



Anglican Parish of South Wagga Wagga

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Incorporating St Paul's Turvey Park
& St Alban's Koorinal

Dear Church Family

It has been 6 months since we launched our 5-year vision and I want to take the opportunity provide an update, and to outline some of what lies ahead for the rest of the year.

In February, we launched a fresh articulation of who we are as a parish. We stated our mission in these terms: *To be a church that is Christ-centred and outward looking.*

We also expressed a fresh vision: *To grow a network of flourishing faith communities where we invite people to...*

- *Belong to authentic Christian community;*
- *Believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour;*
- *Become involved in reaching our city and beyond, with the gospel.*

I am delighted that this picture of the future is becoming a reality – faster than I would have ever imagined. Let me share with you five brief stories that are deeply encouraging to me.

1. Each of our congregations has experienced new people joining. Every one of our five congregations are a vital part of our whole parish and each of them offer a unique connection to the Wagga community. If you are one of those who has joined with us this year, can I say how overjoyed we are that you have become part of our church family.
2. In June this year, a team of people from the parish came together with a vision to commence a church service at the Grange Lifestyle Village. Our meetings have been an overwhelming success with a significant number of residents joining with us and expressing their gratitude that there is now a Christian witness in their village.
3. The young people in our church have flourished this year. Despite Caz's extended leave since last December, God has been bringing new youth and young adults to our church where they have become increasingly active in ministry and service. I am deeply grateful for Natalie McDermott and her team for filling the breach and we are looking forward to Caz's return to Wagga – likely during term 4.
4. Earlier this year we took a risk and began a once a month evening congregation for the young and young at heart. During our first service, we baptised one of our year 12's and ever since we have been enjoying a new adventure of fresh expressions and contemporary worship. This congregation is providing a place to belong for our youth and young adults to grow in leadership and service to Christ and each other.

5. Throughout this year God has provided a number of ways to extend our partnerships in Wagga and beyond. Our CMS link missionary Caroline Evenden spent a week with us in May. Our parish provided a team of people to resource ministry in Hay while they were without their minister for three months. Anglicare will begin using office space at St Alban's from this month to provide vital family services to those in need. We look forward to our ongoing connection with St Martin's College with the appointment of the Rev Grant Bell as head of College.

These five stories, and many more, are heart-warming to me, because they involve more and more people connecting in meaningful ways with their faith in Christ and their church community. There are more than 300 people who regularly worship in one of our congregations and many more with whom we connect through our services in four local aged care villages. We really are growing a network of flourishing faith communities that provide real pathways for people to know Christ. Can I also briefly highlight some important opportunities that lie before us for the rest of 2017:

1. Our *SWAC Hero* Holiday Kids Club is happening from Wednesday 27 to Friday 29 September for children in kindy to year 6. Registration is online at www.swac.church or at the office. A small team from Dapto Anglican Church is partnering with us for this week to enable us to connect with young people and their families.
2. The *Proclaiming the Truth* conference on Saturday 9 September at Wagga Baptist Church promises to be an informative and inspiring way for us to celebrate 500 years since the Protestant Reformation. We will also have our own celebration during November through a four-part sermon series exploring the significance of this world changing movement.
3. Bishop Trevor is joining us again on 12 November for our commitment Sunday – an opportunity for confirmation, reception into membership, or perhaps baptism. Please do speak to myself or Lisa in the office if you want to discuss any of these opportunities.

I am also excited to announce that Bishop Stuart will be with us next February as our parish celebrates its own 50-year birthday.

I want to finish by saying how humbled I feel to be part of such a vibrant church family. I am humbled by the story that God has been telling in this parish for decades, and all that He is doing in our midst now – it is greater than I ever imagined. And yet, we are invited to know and pray to our God and Father who, according to Ephesians 3:20, is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine. Will you join with me in such a prayer? Will you keep seeking to know how God is calling you to be part of the ongoing vision of this church family as we seek to be both Christ-centred and outward looking?

God's richest blessings



Scott Goode
Senior Minister
Thursday, 24 August 2017

