

Next Sunday sees a significant event in the current and future life of our parish, with the formal launch of the Covenant between St. Martin's Hawksburn and Christ Church, South Yarra. This will take place at the service of Choral Evensong at 6pm at Christ Church, and I do encourage as many people from here to attend. You will be aware that this document (reproduced below), has been drafted by the AMT committee over several months, and was agreed to by both Parish Councils at our respective March meetings.

A Covenant between Christ Church South Yarra and St Martin's Hawksburn

Our two parishes have a shared history and a geographic proximity. We share a common approach to many aspects of liturgy, ministry and mission and are committed to working together in the mission of Christ, by:

- not doing separately what we might do together, and
- doing together what we are less able to do separately.

With this aim we commit to do the following in support of our joint desire to achieve more together.

- We will pray for each other regularly.
- We will support each other with our presence and participation in:
 - the monthly Choral Evensong hosted at Christ Church South Yarra.
 - one another's significant worship services
 - the local ecumenical cycle of worship.
- We will build on the established pattern of shared seasonal Quiet Days and retreats.
- We will seek opportunities to reflect together on the scriptures and tradition.
- We will endeavour to meet the needs of children and families in our local area through the ministries of our two parishes.
- We will jointly support and alternately host an Annual Mission Dinner to aid the mission of the wider church.
- We will cooperate in providing an Emergency Food Relief program to those in need. It will be based at St. Martins, with Christ Church offering assistance through the services of volunteers and the provision of food collected by the parish and Christ Church Grammar School.
- We will develop ministry resources to extend the capabilities of our parishes in pastoral care and other ministries.
- We will plan our Parish Calendars so as not to clash with each other's special events as far as possible.
- We will consult and collaborate on matters of administration and compliance to reduce costs and improve efficiency.
- We will meet together regularly to explore our respective strengths, weaknesses, gifts and needs. We will remain open to ways in which we can co-operate in God's mission and further the purposes of God's Kingdom in the world.

May George Augustus Selwyn, and all the Saints walk with you this joyful Eastertide... *Sam*