



# TRINITY CHURCH

27 March 2025

Dear Trinity Church family,

**RE: Matt Lehmann stepping down as senior pastor of Tonsley**

We are writing to advise you that our dearly loved and godly pastor Matt will be stepping down from his role at Trinity Church Tonsley in the coming months. Before explaining this, we, along with the Tonsley leadership team want to assure you this is a joint decision we feel is in the best interests of both our church and Matt. There are no sin issues nor broken relationships behind this and we have only grown in our love and appreciation for one another, and for God's grace to us all, as we came to this decision together.

Just to recap our history, Trinity Church Colonel Light Gardens (CLG) sent off a church plant to Tonsley three years ago. Matt was the senior pastor of both churches at the time but was primarily based at CLG with Cam Maxwell the pastor on the ground at Tonsley. In 2024 Matt and his family moved to Tonsley and Jamie Seyfang took over as the senior pastor of CLG. The ministry thinking at the time was that while Matt would continue as senior pastor of Tonsley, he would also have a focus on preparing and launching an evening church.

For those unaware of the background, Matt was diagnosed mid last year with a significant trauma disorder. As a team, we chose to prioritise Matt's treatment and recovery, and in line with professional advice, we reduced Matt's responsibilities during this time. We are so thankful to God that Matt is making a wonderful recovery in advance of what was expected. He has returned to full-time work, preaching, and continues to serve his church family in many ways.

At the same time, we are very thankful to God for the life, health and missional heart of our Tonsley church family. With both church and Matt being in a great place we thought it wise to re-evaluate our plans looking forward. With Matt rejoining the leadership team this year, one of the things that became clear is that we are not confident that, as a church, it is the right time to plant an evening gathering. This was a challenging conclusion for us all, given evening church was going to be Matt's major focus. Together we're of one mind that it's best for our church and Matt to start afresh with where to next for us all.

As a church we want to support Matt and his family as they work out where to next. The Trinity Network deeply value Matt's contribution over the last seventeen years on staff in a variety of our churches. As such the Network began discussions with Matt in recent weeks in view of redeploying the Lehmann family elsewhere in the Network.

TRINITY CHURCH TONSLEY

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As we explored options together, it became clear to Matt and Grace that they'd benefit from some time away from pastoral ministry. Currently they plan for Matt to take some other form of employment for several years and then consider further opportunities to serve in vocational ministry. We're confident whatever the future holds, they'll serve Jesus wholeheartedly as so many in our Network do. While saddened by this news, we understand the heart behind this decision and fully support the Lehmann's as they make this next step.

It's our prayerful hope that Matt can transition to something new by the middle of the year. In the meantime, Matt will continue to serve both Tonsley and our Network in a variety of ways. With Matt moving on midyear this will also reduce the pressure on Tonsley's finances and allow this church to work through how best to fulfill the mission Jesus gives all churches, as we proclaim the gospel.

We want to commend Matt's character, godliness and gospel heart that has been so evident in all he's done. We are so thankful to God for Matt's vision and passion for God's people, those who don't know Jesus, and the valuable role he has had in the launching and the development of Tonsley. We're conscious that many others around our Network will also have fond memories of ministering alongside the Lehmann's. Please join us in praying that our church, Network and the Lehmann family continue to live lives worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Your brothers in Christ,



**Lucas Wisley**  
Leadership Team Chair  
Trinity Church Tonsley



**Paul Harrington**  
Senior Network Pastor  
Trinity Network

And with deep affection,



**Matt Lehmann**  
Senior Pastor  
Trinity Church Tonsley