



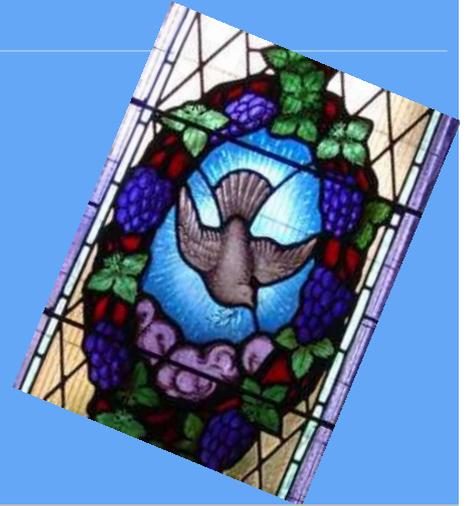
COSE Newsletter

Church of Spiritual Enlightenment

A.B.N. 30 712 108 371

Minister: Rev. David Finlay

April 2018



Reflections from the Minister

Trust in Spirit! That's a big ask! For many reasons each of us like to be in control of our destiny. Perhaps it is a result of the free will we all have been blessed with but more likely it is the fear of failure and the resultant embarrassment and loss of face we perceive we will suffer in the eyes of our contemporaries.

I have found through experience that when we trust in spirit without any fore-thought or pre-determined outcome then the progress to conclusion is smooth, pleasant and effortless. When the ego steps in wanting us to take control, plan the route and eventually arrive at the required result or destination then the road is often rocky, torturous and the outcome somewhat less than that desired and may often end in tears.

Those in Spirit, our spirit guides and inspirers and even passed over family members have our wellbeing at heart. They want us to be happy. They want us to succeed. It is our stubbornness at not 'letting go' that gets us into trouble.

Perception too is a funny thing. Because a person is a doctor or an accountant or a lawyer or a minister of religion they are deemed to 'know it all' in the broad field of their chosen profession. This is not the case. That is why there are specialists in sub areas of each profession. In my day to day life I am constantly reminded of this.

In my role as Minister of the Church and facilitator from time to time I re-read and revise topics I thought I knew intimately and every time some forgotten facts arise. Then when I thought I had it all mastered from left field something new emerges. I'm sure that many of you can relate to that in several aspects of your life. From a spiritual perspective our journey never ends, even when we think we know it all.

Enjoy the journey!

Rev. David Finlay

UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year for COSE has started off with many changes. We have recently made a hire agreement with the Williamstown Musical and Theatre Company (WMTC) to use the John St Hall for their rehearsals.

Our Hall has been sitting idle for many years only being used a few times a year for our monthly Readings Day and occasional Trivia nights.

We have had a lot of accumulated junk, probably from the 1980's left on the stage in the hall, from the days when the hall was used as a Kindergarten. Now everything has been cleared out, and its appearance and energy has a new life to it. If you walk into the Hall now, you can feel the difference, it's very uplifting and inviting.

COSE has also employed a painter to give the exterior of the Church a much needed paint, which is almost complete. By Easter the previously tired and faded weatherboards of the Church will be refreshed and uplifted.

The changes that have occurred have been no small feat. Particularly when our funds have been so minimal and we simply couldn't afford the painting nor come up with any plans to how we could promote the hall.

It took quite a lot of running around, phone calls, enquiries, interviews, quotes, even involvement with a government initiative "Work for the Dole", to create the work as a project. Unfortunately every effort made turned fruitless, and we were often left feeling despondent as to whether we would ever get the Church painted or the Hall hired out.

Although we were hitting brick walls, we shifted gears with the attitude of "Never Giving Up", and to remain optimistic and to hold a positive attitude. Helen Riddle and myself, turned our intentions and thoughts to the Cosmic, and began to work with the "Law of Manifesting". Together, we would create Sacred Space and visualise our requests and project them to the Cosmic. In manifesting, if you hold any doubt or uncertainty, it's highly likely that the request will not manifest. But with COSE, uncertainty holds no place. We have a beautiful little Church that was founded in love, all our Lightworkers have a dedicated heart and work with love, with everything the Church has to offer and everything it stands for is Love. So with purity of heart and with the deepest respect, we put our petitions to the Cosmic.

I received a Vision of the Church being newly painted. I had no idea, when or how, for all I knew, this could occur 10 years down the track. But with confidence and faith and to "Let it Be Gods Will", I simply trusted in the Divine, that all would fall into place as it is meant to.

In the turning of events, our painter simply found his way to COSE. He happened to attend one of our workshops, and felt a strong connection and warmth with COSE. He noticed that the Church was in need of a paint job, and as a painter he offered to paint the Church for a price that we could afford.

Marcus, the President of Williamstown Musical Theatre Company, also came to us unexpectedly. I had made an enquiry over the phone to how I may have information to what I need to do to hire out our back hall. As it happened to be, Marcus was currently on the lookout for a space for the Theatre Company. Everything fell into place beautifully.

Not only did our manifestations and prayers become a reality, the ripple effect is still coming in waves. Currently Marcus is creating a new website for COSE, and also sharing helpful and resourceful ideas, as well as guidance on how we can promote our little Church.

As it stands, COSE is moving towards some wonderful changes. Creative changes, new possibilities and also the opportunity to put ourselves "Out there", so more people will know about us.

Everyone's contribution helps. If you have ideas or are interested in Voluntary Work or becoming a Light Worker. We cannot continue without everyone's input, our wonderful volunteers, donations, and of course our members and spiritual community.

Keep your Love and Prayers flowing and growing for COSE. Together, we will not only build our Spiritual Community but continue to keep it flourishing for the Good of All!

In Peace, Light and Love,

Barbara Witcombe

President and Assistant Minister

COSE – THE FINANCIAL FACTS

From the Minister downwards all at COSE who share of their gifts of Spirit are volunteers. No one at COSE receives payment for services rendered at COSE. All monies donated or earned through Church Fund Raising activities go toward meeting the running costs of the Church.

Some light workers travel a considerable distance to be of service to COSE. They all meet their own travelling expenses e.g. petrol. In addition some light workers apart from monetary contributions donated to the Church through common means e.g. Sunday Love

Offering also to frequently purchase items for communal Church use or maintenance without seeking reimbursement.

COSE in Spiritual Church circles is one of very few churches blessed with owning their own premises. Most have to rely on rented halls and community centres. Thus we are totally responsible for maintenance and upkeep of our beloved Church as well as meeting the running costs e.g. Utilities – Electricity, Water, Gas and other similar expenses. In this respect we stand alone. There is no senior governing authority we are able to call upon for financial help. We have to totally generate all of our own financial resources.

In recent years the average cost of keeping the doors of COSE open is around \$14,000.00 Per Annum. At the same time most years our income from all sources generally falls just short of our expenditure. Thus we eat into our meagre financial reserves. These have accumulated from a few anonymous generous donations to the Church coffers and primarily from a legacy left to the Church by Evan McLeod.

One of the major problems we have is that most of our committed members are in their senior years. It is not safe for them to be climbing ladders nor to be working alone at the

Church. Nor do we have a lot of self-help resources. Thus as a rule we must employ contractors for cleaning, maintenance and other chores required to maintain our Church.

Recently we have commissioned a repaint and minor repairs to the exterior of the Church building. This has been a \$7,500.00 expense to the Church. The Minister and Committee are extremely grateful to Sherron Millson for her \$1,000.00 donation toward the cost of this painting. We have recently been informed that the Church air-conditioners are so old parts are no longer available and they can no longer be serviced. Replacement of these we are informed will be around \$20,000. This is money we simply don't have. And so on it goes. An objective glance around the Church will reveal just how much work needs to be done to maintain what we have.

It is disappointing the COSE community's lethargy in contributing to fund raising initiatives. A lot of time and effort is involved in creating these initiatives for little return. Fund raising generates more than half of the Church's income and without it the doors of COSE would have closed some years ago due to the inability to meet financial commitments.

Everyone who attends COSE is here for their own much varied and personal reasons. COSE through its energy and the energy of the light workers is giving in its own way to the well-being of the individual and in a broader sense the community. To sustain this energy you are urged to give back in some way and in grateful appreciation for all that COSE has brought to you. Give back to support your Church. Contribute generously to the fund raising activities. Do your bit to ensure our doors can remain open for the benefit of current members and also for those following in our footsteps.

VOLUNTEERS

A borrowed a mission statement from the Melton Christian Spiritualist Church which is also applicable to COSE. Adapted it would state that COSE is a Christian Spiritualist Church of the People, for the People. As our only income is by donation we have no resources to pay for professional services so we must rely heavily on the Church members to perform the day to day mundane tasks to keep the Church functioning. We all benefit from the efforts of the volunteers performing minor maintenance tasks, attending to the garden and Church surrounds, afternoon tea catering and clean-up and the many other mundane physical chores performed by the members apart from their spiritual duties on the platform or as healers. Thanks to all of these unsung heroes. Many hands make light work so that we can all relax and enjoy the energy and fellowship at COSE.

If you see something that needs attention at the Church feel free to just jump in and perform the task rather than waiting to be asked

REFLECTION

Spiritualism is a metaphysical belief that the world is made up of at least two fundamentals – matter and Spirit.

Religion is defined as a belief in God or Gods to be worshipped, usually expressed in conduct and ritual – often involving a code of ethics.

The question one needs to ask oneself is:

- (a) Why do I attend a Spiritualist Church rather than a 'mainstream' Church?
- (b) What is it that I expect from a Spiritualist Church

Many people turn to religion in comfort or crisis – looking for understanding, seeking absolution?? Spirituality gives the individual autonomy whereas religion implies participation in a communal practice.

There are many different forms of religious and spiritual practices it is easy to become confused. Ultimately each one of us needs to find our own way of being. Society has laws in place to protect people from the greedy and corrupt. Within society we also have many and varied cultural beliefs. All are open to interpretation. We may not agree with all but we can take the best of each and work towards the betterment of the Self.

As a reminder below are the seven Principles of Spiritualism:

1. The Fatherhood of God.
2. The Brotherhood of Man.
3. The Communion of Spirits and the Ministry of Angels.
4. The continuous existence of the Human soul.
5. Personal responsibility.
6. Compensation and retribution hereafter for all good and evil deeds done on earth.
7. Eternal progress open to every Human soul.

The Spiritualist Church is always looking for ways to move forward with the changing times. For this reason there is a suggestion box at the Church looking for 'input' from the people attending. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas on what workshops you would like to see/participate in.

Love and Light, *Helena Finlay*

COSE EXECUTIVE

At the Annual General Meeting the Minister announced the appointment of Barbara Witcombe as the new President of COSE. Helen Riddle was appointed Vice President.

The role of Secretary/Treasurer at this time remains vacant these tasks currently being undertaken jointly by the President and the Minister, Rev. David Finlay.

Also at the AGM, Beverly McNab nominated for and filled a vacancy on the Committee as an Ordinary Member.

Barbara Skelly who has worked for many years in a number of roles in the COSE community has retired from active participation as a Lightworker.

SPIRITUAL NAMING CEREMONY

At some time before the ceremony the Minister sits in meditation to receive from the Divine the name of a Soul from the Bible and this is the Spiritual Name given to the person to be named.

This name is representative that the trials and tribulations experienced while on earth of the named Biblical person will be much the same as the person to be named or that the spiritual growth of the Biblical person can also be in the grasp of the person being named if they work diligently towards spiritual growth. The spiritual name also has a spiritual meaning.

Several COSE members have recently expressed a desire to be given a Spiritual Name. It is planned to conduct a naming ceremony on **Sunday, 13th. May**, during the normal Sunday church service.

Those wanting to participate in this ritual and receive a spiritual name should prior to **Tuesday, 1st. May** advise the Minister and provide their full current legal name and date of birth.

FROM THE PEN OF SUE KING

Hi All,

We are well into 2018. Hope everyone had a lovely Christmas. We've already had two Readings Days doing well again.

We had our first Trivia Night on 24th March. Not so well. We would like to see more of our Members come along and support our fund raisers please!

On the 23rd March our Easter Raffle was drawn.

1st. Prize – Rosalia Galea

2nd. Prize – Le Than

3rd. Prize – Fiona.

Church Services are going well.

Don't forget that from January to in November, the last Sunday of the month, Victoria Inn, corner Douglas Parade and Stevedore Street 5.30pm always an enjoyable social evening. Lovely food and good company. Come and join us!

A big thankyou to all our light workers and their families for their ongoing support. Without it we would find it hard. We appreciate all who help in any way.

Thanks too to our Members who recycle gifts and goods to be sold in our shop. Please do not bring in electrical goods unless brand new or recently been tagged and tested. We are not allowed legally to sell them in our shop.

Don't forget if you should want an extended reading we have reading days on the 3rd. Saturday of the month from February to November. We have Spiritual, Tarot and Angel Card etc. readings.

Congratulations to Barbara Witcombe our Assistant minister on being appointed President of COSE and Helen Riddle on being appointed Vice President at our A.G.M. on the 24th February.

Yours,

SUE-Rae King

Committee Member/Fund Raising Facilitator.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I've taken a vow of poverty. To test me, please send money.

Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?

My life has a superb cast, but I can't figure out the plot.

I used to be indecisive; now I'm not sure.

No sense being pessimistic. It wouldn't work anyway.

I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.

Consciousness: that annoying time between naps.

If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?

Always try to be modest, and be proud of it!

Atheism is a non-prophet organisation.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

Paddy sat in his car in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up to heaven he said, "Lord take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of me life and give up me Irish Whiskey". Miraculously, a parking place appeared. Paddy looked up again and said, "Never mind, I found one."

REMEMBER – THERE ARE NO STRANGERS AT COSE

Only friends we have not met before...All are welcome at any event held at COSE



Church of Spiritual Enlightenment

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Member: No

Name:

Address:

..... Post Code

Contact Details: Home

Mobil

Email

Would you like to receive emails

Yes

No

Date of Birth:

Emergency Contacts:

Name:

Phone No :

Relationship:

Members Signature:

Due to the Privacy Act this information will remain Confidential

The COSE Shop



The COSE Shop has a range of items for sale at very reasonable prices.

Please see Sue or Roza who will be more than happy to assist you

DISCLAIMER

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