

**WE**  
*Believe*  
**IN PRAYER**  
**PRAISE**  
**NEWS &**  
**THE BIBLE**

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**WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S ROSEVILLE**  
**7TH MAY 2017**

**ST**  
**ANDREW'S**  
*Believes*  
**IN NEWS**

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

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# FROM THE SENIOR MINISTER

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## REV JOHN DICKSON

### ☛ Senior Minister

Dear St Andrew's,

I am writing this to you on the seventh anniversary, almost to the minute, of my commencement as Rector of St Andrew's (which was at 7pm Wednesday 4 May 2010). It has been a privilege, and I am thankful for your kindness, commitment, and friendship toward the Dicksons.

This is also the week that the results of the National Church Life Survey for St Andrew's arrived on my desk. You may remember filling out the questionnaire in a service last November, as did thousands of congregations around the country. It is conducted every five years. And this year there are some interesting results. We will do a deeper analysis in due course, but here are some headlines, both pleasing and confronting. I invite your feedback on the data.

The first remarkable figure is that 41% of you have joined St Andrew's in the last five years. The 2011 data showed that 18% of St Andrew's had joined the church in the five years prior to that. For such a longstanding, traditional suburban church, we are a fresh and evolving group of people.

Secondly, 32% of you were born overseas (compared to 22% in 2011). This reflects the changing demographics of the region, of course, but I am very pleased that our church family is slowly moving with the ethnic diversity of the wider community. That can't always be taken for granted.

There are some other pleasing indicators (e.g., 87% of you feel a 'strong sense of belonging to the church'; 86% agree you would 'support the development of new initiatives in the ministry and mission of the church'). But please allow me to raise some surprising results that give me pause.

Only 37% of us (and this only includes adults) reported spending time in prayer or Bible reading 'everyday or most days'. Think about this. The Creator grants us the privilege of unlimited access to his Word and his listening ear, and only about a third of us take him up on that. I would never want to create a legalistic *no-Bible-no-breakfast* culture at St Andrew's but it is strange that these are not higher priorities. Maybe this is the missing key to the spiritual life that you've been looking for! We fill our heads with so many other things 'everyday or most days', I'm sure we could find more moments to let the Wisdom of Scripture — the genius built into the fabric of the world — into our heads and hearts, and perhaps say to

*All that's going on  
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our Lord 'thanks' for one thing, 'sorry' for one thing, and 'please' for one thing, *most days*. Why not commit right now to (at least) saying the Lord's Prayer daily? In a culture where only 37% of Christians pray each day, there's something to be said for good old-fashioned 'rote' prayer! So long as you actually mean the words, rote is just fine!

Secondly, while the data paints a portrait of a fresh, growing, and relationally happy church, it also suggests we are not personally eager to reach out to others for Christ. It is lovely that 39% of us said we had invited friends and relatives to church in the last year, but that is down from 49% in 2011. Have the services become less attractive to you and your friends? Are there things we could do to improve the services: Shorter sermons? Louder music? Bring back the robes? I'll do pretty much anything to make this a place to which you feel comfortable bringing your friends. We had already planned to do an internal survey on the nature of our weekly church services, so please get your ideas ready.

More confronting than the rate of church invitations is the fact that just 14% of us report that we 'feel at ease talking about faith with others and look for opportunities to do so'. This is down from 68% in 2011. This is remarkable. It almost feels like a survey

anomaly. If the figure is correct, there are perhaps some sociological explanations—e.g., a growing sense that Australia is more critical of Christianity than it used to be. But it is also surely partly my fault. I have not inspired an evangelistic heart among us or developed more gospel confidence and skill. I will be doing some soul-searching.

On the one hand, there are some exciting developments at St Andrew's over recent years. We are certainly a growing church with a big sense of community and vision. But there are also some 'bread and butter' spiritual indicators (prayer, Bible reading, sharing the faith) that require attention. Thank you for the privilege of serving you these last seven years. Be assured I will do my best to think and pray through the issues raised above. And I would welcome your feedback—especially since 76% of you apparently reckon "the leaders take into account ideas of people here"!

God bless,

John

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around St Andrew's*

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# COMMUNITY WATCH

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## COMING UP

### ☛ **Term 2 Church-wide Prayer Meeting**

Wed 24th May | 7:30pm - 8:30pm in the Hall

### ☛ **ReFrame Course Session 4**

Mon 29th May | 7:30pm - 9:30pm

At Tony and Anne Golsby-Smith's home,  
18 Chelmsford Ave, Lindfield 2070

Contact [stuart.holman@standrews.net.au](mailto:stuart.holman@standrews.net.au)

## FOR THE DIARY

*Dates for your diary - more details to come*

☛ Sun 18th Jun | Belonging Course

## PLEASE PRAY

### ☛ **8:30am**

Pray for Colin Yarham as he recovers from surgery and undergoes more tests. Give thanks for Colin and Pam's fellowship among us over many years. Pray for them as they transition to a new church nearer to home.

### ☛ **10am**

Pray for the Rogers family and especially for Amity as the recent scan results showed that her brain tumour is growing. Pray for Jackson and Mary Ellen as they consider the viability of

future treatment options. Praise God that Amity is still largely free of symptoms from the tumour and pray that this will continue. Also pray for God's comfort for the Rogers family amidst their deep worries and concerns.

Praise God for answered prayer for Richard Lu and Shamiya Yusufova who both recently received positive responses to their Australian Permanent Residency applications.

### ☛ **5pm**

Pray for Edwina Axtens and her family following the death of Edwina's father Ray this past week. Pray for God's comfort for the whole family, particularly as the funeral is held on Wednesday.

Pray for Nikki Walters as she undergoes leg surgery on Tuesday. Pray for successful surgery and for good rest and healing afterwards.

### ☛ **7pm**

Give thanks for the growth of 7pm and for the work of Small Group leaders (as their groups keep growing!).

Pray also for the upcoming weekend away; for a time of rest in God, opportunities to find new joy in Him and for further building of community.

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# COMMUNITY WATCH

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## ST ANDREW'S MINISTRY UPDATE

### 🕒 Small Groups

Following on from last Sunday's sermon, 'The Pursuit of Happiness', this week I started my small groups with the question: "What makes you happy?"

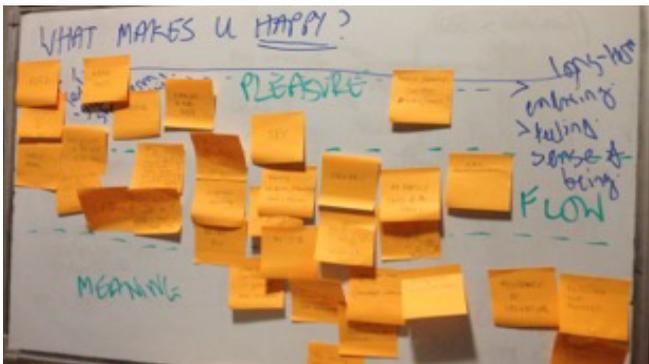
People wrote their answers on post-its and put them on a 'Happiness scale' which ranged from mild, short-lived satisfaction at one end, to deep, enduring contentment at the other (see above).

Responses varied from watching sport, playing sport, thinking about sport (the first three answers from the men's group!) to dark chocolate, champagne, cats, key relationships, volunteering, meaningful conversations, and having eternal life.

We sorted the answers into the three levels of happiness identified by Professor Martin Seligman of the University of Pennsylvania: level 1 'Pleasure', level 2 'Flow' and level 3 'Meaning'. We noticed a direct correlation between how happy something made us and its Seligman categorisation. And it seemed that we are only genuinely happy when we are experiencing happiness in all three levels. Seligman's research was validated by our fun exercise!

Moving through conversations about the wisdom of Aristotle, Solomon and Jesus we finished by committing to read through the Sermon on the Mount in the week ahead, because we recognised that attaining happiness at the third level and living the blessed life only come from following the Creator's instructions.

James Smith



*All that our missionaries  
do in and around their communities*

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# MISSION & AID

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## JOHN AND NICK, GRACE, HARRY & NOAH



### 🕒 Overseas, working with church leaders

Thank God for his provision of longevity, safety, health, stable accommodation, visas, an Australian support base and the faithful flow of grace for John, Nick and their family.

Thank God that John and Nick have had many opportunities to join in with the work where they are based.

Pray that as they enter their final year there will be increased ownership of the ministry by locals so that it may continue into the future.

Pray that John's remaining opportunities with people there will be rich, deep and fruitful.

Pray for protection, strength, wisdom and grace so that they can finish well in mid-2018.

Please pray for Nick in her long hours of work at the international school and in the times when John is travelling and she is at home with the kids.

Please pray for Grace, Harry and Noah; that their remaining time there will be positive and that their hearts will be open to Him.

Pray for John and Nick, that while they are busy encouraging others in their relationships their don't neglect our own relationships with Him and with each other.

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth so that they may return into the way of righteousness: grant to all who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's service that they may renounce those things that are contrary to their profession and follow all such things as are agreeable to it; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

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# CONTEMPORARY SERVICE PRAYERS

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## CONFESSION

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have strayed from your ways  
    like lost sheep,  
We have left undone  
    what we ought to have done,  
and we have done  
    what we ought not to have done.  
We have followed our own ways  
    and the desires of our own hearts.  
We have broken your holy laws.  
Yet, good Lord, have mercy on us;  
restore those who turn to you,  
according to your promises  
    declared to us in Jesus Christ  
    our Lord.  
And grant, merciful Father,  
    for his sake,  
that we may live a godly  
    and obedient life,  
to the glory of your holy name.  
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

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## ➤ Group Contacts

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## ➤ Church Office

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# FINANCIAL SUPPORT DETAILS

## ➤ Supporting the General Ministry

Supporting the general work of St Andrew’s:

**St Andrew’s Anglican Church Roseville**  
BSB 032 086 | A/C 387 248

*This is our preferred method  
to receive your regular support.*

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

The current year budget includes an allocation of 10% of general offertory to Mission & Aid.

## ➤ 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 062 240 | A/C 0090 1771

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.

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

ST  
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*Believes*  
IN THE COMMUNITY

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*Please note that a still photograph is taken during each of the services to assist with confirming attendance numbers. The photographs will not be used for publication.*