

WE  
*Believe*  
IN PRAYER  
PRAISE  
NEWS &  
THE BIBLE

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WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S ROSEVILLE  
SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2017

ST  
ANDREW'S  
*Believe's*  
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,

My time in the US was rewarding. I was four days in Grand Rapids speaking at a range of events—for Christians, sceptics, and staff—at Ada Bible Church. Pastor Jeff Manion started Ada 34 years ago with just 50 people. After 7 years the church grew to 150. That's a 17% per annum growth rate. It kept growing, at exactly the same rate, and the church pivoted and innovated at every point, so that today Ada serves almost 10,000 people each week! It is a story of biblical faithfulness, persistence, expectation, and a willingness always to make decisions to enhance growth.

It was a privilege to serve at Ada Bible Church (and last weekend in Green Bay, Wisconsin). And, yes, I return wondering what we could pull off together with innovation, persistence, expectation, and the right decisions. I refuse to believe that Anglican churches are inherently incapable of doing remarkable things for the Lord. I told Jeff Manion about our building project—showing him the video flythrough—and explained, with a little disappointment, that we had only reached half of our \$12m target. He responded, “Are you kidding! That's incredible. \$6m from 600 people. We never did

that at Ada!” So perhaps we are on our way to doing remarkable things. We just need to keep doing more of the same—more innovation, more generosity, more faithfulness, more expectation, and more smart decisions that will enhance growth. I'm up for it. Are you?

Later in the week I went to Providence, Rhode Island, for an academic conference for about 4,000 theologians and biblical scholars. You can choose from among about 200 research papers a day. I gave a paper on ‘memorisation’ in the ancient world (in short: the ancients were better at remembering stuff than we are), and I listened to three or four other papers a day, which is about all I can take!

While in Providence, I researched the origins of the city (my taxi driver said I should). Its beginnings are remarkable. The town itself, originally called “God's Merciful Providence”, was founded in 1636 by the Reformed theologian and political thinker Roger Williams (1603-83), who was banished from the neighbouring colony of Massachusetts for his unorthodox views.

Among Williams' weird ideas was a rejection of the notion of ‘Crown land’. He believed that only land which had been purchased at a fair price from Native Americans was morally and legally valid. He purchased Rhode Island under just these conditions, and started a new

society. Williams also taught that the state should not control the affairs of the church, and that neither should the church control the affairs of the state. He was the father of the modern idea of a ‘separation of church and state’, an idea Williams derived from Jesus, Paul, and early Church thinkers such as the fourth-century Christian philosopher Lactantius (AD 240-320).

On a theological basis, Roger Williams repudiated the notion current among some of his contemporaries in the New World that Old Testament Israel, with its laws, powers, and punishments, could provide a model for a contemporary vision of a ‘Christian society’. Williams insisted that the gospel of Jesus Christ, not the old covenant with Israel, provided the inner logic of the church’s place in society. He declared, “the churches as churches, have no power (though as members of the commonweal they may have power) of erecting or altering forms of civil government, electing of civil officers, inflicting civil punishments as by deposing magistrates from their civil authority, or withdrawing the hearts of the people against them, to their laws.”

Of course, this line of thinking would have a major influence on America’s doctrines of the ‘separation of church and state’ and the importance of ‘religious liberty’ and ‘liberty of conscience’. People sometimes say these ideas come from secular sources, such as the French Revolution or early American ‘free-thinkers’ like Thomas Jefferson (1743-1820), but they clearly have theological roots.

Happily, one of the papers I attended in Providence explored the origins of Thomas Jefferson’s own emphasis on religious liberty. The expert delivering the paper had been given full access to Jefferson’s personal library. In that collection he found a Latin copy of Lactantius’ famous fourth-century tract on religious liberty, and, it turns out, Jefferson had heavily underlined a central passage of the work, where Lactantius outlines why trying to compel belief (or

punish heresy) in another person both defies the loving Creator and demeans the human being made in God’s image. What Jefferson declared to be “a self-evident truth” was, in fact, a restatement of the original Christian vision of the role of the church in society.

It was a happy coincidence that I was pondering all this the very week I learned that Australia had voted in favour of same-sex marriage. It was a nice reminder that in a healthy democracy the church does not—must not—call the shots. We bear witness to the truth, of course. We lament when our society departs from God’s wisdom. But we honour God and our neighbours most when we cheerfully try to influence the world with prayer, service, and persuasion—the only three tools Christ has given the church—and humbly accept that our views may be rejected by the wider public and by the state. In such cases, we must practise the ancient Christian art of ‘losing well’, and of trusting in the ‘God’s merciful providence’.

Of course, we ought to pray and seek to persuade society to grant ‘liberty of conscience’ to those who still maintain the traditional view of marriage. But even if such liberty is not codified in future legislation, we should still strive to reflect the tradition that goes back far beyond ‘secular democracy’, the tradition of Roger Williams, of Lactantius, and of the New Testament itself: “Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil ... Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” We seek to bless the world whatever it thinks of us.

In short, if we can add to the church-growth values of *innovation* and *expectation* the biblical virtues of *love* and *blessing* toward a world that thinks ill of us, I am confident St Andrew’s Roseville will do remarkable things in the coming years.

Every blessing,  
John

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

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# COMMUNITY WATCH

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## COMING UP

### 🕒 **Carols On Clanville**

Sat 9th Dec | 5:30pm to 9:00pm

Clanville Park

We need many helpers to assist with this year's community Carols event. There are a wide range of ways to serve - for all ages!

Please visit [www.tinyurl.com/volunteercarols](http://www.tinyurl.com/volunteercarols) to sign up.

Help is needed in the areas of set-up, kids activities (including craft, face painting, sideshow activities, nativity scene helpers), welcoming, candle distribution, and pack-up. In the online form you can let us know how long you would like to volunteer for and if you would prefer to do that at an earlier or later time in the afternoon/evening.

Please join in to serve the community and have some fun at the same time!

### 🕒 **Traditional Lessons and Carols**

Sun 17th Dec | 7:15pm

In the church

*No 8.30am or 7pm service on this day*

### 🕒 **Christmas Services**

Christmas Eve Sun 24th Dec | 6pm & 11pm

*No regular Sunday services on Christmas Eve*

Christmas Day Mon 25th Dec | 8:30am & 10am



### 🕒 **Christmas Day Lunch at St Andrew's**

Mon 25th December | 12.30pm – 2.30pm

St Andrew's Church Hall

Christmas Lunch is completely free and is open to anyone who would like a little more company this Christmas. Please invite anyone who may be on their own this Christmas.

RSVP by Thu 21st December to Bambi [events@standrews.net.au](mailto:events@standrews.net.au) or 0414 889 486

*Volunteers are needed:* Set-up and Pack-up, Food donations & prep, Serving, Greeting, and Financial donations.

Email [volunteers@standrews.net.au](mailto:volunteers@standrews.net.au)

*All that's going on  
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# COMMUNITY WATCH

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## PLEASE PRAY

### ☛ Churchwide

Praise God for the new staff joining us at St Andrew's in 2018; Tom Tokura as an Assistant Minister, with his wife Ann and their 3 young children, and Lauren and Grant van der Merwe as Youth Ministers. Pray for them as they finish their current roles over the next few months; that they can finish well, have a great start here at St Andrew's and be blessed in their ministry with us.

Pray for our church mission and kids holiday program; HUB. Pray that God will bless this ministry in these early stages; that we can reach and bless many in our community and see people brought into God's family through this program.

### ☛ 10am

Praise God for the safe arrival last Sunday of a baby boy, Thomas, to Angus and Deb Boyd. Pray that the whole family will settle in well to the newborn routine.

Praise God that Andrew and Jean Eadie's baby boy Hugh was able to come home from hospital last weekend. Pray that Andrew, Jean, Hugh and his brother William can enjoy this time in amongst the busyness and lack of sleep.

Pray for Amity Rogers; that God will help her cope with the symptoms of her brain tumour as it is increasingly impacting her quality of life. Pray for Amity's parents Jackson and Mary Ellen as they care for Amity and her brothers Atticus and Rufus and sister Georgia. Pray for wisdom, strength and courage for both Jackson and Mary Ellen during this difficult time.

### ☛ St Andrew's Ministries

Pray for the Wardens and the Parish Council as they meet each month. Pray for wisdom as they consider the various matters before them so that as a parish, we will glorify God.

Pray for those in Nursing Homes and Hostels who are no longer able to regularly worship with us; Brian Cotton, Margaret Green, Naida Holliday, Margaret Rook, Adrienne Searle, and Frank Wyndham. Pray for Peter Watson, Marion Stanbridge and Judy Hodges who lead the visitation team and for others from St Andrew's who assist them.

### ☛ 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 and everyone they interact with.

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

# MISSION & AID

## DALE AND RACHEL BARCLAY



### ☛ **Sunraysia South, Diocese of Bendigo**

Pray for Rev Dale and Rachel Barclay, with children Samuel, Joseph, Eden and Talitha, serving with Bush Church Aid (BCA) in the Anglican Parish of Sunraysia South (APOSS) in the Diocese of Bendigo.

Pray for the Diocesan Electoral Committee as they continue their task of identifying the next Bishop of Bendigo. Pray for God's guidance and a good and Godly Bishop will be elected.

Pray for travel safety as Dale continues to drive long distances for meetings regularly. Pray also for Rachel, particularly when Dale is away.

Pray that APOSS' insurance claims will be settled soon. It is now over a year since the storm went through Red Cliffs and the process is taking a very long time.

Pray that all of the Barclay children will grow to trust and follow Jesus.

Pray for planning for the APOSS Christmas services and that the Holy Spirit will convict people about Jesus.

Rachel is leading a small sewing group. Pray that God may use it to lead people to Jesus.

Thank God for the pastoral contacts that have been developed through RENEW Op-shop and the sewing group.

This year has been a very busy one for Dale. Pray for strength, wisdom and refreshment for him and the whole family.

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Stir up, Lord, the wills  
of your faithful people,  
that they may produce  
abundantly the fruit of good works,  
and receive your abundant  
reward; through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen.

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

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# CONTEMPORARY SERVICE PRAYERS

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## CONFESSION

Merciful God, our maker  
and our judge,  
we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed:  
we have not loved you  
with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours  
as ourselves;  
we are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and  
obey you in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
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.

There may be an opportunity for Q&A after  
the sermon. Questions will be taken from the  
floor, or can be texted to 0416 874 993.

## KEY CONTACTS

### ☛ Senior Leadership Team

**John Dickson** – Senior Minister  
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[john.dickson@standrews.net.au](mailto:john.dickson@standrews.net.au)

**Santino Dimarco** – Executive Pastor  
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**Stuart Holman** – Senior Associate Minister  
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**Cath Ahern** – Children's Minister (*Honorary*)  
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[cath.ahern@standrews.net.au](mailto:cath.ahern@standrews.net.au)

### ☛ Group Contacts

**Children's Ministry**  
[kids@standrews.net.au](mailto:kids@standrews.net.au)

**Community Project**  
[communityproject@standrews.net.au](mailto:communityproject@standrews.net.au)

**Environmental Action Group**  
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**ESL**  
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**Fit For Good**  
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**Playgroup**  
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**Time Out**  
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**Youth**  
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**Xtreme**  
Fridays after school for Years 5&6  
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### ☛ Ministry Contacts

**James Smith** – Assistant Minister  
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**Vanessa Hughes** – Women's Pastor  
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**Peter Watson** – Minister for Seniors  
(*Part Time*)  
T. (02) 9412 2553  
[peter.watson@standrews.net.au](mailto:peter.watson@standrews.net.au)

### ☛ Church Office

**Bec Kimpton** – Office Manager  
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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 032 102 | A/C 141 628

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 Andrew's Anglican Church Roseville  
1 Bancroft Avenue Roseville NSW 2069, Australia  
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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.*