



Vine Evangelical Church
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Dear All,

With any change there comes a mixture of emotions, fear and hopes. For a follower of Jesus and part of a local church means that change is part of the journey. In this time of transition for VEC we trust the unchanging and faithful God to lead us and resource us (James 1:17). We want there to be good communication and for everyone to be aware of how we are functioning as a church to ensure continuity as well as outline what you can do to make a real difference during the period of change. This is an attempt to help with those desires:

1. Update from the SLT:

- Simon's last Sunday preaching as Pastor will be Sunday 1st September. He will leave his role in early August.
- Moderator – David McLachlan. He has recently left his post as minister of Dormansland Baptist Church. Currently he is on sabbatical and will be starting a new role lecturing at Spurgeon's College from the autumn. David will work alongside the church in the search for a new leader from October 2013. He will preach around twice a month, co-lead some Church family meetings, and be involved in meetings with the search committee. He will not be leading services or be involved in pastoral work.
- Preachers. We will be inviting a number of visiting preachers to come and share with us. If you would like to suggest people to preach please see one of the leaders. We also expect to use and develop individuals within VEC who have the appropriate gifts.
- Communication: We will be giving more regular feedback to you as church mainly through more regular Church Family Meetings.

2. A reminder of the shape

Strategic leadership team (SLT) – Consists of elders and other leaders set apart by the church who are responsible under God for the vision, values and spiritual direction of the church.

Coordinators – these are individuals appointed by the SLT to oversee and lead the various areas of ministry within the church. These are the people you should go to if you have any issues or questions in the area they oversee.

- Administration – Guy Knight
- Serving and Gifts – Sally Stiven
- Worship – Daniel Cole
- Young People – David Garrett (Holly Byles from 2014)
- Children (tbc)
- Discipleship and Care (Joyce Dungan)
- Mission and Outreach (currently vacant)

Teams – Many of you will be in specific teams that come under the umbrella of a coordinator, such as a VECTors leader in Children, Discipleship group leaders in Discipleship and Care, Welcome rota in Administration, Focus group leaders in Mission and Outreach. We encourage every person who comes to VEC to serve as part of one of the teams please speak to Sally Stiven as serving and gifts coordinator to find out more.

3. What you can do that will help:

During this time of transition, there will be people in the church who will be taking on more responsibilities, there are a number of simple things that each of us can do to help:

- **Be praying:** As part of your walk with God, with prayer partners, triplets and in small groups and as a whole church when you are asked to gather together. Pray for the person God is preparing and calling to be our new leader. Pray for the church in this time. Pray for those who may be most affected by this change. Pray for the opportunity ahead. Pray for protection.
- **Be regular:** It helps if you can regularly be receiving and giving on a Sunday and supporting any small group you are part of.
- **Be responsible:** If you are serving, be conscientious, be aware of finding someone to cover if you can't do something.
- **Be responsive:** If there is a request, a question or a need communicated to the church, it really helps if you could respond quickly if possible as chasing people up can be very time consuming.
- **Be practical:** Are you aware that a number of people can't get to church (or groups or other activities) without a lift? When you come to church do you sometimes have spaces in your car? Could you help to meet that need?
- **Be welcoming:** Look out for visitors on a Sunday, welcome any visiting speakers and their families. Be looking out for and contacting those in the church family that you might not have seen around recently.
- **Be asking:** God how can you use me in this time? How do you want me to grow in this time?
- **Be giving:** Be giving with your time in the same way as God expects us to give of our finances.