one of the regular givers, or have donated to the church before, or simply have expressed an interest in The Christian Community. We ask that you consider either making a single donation or, if possible, making a commitment to contribute regularly. A commitment by you to contribute regularly allows us to more effectively plan our financial future.

We encourage you to share your thoughts about our Christian Community in Melbourne and have included below, along with a donation form, space for you to include your

The Christian Community in Australia, Melbourne Incorporated

319 Auburn Rd Hawthorn 3122. ABN 26 763 239 376. A0027951V

Veronika Plantener ph(03)9029 2769 e-mail veronika.plantener@googlemail.com

ideas. Your opinions and contributions are sincerely valued, and we hope that you will take some time to consider how best you can help to grow and develop our wonderful community in Melbourne.

With warmest regards

Debra Adamidis Matthew Bond Veronika Plantener Janice Vine

✂-----

Name....., Address.....

Yes, I would like to make a donation to The Christian Community in Melbourne

\$_____ \$50 \$25 \$100

Yes, I would like to make a monthly donation to The Christian Community in Melbourne

\$_____ * \$40 (\$10 per week) \$60 (\$15 per week) \$20 (\$5 per week)

I have enclosed my cheque payable to The Christian Community in Melbourne

I have arranged a direct deposit payable to:
The Christian Community in Australia, Melb. Inc
Westpac, Ivanhoe VIC Branch BSB 033 057 Account 134713
If depositing outside Australia, the additional SWIFT code is WPACAU2S

* 50 people giving \$40 per month = \$23650

Your thoughts and comments

Please return this form in the enclosed self addressed envelope