

WE
Believe
IN PRAYER
PRAISE
NEWS &
THE BIBLE

WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S ROSEVILLE
8TH MAY 2016

ST
ANDREW'S
Believes
IN NEWS

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

FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

REV JOHN DICKSON

🕊 Senior Minister

Dear St Andrew's,

I am composing these thoughts on the 6th anniversary of my Commencement as Rector at St Andrew's Roseville (5 May 2010).

Naturally, I am feeling reflective. I hope you won't begrudge me these few ponderings, both happy and serious.

In many ways, our first four or five years were exciting. Launching out from the extraordinary platform of love and community which Rev Mark Calder had fostered among us for nearly two decades, we spent the first eight months reframing our vision together. By the beginning of 2011, we published the *2020 Vision* and collectively agreed to pursue the goal of reaching the 140,000 people within a ten minute drive of us by *offering a centre of community for Roseville and beyond*.

The key idea was that most people had no idea St Andrew's was even here. So, we have to pull down the walls of the 'fortress' and open ourselves up to the wider world so as to create multiple touch-points between our church and the local residents, to show through word and deed that Christ is Lord not just of a so-called 'spiritual' realm but all of life. In the words of

our vision we want to be "widely known as a locus of biblical truth, friendship, social care and action, diversity, creativity, events, health and fun, grounded in a confident, well-articulated conviction about the lordship of Jesus Christ over all of life." We hoped and prayed to grow over the ten years from around 400 adults to 1200 or so by 2020. We didn't want to build an empire. We wanted to see people come to know the mercy and wisdom of Jesus Christ.

We did pretty well for the first four years or so. We implemented most of the 'strategic initiatives' in the vision document (that weren't dependent on new facilities). We grew to nearly 600 adults. And we created a spectacular set of plans for a property redevelopment designed to facilitate our dream of becoming a 'centre of community'. What's more, despite the \$10 million price tag, when we put these plans to a vote at what was surely the largest 'business meeting' in St Andrew's history, 96% of the almost 200 in attendance ticked 'YES'.

That was two years ago. I hardly need to point out that we have experienced a long and disappointing delay, until, finally, four weeks ago we received wonderful approval from the NSW Government's Joint Regional Planning Panel.

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FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

So, dear brothers and sisters, we have to pick ourselves up again and get moving. I don't just mean in raising money, but in raising our expectations, our prayers, our heart of worship, and our concern for the (now) 150,000 people around us.

As I look back on the last 18 months or so, there are signs of stagnation. You know, when ministers get together, we often speak of the tell-tale signs of a healthy church. Taking these as our barometer, how are we doing?

The first is prayerfulness. In our first four years, we regularly enjoyed the largest public prayer meetings St Andrew's had experienced in decades. Now we are getting 30-40 of you. Sure, you can pray at home, and I'd hate you to all turn out to the next prayer meeting just so we can look healthy. This is a symptom of something in our hearts.

Second is church attendance. You know that I am about as far from being the 'church police' as a minister ever should be, but church attendance does signal something real about a congregation's sense of commitment and togetherness. We have pretty poor attendance figures over the last year. We have grown by 8% in 12 months if we count all those who have joined us as 'regular members', but I am interested in the percentage of regulars who appear in church on a weekly basis. On any

given Sunday we have 73% of 8:30am members in attendance at the service (they are the stars of this story!), 50% of the 10am and 5pm members, and 41% of 7pm members. On average, then, only half of St Andrew's members will be in church each week. As I have asked around, that is very low.

The third sign is related to the previous one. A healthy congregation is one where the regulars are keen to invite their friends and neighbours to church. We saw a lot of that between 2010 and 2014—mostly at the 10am and 5pm congregations. And research shows that this is one of the key reasons churches grow: members simply inviting friends along. But the staff and I feel that this daring spirit has waned in recent times.

Fourthly, and finally, money is a key indicator of congregational wellbeing. This far into the year we are \$57,000 behind budget. That's not good. Many of you give very generously, and I can't ask anything more of you. But our analysis shows that a sizeable proportion of regular members of St Andrew's give nothing to the ministry of the church, bringing down the 'average' household giving to a pretty embarrassing figure, even though we have repeatedly explained that the church's ministry, including all salaries, is entirely dependent on your gifts.

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FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

Please forgive me if this feels depressing or unfair. Maybe you should put it down to my ponderous mood on this 6th anniversary. But I feel like I need to ring the alarm bell.

Whatever you do, please don't respond to this note by just 'trying harder'. Moralism will kill your faith just as quickly as apathy! Instead, can I ask you to pray. In the language of the epistle of James, "ask the Lord for *wisdom*, knowing that He gives generously to all without finding fault." Or in the language of the Book of Common Prayer ask, "ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who alone workest great marvels: Send down upon us the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and that we may truly please thee, pour upon us the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen."

By God's grace and power, let's make the next six years the best yet!

My love in Christ,
John

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

O God, the king of glory,
you have exalted your only Son
Jesus Christ with great triumph
to your kingdom in heaven:
leave us not desolate, but send
your Holy Spirit to strengthen us,
and exalt us to where our Saviour
Christ has gone before, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, for evermore. Amen.

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COMMUNITY WATCH

THIS WEEK

☛ **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Roseville-Lindfield-Killara Ecumenical Service**

Tue 10th May | 7:45PM

Roseville Uniting Church, Lord St Roseville

Reflection from Rev Ian Pearson
Supper after the service.

COMING UP

☛ **Church-Wide Prayer Meeting**

Wed 25th May | 7:30pm - 8:30pm

In the Church Hall

☛ **Life of Jesus**

Tue 31 May | 7.30pm

John and Buff Dickson's home

A 4-week course for people curious to find out
about the basics of the world's largest faith.

Contact the Church Office or email
lifeofjesus@standrews.net.au

☛ **Property Redevelopment Launch Dinner**

Save the date! Mon 20th June

Roseville Golf Club

Guest speaker: Archbishop Glenn Davies

PLEASE PRAY

☛ **8:30am**

Please pray for Rosie Herkes and her family in their sadness following the death of Rosie's mother Marie last week. Pray that they will be comforted in their loss through God's gracious love and be thankful for Marie's long life and faith and the sure hope of eternal life that is hers in Christ.

Pray that God will protect and strengthen Margaret Labruyere as she continues chemotherapy treatment; that it will be effective in limiting her illness and at a level her body can cope with. Ask God to sustain her in hope and in the assurance of his love for her and her family.

☛ **10am**

Thank God that Jenny Jessup is now home from rehab and pray for further improvement and healing as she continues treatment. Pray for relief from pain and patience for the process of recovery.

☛ **5pm**

Please pray for Veronica Hanrahan's mother Eileen who is having a second cataract operation on her eye on Tuesday 10th May.

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COMMUNITY WATCH

☛ St Andrew's Ministries

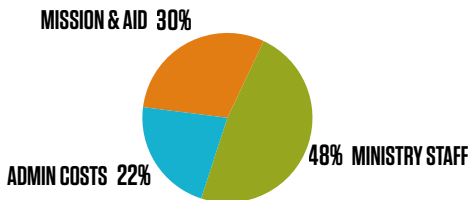
Pray for the ESL classes held on Thursday mornings. Please pray for Jane Clifford and the other ESL volunteers. Pray that the classes will help those who attend form new friendships as well as develop their English skills.

☛ Other

Pray for our Archbishop Glenn Davies and our regional Bishop Chris Edwards in all the responsibilities of their office. Give them wisdom in decision making and guiding of those in their care.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

☛ Where your offertory goes:



☛ How we are tracking:

Budgeted to receive by end April: \$349,000

Actually received by end April: \$292,000

We are therefore \$57,000 (or 16%) behind budget to the end of April.

MISSION & AID

INDIGENOUS WARLPIRI PEOPLE

☛ Tanami Desert, Northern Territory

Pray for World Vision as they work with the Warlpiri indigenous communities in the Northern Territory.

Pray the World Vision Early Childhood Care and Development Project and for consistency in the provision of early childhood services in the community. Pray for the project's focus on engaging the families who don't participate in early childhood activities; that this will be effective in leading to sustained change.

Pray for wisdom as World Vision Australia hires local church representatives as facilitators for the Channels of Hope pilot project in Lajamanu. Pray for those who lead this project and for progress in addressing issues such as gender inequality, human rights and gender-based violence

Pray for unity between the two church congregations in Lajamanu as they come together to effect change in their community on the important issue of gender-based violence.

*Words you'll need for
today's contemporary services*

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE PRAYERS

CONFESSION

Most merciful God,
we humbly admit that
 we need your help.
We confess that we have
 wandered from your way:
we have done wrong,
and we have failed to do
 what is right.
You alone can save us.
Have mercy on us:
wipe out our sins and teach us
 to forgive others.
Bring forth in us the fruit
 of the Spirit
that we may live as
 disciples of Christ.
This we ask in the name
 of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory, are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

KEY CONTACTS

➤ Senior Leadership Team

John Dickson – Senior Minister

T. (02) 9412 2553

john.dickson@standrews.net.au

(note: this email account is managed by the Office)

Santino Dimarco – Executive Pastor

T. (02) 9412 2553

santino.dimarco@standrews.net.au

Stuart Holman – Senior Associate Minister

M. 0414 439 771

stuart.holman@standrews.net.au

Cath Ahern – Children’s Minister (*Honorary*)

M. 0407 152 995

cath.ahern@standrew.net.au

➤ Ministry Contacts

Mike Hastie – Assist. Minister

M. 0421 014 977

mike.hastie@standrews.net.au

Meredith Hatcher – Assoc. Women’s Minister

(*Part Time - Sun, Tue, Thu*)

M. 0403 154 160

meredith.hatcher@standrews.net.au

James Smith – Assist. Minister

M. 0438 669 530

james.smith@standrews.net.au

Peter Watson – Minister for Seniors

(*Part Time*)

T. (02) 9412 2553

peter.watson@standrews.net.au

➤ Church Office

Bec Kimpton – Office Manager

T. (02) 9412 2553

office@standrews.net.au

➤ Group Contacts

Children’s Ministry

kids@standrews.net.au

Community Project

communityproject@standrews.net.au

Environmental Action Group

eag@standrews.net.au

ESL

esl@standrews.net.au

Fit For Good

fitforgood@standrews.net.au

Playgroup

playgroup@standrews.net.au

Time Out

timeout@standrews.net.au

Youth

stayrevive@standrews.net.au

Xtreme

Fri after school for Years 5&6

kids@standrews.net.au

FINANCIAL SUPPORT DETAILS

➤ Supporting the General Ministry

Supporting the general work of St Andrew’s:

Anglican Parish St Andrew’s

BSB 704 998 | A/C 100 005 413 *

This is our preferred method to receive your regular support.

Alternatively cash/cheque contributions can be made via the offertory collection during each of the services.

➤ Supporting the Property Redevelopment

To support the St Andrew’s Property Redevelopment, **tax-deductible** contributions can be made via:

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”.

If you would like to support the Property Redevelopment but **do not** require a tax deduction, please contact the Executive Pastor, Santino Dimarco.

(* this BSB may be displayed as Indue Limited which is part of the Diocesan banking arrangements)



St Andrew’s Anglican Church Roseville

1 Bancroft Avenue Roseville NSW 2069, Australia

T. (02) 9412 2553 | office@standrews.net.au | www.standrews.net.au