



# THE BOOK CLUB

A post-COVID19 Fresh Expression of Church



# What COVID19 taught us.

01

Video is a perfectly adequate way of interacting with people. In fact, video forces you to be economical with words and present a concise message

02

People can meet virtually. COVID19 taught us that you can have meaningful contact and community via the Internet.

03

Being forced online meant that the church cast the net much wider. More people started checking out what we were doing online.



# QC

Quality Control. One of the challenges of Fresh Expressions of Church is quality control of doctrine...who is teaching people what? By returning the main content to clergy and recognised lay leaders, and delivering it by video, the church can ensure that the messaging to people is correct.



# Collaboration & Ownership

Utilising a pool of clergy and recognised lay people to develop the main content for The Book Club, collaboration between local churches is automatically established. The joint developers of the content then also become the champions for The Book Club locally, through their own church communities, and through their own Social Media Presence.



# The Bible does the 'heavy lifting.'

Based on the Gospel and/or Epistle Revised  
Common Lectionary readings for the week, the  
Bible itself is the primary way that people engage.

The name "The Book Club," not only provides a  
simple frame of reference for non-churched  
people, but plays on the idea of the Bible being the  
"Good Book."







**The bar for leadership  
is low...you need to be  
able to press play**





**Food and  
hospitality  
are  
important.**





# **A variety of settings... time and place**

The Book Club works in a cafe...in a restaurant...in someone's home...in a place of worship...virtually on the Internet. A variety of delivery options allows it to work best in any given context...and on any day or time.



# Word and Sacrament

## Challenge

A problem for some Fresh Expressions of church is how to integrate the sacramental practices of the church, particularly if they are lay-led.

## An idea

By involving clergy and recognised lay leaders, the option of integrating sacramental practices is overcome.

## A solution

If The Book Club meets weekly, it is a low commitment of time for a clergy-person to visit once a month, join in the discussion and administer the Eucharist...in a cafe, home or online...or on a particular Sunday.





# Growth

The Book Club is scalable. It is easy to duplicate and start new groups. For instance, as a group gets too big to meet in its current venue, it is simple to divide it and start again. A leader just needs to know how to press play.

A local church can grow its presence in the community, outside of Sunday morning, and offer people the opportunity to engage in Sunday worship and the sacraments.



# Zero Cost







# The Book Club costs \$0.00

The idea of giving can be introduced in an entirely different way. For instance, a particular group that meets in a cafe, may decide to collect an offering to help pay for members who are not in a position to purchase coffee or a meal. The group may adopt a local cause or charity to support, or even to buy a Christmas gift for the owners of the cafe they meet in regularly.





# **COVID19 taught us contact tracing (pastoral care)**

COVID19 taught us the importance of collecting people's contact information. This provides us with the opportunity to proactively stay in touch with people, and to offer them pastoral care and support.



# Professional pastoral care is available when you need it

The bar for leadership may be low....you just need to be able to press play...but that doesn't mean that a group leader is left on their own in a more complex pastoral care situation. By involving clergy and lay leaders, access to skilled help is always available.







**Hello.  
Video.  
S.O.A.P.  
Discussion.  
Prayer.**





# What the heck is SOAP?

SOAP is an acronym for "Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer." If we want the Bible to do the heavy lifting then this framework is a great one to engage with. The Scripture is presented by video, the group can then individually and as a group talk about what they observe. The focus of The Book Club is application...How can we live this? What does this mean for us? And then a simple prayer can be constructed and/or contributed to by the group.



# Get Involved Today.

## Clergy

Can you commit to a 10 minute reflection of the Lectionary readings a couple of times a year? You don't need to be a tech wizard...we will help you with that.

## Group Leader

Do you like people? Can you press play? Are you comfortable getting a group together by phone or social media?

## Participant

Are you interested in being part of a group like this? Do you have friends or family who would come with you to The Book Club?





# Contact

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## Moreton Rivers Presbytery

Encouraging & Equipping  
God's People for God's Mission





