

WE
Believe
IN PRAYER
PRAISE
NEWS &
THE BIBLE

WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S ROSEVILLE
15TH DECEMBER 2013

ST
ANDREW'S
Believes
IN NEWS

*All that's going on
around St Andrew's*

FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER



REV JOHN DICKSON

Dear St Andrew's,

In this last note of the year I want to tell you about some important changes ahead in 2014.

First, we look forward to welcoming onto the staff team James Smith and Mike Hastie, both of whom will be ordained in February. They will be 'focus pastors'—for 10am and 7pm respectively. Their role is like that of a coach of a team. They are there to empower members of these congregations to do their best for the Lord. Of course, they will also provide direct face-to-face pastoral care of

these communities and take on some extra portfolios (*Fit for Good* and various community projects for James; the Youth Ministry for Mike). Please pray for them as they prepare for their new ministries.

Secondly, as I indicated early in 2013, I have managed to reign in my 2014 ministry diary. If you have only recently joined us, you may not know that the Centre for Public Christianity (CPX) pays St Andrew's half of my 'package'. I work at church on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and for CPX on Wednesdays and Fridays, making up my time for the Centre when I preach elsewhere throughout Australia and overseas. The 'deal' from the beginning was that CPX ministry should not take me away from St Andrew's for more than 8 Sundays per year. We've kept that pattern, even if some of my friends at St Andrew's like to tell me it seems more than that! It is strange having a half-time Rector. I *get* that. Yet, with God's grace, a superb staff team and every-member-ministry, there is no reason it can't work. I will stop the moment I think it is hindering the Lord's work here in Roseville. In any case, I thought you'd like to know that I have greatly reduced the number of overseas invitations I have accepted for 2014, and the first isn't until June 15th.

You're stuck with me until then! I am genuinely looking forward to the consistency. Finally, and most importantly, I want to tell you about some significant ideas the staff and I, in consultation with the Parish Council, have developed as we ponder ministry priorities next year. A couple of months ago I asked you to ponder why only 60% of our regular, committed folk are in church on any given Sunday. There are numerous reasons, but we have concluded that the key factor is *connectedness*: the more you feel you belong to your congregation the more you will feel a 'relational tug' to be *together* on Sunday to worship God and encourage one another. I am sure there are other factors, and I appreciate the feedback of those who wrote to me. We are convinced, though, that connectedness is the main predictor of regularity of attendance. Naturally, connectedness gets harder as our church gets larger. Therefore, after much thought and discussion, we are making 2014 *the year of building community*. In the last three years 'regular attenders' of St Andrew's have grown from a little over 400 to 550+. Now is the time to focus on making sure we are strengthening our bonds with one another —eating and drinking together, praying for one another, getting into Small Groups, looking out for each other's needs and serving each other

through one of the many volunteer roles. With this in mind we are paring back the 2014 calendar, keeping large church-wide events to a minimum and focusing on congregation-specific activities that will foster community. We want to create an environment conducive to "valuing each other's company and friendship," as the Church Prayer puts it, "caring deeply for those in need in our church family and the wider community, so that no one around us would suffer unassisted."

Please understand that we are not *terminating* the wonderful events of recent years (the Middle Eastern Feast, the August Outreach Series, and so on). We are pressing 'pause' for 12 months and renewing our community for the exciting years and decades ahead. The paradox of all this is that I bet we will experience evangelistic growth through 2014. Nothing is more powerful than a community that embodies the gospel of grace it proclaims. Stay tuned for the details but please be in prayer as we make 2014 the year of building community.

Every blessing, and happy Advent of the Lord,
John

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COMMUNITY WATCH

FOR THE DIARY

🕒 **Lessons and Carols**

Sun 22nd Dec – 7.00pm
In the Church

Note that on this day, there will be only two services held: 10am Family Service and the *Lessons and Carols* Service at 7pm.

🕒 **Christmas Eve Services**

Tue 24th Dec

5.00pm – Kiddy farm and BBQ

6.00pm – Family Service

11.00pm – Contemporary Communion Service

🕒 **Christmas Day Services**

Wed 25th Dec

8.30am – Traditional with Communion

10.00am – Contemporary Service

🕒 **Summer Service Times**

Commencing Sun 29th Dec 2013 through to
Sun 26th Jan 2014

9.30am and 6.00pm Family Services

Regular service times commence Sun 2nd Feb

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

In late September, the Building Committee sent our latest plans to Ku-ring-gai Council in preparation for a Pre-DA meeting on 9th October. The purpose of the Pre-DA meeting is for the Council Officers to comment on the plans and give some guidance on their development. The Council Officers were due to provide a written report within three weeks of the meeting. We are still awaiting the report. As a result we will not be able to lodge the formal Development Application before Christmas as per our original plan.

Whilst this holdup is regrettable, the Building Committee is confident that we can make up this time during the DA process.

On Wednesday, 11th December, John Dickson, Santino Dimarco and Philip Bell met with our local Ward Alderman, the Mayor, Jennifer Anderson, to update her on our building project. The Mayor was very supportive of our redevelopment plans and offered her support during the DA process with Council.

The Parish Council will provide a further update to the Parish when the Development Application is ready to be officially lodged with Ku-ring-gai Council.

PLEASE PRAY

☛ Churchwide Prayer

Praise God for the safe arrival of Mason James Stedman to Matt and Emily. Mason was born at 12:50am on Friday morning, weighing a healthy 3.3 kilograms. Pray for good health for both Emily and Mason and that Roxy will settle well to having a baby brother.

Pray that our Christmas services will share the good news of Jesus' birth with many visitors in a profound and meaningful way.

Please pray for Santino's mother Sylvia and the family as she struggles with a debilitating lung disease – pray for her to remain as well as possible and that she would know the peace and strength of Christ each day. Pray for all among us dealing with long term health issues.

Pray for all currently without work and seeking jobs. Pray too for God to sustain those whose work is less available over the summer period.

☛ 8.30am Prayer

Pray for continued health improvement for Janet Richardson and that God would guide her medical specialists to the best treatment.

☛ 10am Prayer

Pray for Mary Ellen and Jackson Rogers as they care for their new baby son who came home last week. Pray for Atticus and Amity as they welcome their brother and that he settles into feeding and sleeping easily.

☛ St Andrew's Ministries

Remember those no longer able to meet with us, now living in aged-care facilities and for the many who are lonely and sad at this time of the year. Pray for those who are ministering to them; Peter Watson, Jean Rixon, Myree Pullen and Judy Hodges – that the message of Christmas will bring joy, hope and peace. Remember particularly Allan Bryson, Margaret Garside, Norene Harding, Gwen Hutchison, Margaret MacGregor, Adrienne Searle and Frank Wyndham.

TOUR OF ISRAEL OCTOBER 2014

As part of his work with the Centre for Public Christianity, John Dickson leads a tour of Israel, exploring the roots of Christianity. Its purpose is education, not pilgrimage, and has proved highly appealing to believers and enquirers alike. The next tour is 20th – 30th October 2014. It is already half full, but John would love the chance to take some from St Andrew's – especially those who might

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COMMUNITY WATCH

bring family or friends who have an intellectual interest in the subject. For details: www.academytravel.com.au/tours/israel-oct-14

SUGGESTED HOLIDAY READING LIST

John has provided the following list of books if you are looking for good reading material over the holiday season:

- ➔ Timothy Keller, *The Prodigal God*
- ➔ C S Lewis, *Mere Christianity*
- ➔ John Stott, *Radical Disciple*
- ➔ J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*
- ➔ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

...and for members of the Women's Book Club – The Women's Book Club are reading *The Reason for God* by Tim Keller over the summer break. Please feel welcome to join us and meet for discussion early next year – we have a great time! For details email meredith.hatcher@standrews.net.au

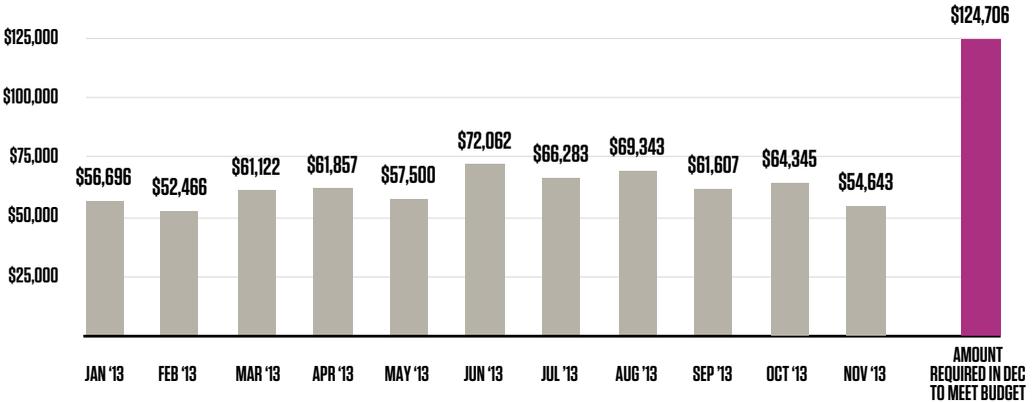
MISSION AND AID

Please keep the missionaries and organisations we support in your prayers over the Christmas/January period, including:

- ➔ Asian seminaries
- ➔ Rev Dale Barclay and his wife Rachel with children Samuel, Joseph, Eden and Talitha serving with BCA in the parish of Sunraysia, South Diocese of Bendigo
- ➔ Andrew and Stephanie Browning with William and Christopher in Arusha, Tanzania
- ➔ The Parish of Eagle Vale southwestern Sydney, and their Senior Minister Rev. Craig Hooper with his wife Sandra
- ➔ Jenny Fallon as Pastoral Care and Development Coordinator for SIM in Australia and husband Dale
- ➔ Mark and Rochelle Groombridge with children Matej, Philippa and Calvin in Ljubljana, Slovenia, working as CMS missionaries at the Reformed Evangelical Church
- ➔ Bishop Masimango Katanda in the Anglican Diocese of Kindu in the DR Congo. For the Berea Bible School and the training of Pastors and Lay leaders
- ➔ StreetWork, caring for at-risk youth in our local district
- ➔ World Vision Warlpiri Community in the Tanami Desert, Northern Territory

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE

General-Offertory Monthly Giving



In the graph above, the grey columns show the monthly general-offertory received to the end of November. The purple column shows the general-offertory required for December in order to meet our full-year budget of \$802,000.

As you can see, our general offertory is well behind budget. We are thankful for the result achieved during our recent Foundation Day Appeal (actual of \$220,000 vs budget of \$200,000), but you will

recall that we chose to give 60% away to worthy causes rather than 50%.

As we close the 2013 year, so as to prevent a heavy draw down on reserves, please consider increasing your regular giving and/or providing a one-off additional contribution during December.

If you are not currently giving regularly, details of how to do so are shown below.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT DETAILS

Supporting the General Ministry

To support the general work of St Andrew's, electronic banking details for regular direct credit are:

Anglican Parish St Andrew's
BSB 704 998
A/C 100 005 413

This is our preferred method to receive your regular support.

There is a "gifts and offerings" box attached to the church's rear pew if you prefer to make cash/cheque contributions.

Supporting the Property Redevelopment

To support the St Andrew's Property Development, **tax-deductible** contributions can be made to the following account:

St Andrew's Anglican Church Roseville Donation Fund
BSB 704 998
A/C 100 010 195

Please include your surname and the initials "PV" (for Property Vision) in the reference field. Donations by cheque should be made to St Andrew's Roseville Donation Fund. Please mark the envelope with your surname and "PV". A receipt for tax purposes will be forwarded to you upon receiving your electronic or cheque donation.

If you would like to support the Property Redevelopment but **do not** require a tax deduction, please contact Santino Dimarco for specific instructions: santino.dimarco@standrews.net.au