



St. Andrew's Springfield

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE AGM OF THE PROVISIONAL
PARISH OF SPRINGFIELD, 2024

25 FEBRUARY 2024

Prepared by

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ANGLICAN PARISH OF SPRINGFIELD

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OUR MISSION

LOVE JESUS . LOVE THE CHURCH . LOVE THE WORLD

PRIEST'S REPORT



INTRODUCTION

Rev. Charlie Lacey

2023 has been another solid year for our church, with a number of key goals being met

2023 has been another solid year for our church, with a number of key goals being met, including our first ever church camp, more regular prayer and worship nights, a planned pilgrimage to the Holy Land (which is now being assessed for obvious reasons) and new outreach into the community via our food pantry project and UniSQ chaplaincy. We have also held a number of highly successful events, particularly the Carnival of Light and Christmas Carol Service. It has been especially encouraging to see an influx of new people in the last quarter, which means that we end the year on a trajectory of growth.

We continue to pray that we will be responsive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as we seek to 'Love Jesus, Love the Church and Love the World.'



Staff and Leadership

Administration

Parish Administrator: Tisa Lacey
Parish Administrative Assistant: Penny Howchin

The administration workload was split across two roles in October 2022 and Tisa and Penny have worked brilliantly together in supporting the mission and ministry of the parish. Having completed one year in the role, Penny's position was made permanent, however she has subsequently taken on a different role in our church.

Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator

Due to personal circumstances, our Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator, Stacey McCowan resigned, effective from the 1st of October 2023. Stacey had a fantastic rapport with the children and young people and brought a lot of fun and creativity to the role. She will be sorely missed.

Parish Council 2022 - 2023

Jeff Armytage, Paul Bell, Givemore Chinyemba, Madeleine De Villiers, Samuel Eagles, Penny Howchin, Helen Irwin (Warden, Synod Rep, Parish Nominator), George Masvaure, (appointed in December), Stacey McCowan, Kirsten Stephens (Treasurer), Ann Van Turnhout (Parish Nominator), James Waitbaka (Warden, Synod Rep, Parish Nominator)

Staff and Leadership cont...

RECRUITMENT

Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator (13 hours per week):

We actively recruited for a new Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator at 13 hours per week, advertising through the following channels:

- AYCF (Anglican Youth Children & Families)
- Anglican Focus
- Other evangelical Anglican churches
- TSAC (LinkedIn)
- St. Francis College (Anglican)
- Trinity College (Uniting Church)
- Brisbane School of Theology
- Queensland Theological College
- Youth Works (Sydney)
- SEEK (Recruitment Agent)

We heard from a total of 15 applicants, of whom Rev. Charlie had conversations with four. The Parish Council Recruitment Committee (Helen Irwin, Jeff Armytage, Samuel Eagles and Rev. Charlie), interviewed three of these. Of the three interviewees, the committee members unanimously agreed that Penny Howchin was the strongest candidate. Penny was subsequently offered the role, which she started on the 22nd of January.

Young Adults Coordinator (4 hours per week):

We have identified the need for a part-time (4 hours per week), Young Adults Coordinator to help expand the Young Adults Hub and make inroads into UniSQ. Following a successful gift month (approximately \$15,000 raised), we now have the funds for this position and are actively advertising via all the channels listed above.

Parish Administrative Assistant (7.5 hours per week)

Penny Howchin vacated this role in order to take on the role of Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator. The Parish Council actively started recruiting for the role at the beginning of 2024.

Whilst we are recruiting for two roles, the right candidate could potentially fill both. This makes for a more attractive part-time position of 11.5 hours per week.

Parish Council 2023

Jeff Armytage (Priest's Warden)
 Paul Bell
 Madeleine De Villiers (Synod Representative)
 Mark Dungey (resigned, May 2023)
 Louise Eagles (appointed, September 2023)
 Samuel Eagles (Synod Representative)
 Penny Howchin (Parish Nominator – appointed, September 2023)
 Helen Irwin (People's Warden, Parish Nominator)
 George Masvaure
 Stacey McCowan (resigned, October 2023)
 Kirsten Stephens (Treasurer)
 Ann Van Turnhout (resigned, June 2023)

There were three Parish Council resignations and one appointment during the course of the year. Two of the resignations resulted from the councillors moving away, and the third was due to personal reasons.

OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM



Food Pantry Project



UniSQ Chaplaincy



Christmas Carol Service



Creating a Bright Future Foundation

Food Pantry Project



The Food Pantry Project is an initiative that was started by George Masvaure, whose vision was to distribute food to those in the community who are struggling to make ends meet. It transpired that Springfield Christian Family (SCF) already run a bread distribution point at Camira. We have therefore partnered with SCF to distribute non-perishable foodstuffs to supplement the bread on a Saturday morning. The food items are collected at church on Sundays and when enough has been collected, George and others take it to the distribution point, where it goes to families who desperately need it. Our congregation has been encouraged to bring at least one non-perishable food item each week and it is hoped that the volume of food collected will continue to increase.

The only day that SCF do not run the bread distribution point is on Sunday, and it has been suggested that St. Andrew's might be able to take that on. Distributing the food immediately before the Sunday service would make it easy to invite members of the wider community to

UniSQ Chaplaincy



In June 2023, Rev'd Charlie took on the role of Volunteer Chaplain at UniSQ, Springfield Campus. In July, Rev'd Charlie and Stacey McCowan manned a stall at the Student Expo and invited students to a Young Adults Hub meeting that was being held on campus that evening. A total of 6 students joined our young adults for an evening of pizza and games. Unfortunately this initiative lost momentum, however, we are not giving up and the experience demonstrates that we can make inroads into this demographic in the future. In the meantime, Rev'd Charlie is making regular visits to the campus to get his face known and build relationships.

A recent connection with Red Frogs, who are currently operating on the Springfield campus, will create further opportunities to connect with the UniSQ community in 2024. It is also hoped that we will be able to run an Alpha Course on the campus later in the year.

Christmas Eve Carol Service

With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday, we decided to combine the Sunday service with our annual Carol Concert and Nativity. The result was a Carol Service at 7:00 pm on Christmas Eve, which included an array of carols, a two-scene nativity play narrated in limericks and Holy Communion. Festoon lighting created a Christmassy atmosphere and around 160 people attended, in spite of the rain. The sound quality was the best it has ever been, and we are extremely grateful to our music and tech teams for delivering such sublime renditions of the carols.

It was especially pleasing to be able to share the good news of Jesus with so many guests who were not regular members of our congregation.



Creating a Bright Future Foundation

Congregation member, Sandra Morgan, is the founder of the Creating a Bright Future Foundation in Indonesia. The foundation currently operates several exciting ministries, including English classes in schools and prisons, humanitarian relief, micro loans for small business start-ups and a project to build a medical clinic in an area of significant need. Late in 2003, the team were asked to provide English classes to army officer cadets, which demonstrates the high level of trust that the authorities have placed in the foundation.

Sandra and her team operate in heavily Islamised areas, where proselytizing (encouraging people to convert to Christianity) is strictly forbidden and carries severe penalties. We often talk about sowing and reaping, but the Creating a Bright Future team believe that they are called to the preparatory work of breaking up the ground by nurturing good relationships between Christians and Muslims.

Sandra keeps the congregation abreast of developments via a regular e-newsletter, which supplements our church newsletter. The reports are authentic and gritty, covering the struggles and challenges of ministry along with the triumphs and successes.

St. Andrew's supports the Creating a Bright Future Foundation through prayer, modest financial assistance and pastoral support. We also hope to organise a mission trip in the future.

It is a privilege to be able to support overseas mission, especially when we have such a close link with the organisation itself. The team in Indonesia are passionate about sharing the love of God in practical ways and they make great personal sacrifice to do so. They are an example to us all and we should continue to do all we can to support them.



DISCIPLESHIP









Alpha

Alpha is an introduction to the Christian faith, held over ten weekly sessions, each including a shared meal, video presentation and small group discussion. Although designed for people outside the church, Alpha benefits those who have already come to faith, including those who have been Christians for many years. The videos include uplifting testimonies, reasoned arguments and evidence in support of Christianity.

Our Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator, Stacey McCowan, together with Helen Irwin, ran an online Alpha course for a group of teenage girls from the church. The course provided an opportunity for them to explore their faith in a small, intimate group, where they could express their thoughts freely.

Hubs

Hubs are groups that meet during the week for fellowship, prayer and Bible study. We currently have six Hubs:

 <p>Young Adults Hub (18-25)</p>	 <p>ONLINE HUB</p>	 <p>PRAYER HUB</p>	<p>Online Hub, meets via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm Young Adults Hub, meets fortnightly on Wednesday at 7:00 pm Prayer Hub, meets on Wednesdays at 12:00 pm</p>
 <p>GREENBANK HUB</p>	 <p>CHARLIE & TISA'S HUB</p>	 <p>MISSIONS HUB</p>	<p>Charlie and Tisa's Hub, meets in person on Thursdays at 7:00 pm Coffee Hub, meets on Fridays at 10:00 am The Greenbank Hub, meets in person at various venues in Greenbank, on an ad hoc basis.</p>

Historically, one of the greatest challenges for our parish has been identifying people willing to lead Hubs and increasing participation in them. The quality of our discipleship and pastoral care, and consequently our retention, are dependent on us building relationships outside of the Sunday service. In 2024, we want to train new leaders and encourage those participating in Hubs to be much more proactive about inviting others.

Church Camp

During the April/ May public holiday, we ran our first ever church camp from Saturday to Monday. The venue was Pointro Anglican camp site on the shore of Maroon Dam. Facilities include a bunkhouse (which sleeps 30), ample space for campers, toilet block, boat ramp and BBQs.

Due to its picturesque location, the venue was pleasant, however, there were issues with the cleanliness of the bunkhouse and toilet block and discourteous signage. Moreover, recent "repairs" to the driveway made it difficult to access the site in a 2WD vehicle. We have since been in communication with the site manager who has informed us of the following improvements: driveway levelled, bunkhouse fitted with a new kitchen and signage removed. We were disappointed to discover that we were sharing the site with other campers, however, this did not significantly detract from the overall experience.

We began the camp with a time of prayer and then had various activities to choose from, including, fishing, craft and swimming in the dam. In the evening, the men's group cooked everyone a BBQ meal.

On day two, we divided into three groups for excursions, which ranged from a challenging hike up Mount Maroon to a gentler walk around the summit of Mount French, followed by a visit to Lake Moogerah Café and Scenic Rim Brewery. Late in the afternoon, we all came together for a communion service in the outdoor chapel, followed by dinner and campfires.

Day three began with a Bible study, after which we went swimming in a rock pool at the base of Mount May, before heading back to Springfield.

The camp was attended by 35 adults and 19 children, as well as a number of day visitors who joined us for the communion service on the Sunday.

Whilst we experienced some 'teething problems', which are to be expected when running an event of this nature for the first time, overall the camp was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all. We have booked the venue for the May public holiday, 2024 and sole access to the site has been agreed.



Pastoral Care

Jesus commanded us to love one another as he loves us. It is a tall order, but it is one of the things that most distinguishes us as a community of Jesus' followers. Pastoral care is essentially loving and caring for each other and extending that care to those who might not consider themselves part of our church community.

Pastoral care is everyone's responsibility and we are successfully moving away from a pastoral model where all the pastoral care falls to the priest or the pastor.

We have adopted a three-pronged approach to pastoral care. That is to say, there are three possible points of contact for pastoral care within our community:

- Hubs
- Teams
- Pastoral Care Team (including clergy)

Hub Leaders and Team Leaders will take some responsibility for pastoral care, but it is not their sole responsibility. The idea is that people who belong to Hubs and Teams will be mutually supportive within those groups.

Our Pastoral Care Co-Coordinator, Madeleine de Villiers continues to lead the pastoral care team and offer support. Over the course of the year many people have received meals, financial relief and practical assistance, as well as a listening ear and prayer support.

In partnership with Mothers' Union, we have been able to provide a family with a much needed break, by gifting them a week long holiday on the Sunshine Coast. (Mothers' Union covered the full cost of this).



Men's Ministry



Our men's group has engaged in a number of events and activities over the course of the year, including: four breakfasts, a hike up Mount Greville, near Moogerah Dam and a BBQ for the church community, during our first ever church camp.

Anglican Men's Society

In November, the Parish Council made the decision to close the Springfield branch of the AMS. There were three main reasons for this. Firstly, we ended up with a group within a group. That is to say, some members of our men's group opted to join the AMS and others did not. Secondly, AMS began to overshadow the activities of the men's group and it became difficult to separate the AMS from any non-AMS events. Thirdly, we realised that the AMS added an unnecessary tier of bureaucracy and formality to the events we were running. All twelve members of the AMS group were consulted and all but one agreed with the decision to close the branch. As a church, we are willing to try new ministries, however, if they do not bear fruit, there comes a point when we need to set them aside.

Women's Ministry



The women's ministry regained its momentum in 2023, with Helen Irwin and Sue Armytage organising three women's craft afternoons. The ladies were able to work on their own projects or participate in card making, organised by Helen. These get togethers provide an informal setting for the women of the church to get to know each other, form mutually supportive friendships and invite women who do not yet attend St. Andrew's. Among other things, the last craft event in October was used to

prepare lanyards and bunting for the Carnival of Light.

There was also a women's breakfast, with 22 women in attendance and an early Christmas dinner in November at The Lion Richlands, which had 38 in attendance; the largest women's ministry gathering to date.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Kids Church



ThreeSixTeens



Carnival of Light



Ichthus Camp

Kids Church

On the first Sunday of the month, we hold an 'All Age' service, where adults and children stay together for the duration. The talk is more interactive and engaging for children, who participate in every aspect of the service. For the remaining Sundays, the children go out to Kids Church where the readings and themes run parallel to the adult's service.

Following the resignation of Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator, Stacey McCowan, we identified that the Kids Church team was becoming overstretched. To address this, we

recruited ten more Kids Church helpers, who have now been trained and have undergone their Safe Ministry Checks. These extra volunteers are helping with the running of the sessions and ensuring that we maintain the correct adult to child ratios.

We provided extra administrative support by employing Parish Administrative Assistant, Penny Howchin, for an extra three hours per week, on a casual basis, until we had someone in place. Penny, with support from Rev'd Charlie, has used her skills as a trained teacher to compile the session plans, which have been revamped to make them more engaging and comprehensive than ever.

A huge thank you to the whole team for continuing to deliver excellent Kids Church sessions at a time of considerable disruption.



ThreeSixTeens



Three-Sixteens is a children's group that meets fortnightly during term time for interactive games, activities, and life-skills. There are two age groups: Juniors (primary), who meet at 6:00 pm and Seniors (secondary), who meet at 7:30 pm.

In order to make 3:16's fun, engaging and sustainable in the absence of a Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator, we implemented the following measures:

- The team ran Three-Sixteens by utilising session plans that have been used in the past.
- The two Three-Sixteens groups (junior and senior) were combined until we can fill the position.



Carnival of Light

On Saturday the 28th of October, we ran our annual Carnival of Light in the Sports Dome, as a Christian alternative to Halloween. This light themed party included: inflatables (jumping castle, meltdown and ninja running wall), carnival games, competitions, Fluro costumes, a sausage sizzle, coffee van and much more.

It proved extremely popular with the TSAC community, with around 500 people in attendance (including St. Andrew's volunteers). The event was supported by College Chaplain, Rev'd Jonathan Kemp, student volunteers and a number of teachers who attended with their families. The Carnival of Light provides an effective interface between the church and college communities and helps to put St. Andrew's Springfield 'on the map'.

This year, we aimed to run the event at a profit, and we succeeded. Sources of income included:

- \$2,000.00 - donation (congregation member)
- \$361.32 - donation to cover the cost of the food (congregation member)
- \$3,106.64 - takings on the night for entry and sausage sizzle
- \$1,310 - TSAC gold coin donation free dress day (which also provided additional advertising)

Total expenditure was almost \$6,000 and total income was over \$7,000 with a net profit of \$1,118.58.



Ichthus Camps



Ichthus camps are three-day, diocesan run discipleship camps for children, which are held at various times throughout the year. They are fun, formative and a great opportunity for the children to form friendships with their peers from other churches.

Children and leaders from St. Andrew's attended two camps this year, and whilst the uptake was lower than last year, we are still very much part of the Ichthus network and look forward to sending more children and leaders on camps in 2024.

We are in the privileged position of having Ichthus leaders on our children's ministry team. The camps give them the opportunity to hone their skills and share ideas with leaders from around the diocese, thus keeping the children's ministry at St. Andrew's fresh and exciting.



Summary

More than a quarter of the people in our congregation are under the age of sixteen. It is therefore vital that we continue to place a high priority on ministry to children and young people. We have a very capable team, but we still need to expand in this area, so if you feel that you could play a part, do not hesitate to let us know.

The safety and wellbeing of our children is paramount and all children's ministry team members hold a current Blue Card and are rigorously screened with a 'Safer Ministry Check.' In addition, they are required to complete diocesan child protection training every three years.



The Springfield Anglican College



St. Andrew's Parish enjoys a close and cohesive relationship with the Springfield Anglican College (TSAC) and we are especially grateful to the Principal, Mr Steven Morris, and College Chaplain, Rev'd Jonathan Kemp, for ensuring that this continues.

TSAC continues to support St. Andrew's in a myriad of ways, including the use of Cedar at negligible cost, printing, the loan of tech equipment and advertising. We are extremely grateful to the many staff at the college who have assisted our endeavours over the course of the last year, especially the Director of Communications and Marketing, Mrs Charlene Stephenson, who has greatly assisted with the marketing of our special services and events.

Rev'd Charlie regularly meets with Mr Morris and Rev'd Jonathan to discuss matters of mutual interest to both the church and the college. The idea of a joint Sunday service has been raised and we are keen to pursue this in 2024.

As mentioned above, the college community was extremely supportive of the Carnival of Light. Rev'd Jonathan led a team of student volunteers, and the bulk of the guests were students and parents from the college, including a good number of teachers.



Having now served on the College Council for over three years, Rev'd Charlie is heavily involved in TSAC's governance and is pleased to be able to give back to the life of the college. Rev'd Charlie's involvement also provides valuable insight into all aspects of college life, which aids St. Andrew's in fostering a mutually supportive relationship.



Worship Music

At St. Andrew's we recognise the importance and power of connecting with God through sung worship and this aspect of our life together is valued and honoured by our congregation. Over the course of the year, the quality of the music and the level of engagement from the congregation has steadily increased. As a small church we are blessed to have sixteen musicians and vocalists regularly leading us into the presence of God through music.

The Sunday evening 'Prayer and Worship Nights' have become a more regular fixture in our calendar and now take place on a bi-monthly basis. In 2023 we held six of these services, compared to three the previous year. They are smaller, more intimate services, usually attended by 10-20 parishioners, however, they are a powerful way of helping people to engage with God at a deeper and more personal level. Those who attend these services find them refreshing, inspiring and life giving.

For the International Service in August, our Zimbabwean brothers and sisters sang a hymn in Shona. It was lively and uplifting and gave the church 'permission' to move, clap and dance if they so wished. Since that time, we have included a hymn in Shona once a month. The majority of the congregation cannot sing along, but we have the words translated into English on the screen, so that those of us who don't speak Shona can follow the meaning.

In addition to the normal music rehearsals, the team had two 'Jam Nights' to develop their repertoire, skills and team dynamics and to encourage new musicians to get involved. Children and young people are regularly encouraged to join the team and roles given are commensurate with ability.

Additional music team members were rostered on for Easter Sunday to enhance the sung worship; and on Christmas Eve, 12 vocalists and seven musicians led the carols superbly well.



Tech Team

Our small but dedicated team of tech volunteers have provided outstanding audio-visual support to our services and events throughout the year. Impressively, they have maintained high sound quality for services in the Sports Dome, where the acoustics are not conducive to good audio. We are extremely grateful for the incredible 'behind the scenes' work carried out by this vitally important team.

Meeting the AV requirements of the church requires highly skilled and well-trained volunteers. We do not currently have enough people with the requisite skill set, which places undue pressure on the team. In 2024 we will make every effort to train more volunteers to meet the considerable demands.



COVID - 19

Since 2022 we have seen a significant shift in the way that COVID is managed by State and Federal government. With high vaccination rates and greater public awareness, the risks have been greatly reduced.

Whilst COVID is no longer seen as a major concern, we still encourage people to remain at home if they have tested positive. Moreover, our overall awareness and standards of hygiene and cleanliness have remained at a higher level since the pandemic.



FINANCE



In 2023 we ran at a profit of \$1,457, a vast improvement from a loss of \$15,594 in 2022. Two factors greatly contributed to this:

1. In July, we held our first ever gift month which raised an additional \$14,835, to fund a part-time Young Adults Coordinator. (Those funds have been ring-fenced for that purpose).
2. Our part-time Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator resigned at the end of September, saving us three months salary.

Our giving increased from \$98,077 in 2022 to \$104,496 in 2023, an increase of 6.5%.

Key Sources of income for 2023

Giving - \$104,496

Good Shepherd Grant (from the diocese) - \$40,000

Anglican Men's Society (AMS) Grant - \$6,000

Total income - \$181,096

Total expenditure - \$179,639

The Good Shepherd Grant decreases by \$10,000 per year, so this year (2024), we will receive \$30,000.

As a church, we want to model generosity. To that end, 10% of the income generated through giving each quarter is donated to a worthy cause. 2023's beneficiaries were:

1st quarter – Emergency Relief Account \$2,058

2nd quarter – Bush Church Aid \$2,370 (to be paid in 2024)

3rd quarter – Anglican Aid Abroad \$2,912

4th quarter – Creating a Bright Future Foundation \$2,658

In 2023, we gave a total of \$9,998 to assist people in our church and local community and to support organisations, at home and abroad, that are changing people's lives for the better.

2024's beneficiaries will be:

1st quarter – \$1,200 to the Duk Orphanage (Uganda), with the remainder going to the Emergency Relief Account

2nd quarter – Bush Church Aid

3rd quarter – \$1,200 to the Duk Orphanage (Uganda), with the remainder going to the Domestic Violence Action Centre (DVAC)

4th quarter – Creating a Bright Future Foundation

The absence of church owned buildings limits our options for generating additional income. We have therefore been investigating other revenue streams. One proposal was to organise a fun-run in Springfield, starting and finishing at the Springfield Anglican College (Primary or Secondary Campus). A 'Fun-run Committee' was formed to assess the feasibility of such a venture. After detailed investigation, it became apparent that the high costs associated with traffic management and electronic timing would be prohibitive. Moreover, the levels of effort, risk and return were not deemed favourable.

Following the church camp at Pointro, it was suggested that St. Andrew's could potentially assume responsibility for running the facility. It was estimated that we could offer the diocese a greater return than it currently gets from the site, whilst generating substantial income for the parish. This proposal was put to our area Bishop, who was amenable to the idea, however, the diocese as a whole was unwilling to endorse it.

Our efforts to identify a viable annual fundraiser or reliable revenue stream continue. This may include further conversations with the diocese about Pointro.

Giving must steadily increase, and since it is, to a large extent, commensurate with the size of our congregation, we must grow numerically in 2024.

[See Treasurer's Report for more details.](#)

VISION 2025

In 2020, the parish council, with support and input from the wider congregation, spent time prayerfully discerning the way forward for the next five years and beyond. In essence, we wanted to be very clear about who we are, where we want to be in five years' time (now 2 years' time), and how we are going to get there.

We have made progress with all our ministry objectives, which are, To be:

Biblical

- We continue to maintain an emphasis on sound Bible teaching and deep engagement with the scriptures.
- We have been actively encouraging the congregation to bring their Bibles to church and a much higher percentage are now doing so.

Prayerful

- The prayer hub is meeting regularly, and we have maintained monthly prayer meetings after church (on the third Sunday of each month)
- In 2024 we will appoint a volunteer prayer ministry coordinator.

Worshipful

- The music team has grown in size, confidence and ability. (See 'Worship Music' on page 25.)
- Sunday service attendance is up by more than 10% from last year, and 2023 saw the highest overall attendance ever.
- The Prayer and Worship Nights have become a more regular fixture (with the possibility of growing into a second service)

Welcoming

- We have developed a culture of welcome and hospitality. Newcomers usually comment on the quality of the welcome they receive.

Pastoral

- Pastoral care is available through Hubs, ministry teams and the pastoral care team (including clergy).

Disciple Making

- Another Hub has started in the Greenbank area.
- The church held its first annual church camp.
- A pilgrimage to the Holy Land has been planned for 2024. (This is now subject to the situation in Gaza) Currently, 18 people have paid their deposits.
- We are in the process of recruiting a paid (4 hours per week), Young Adults Coordinator

Gospel Promoting

- We are making inroads into the community via UniSQ.
- Our people are equipped, encouraged and inspired to promote the gospel with their whole lives.

Every member of our congregation is encouraged to read our Vision 2025 strategy document ([available here](#)). You will notice that we are already meeting many of our objectives, however, there is still much work to be done. Hopefully, this document will help us to identify what our own personal role and contribution towards achieving our mission might look like.

Mission: Love Jesus, Love the Church, Love the World

Our mission statement is rooted in our three core values:

The Cross

(Love Jesus)

Jesus died on a cross for our sins, so that all who turn to him might receive forgiveness and everlasting life. That is the essence of the Good News and the reason that the cross is the enduring symbol of Christianity. We love Jesus and want to live lives of grateful obedience to him.

The Community

(Love the Church)

God empowers the church, through his Holy Spirit, to be the body of Christ in the world. Our community is one small part of that body. We are a diverse and welcoming community who take Jesus' command to "love one another" seriously.

The Mission

(Love the World)

We aim to reach out with the Good News of Jesus, through our words and actions. We believe that discipleship begins long before a person becomes a Christian and we are committed to proclaiming the Gospel and prayerfully nurturing the faith and spiritual growth of those to whom God sends us.

[Click here to see the Vision 2025 booklet.](#)



SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

If we are to move forward as a church, each one of us must be very intentional about maintaining the basic spiritual disciplines, of which there are many, but five in particular:

GATHER

1

Firstly, we meet together regularly as a body. It matters that we come together once a week for worship and fellowship. We should not miss this opportunity if we can possibly help it because the body of Christ is incomplete without us.

BELONG

2

Secondly, we belong to a small group. The best place to build loving, mutually supportive and life-giving relationships is in the context of small groups. They also provide the opportunity for us to pray together, study the Bible and exercise our spiritual gifts.

SERVE

3

Thirdly, we serve. When we gave our lives to Jesus he fitted us for a purpose. We are all to share in the work of building his kingdom. If you are not yet serving in some way, consider making that a priority this year.

GIVE

4

Fourthly, we give: cheerfully, wholeheartedly and sacrificially. Our finances is often the last bastion to fall to the sovereignty of Christ, but fall it must. It might seem unspiritual to talk about money, but Jesus spoke about it repeatedly. We cannot serve two masters, so let us resolve to honour Jesus with every area of our lives, including our finances.

PRAY

5

Fifthly, we pray. Prayer (usually accompanied with Bible reading), is the most essential of all the Christian disciplines. Without prayer, we do not have a relationship with God, nor can we fulfil his purposes for our lives. We have developed an exciting and ambitious vision for our church, but our efforts will be in vain, if prayer does not under-gird it. May we become a more prayerful church in 2023.

CONCLUSION

In 2023, we built on a solid foundation of regular events and services that are giving a more established feel to our church. Pleasingly, we have delivered on a number of key Vision 2025 objectives, including the Church Camp, Food Pantry project and planned 2024 Holy Land Pilgrimage (subject to the cessation of violence in the region). Many individuals and families joined our church in 2023, bringing a range of skills and gifts with them. However, we have some work to do on our retention, which is dependent on helping newcomers to build supportive relationships within the church community.

Effective discipleship and bold evangelism will need to be key areas of focus for the year ahead. The ongoing recruitment drive that began in October 2023 and subsequent reordering of our core team will create new and exciting opportunities for our church. 2024 holds enormous potential and we should pray that it becomes a pivotal year in the life and ministry of St. Andrew's.

Finally, let us pray for the Lord's guidance and blessing as we seek to fulfil our mission to: Love Jesus, Love the Church, Love the World.



Warden's Report

2022 - 2023 Parish Council

St Andrew's Springfield
Mission:

Love Jesus

Love the Church

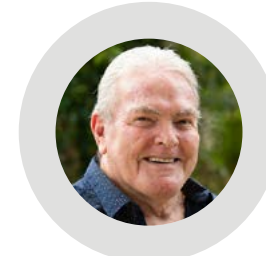
Love the World



Jeff Armytage
PRIEST'S WARDEN



Rev. Charlie Lacey
CHAIR



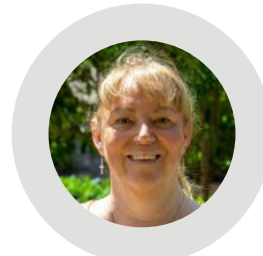
Paul Bell
PARISH COUNCIL



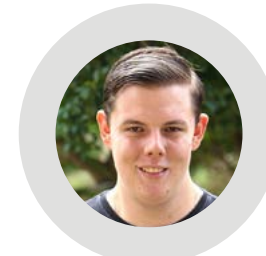
Madeleine De Villiers
PARISH COUNCIL



Helen Irwin
PEOPLE'S WARDEN



Louise Eagles
PARISH COUNCIL



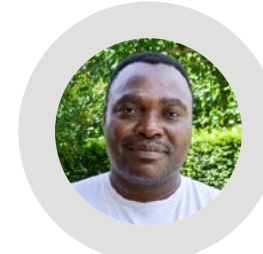
Samuel Eagles
PARISH COUNCIL



Penny Howchin
PARISH COUNCIL



Kirsten Stephens
TREASURER



George Masvaure
PARISH COUNCIL



Brandon Steyn
PARISH COUNCIL

Warden's Report

Overall 2023 has been a very good year for our church. It has grown, and a lot has been achieved with the effort of the church as a whole (that means everyone): the church Council, and the dedicated St. Andrew's Springfield staff, the tech team, the music team, morning tea team, welcome team, kids church team and many more volunteers doing many jobs, but most importantly with the help, guidance and leadership of Charlie, Tisa and his family. I am now beginning to have some small understanding of some of the difficulties and difficult decisions that Charlie, as our Parish Priest, faces on a daily basis, which is behind the scenes, and we as parishioners are not aware of. With prayer and the help of God we have seen the best outcomes possible to these situations.

We have had some Parish Council changes throughout the year, with Mark, Ann and Stacey leaving and Louise re-joining the Council.

We saw potential for evangelism in the University of Southern Queensland (USQ). It became apparent that a large contingent of young people may not have been introduced to a Christian way of life in that arena of young people. Therefore, with Vision 2025 in mind, in February this year we made an application to USQ and Rev. Charlie was approved as a volunteer Chaplain for the university. On the 1st May 2023 he was officially appointed to the position of the USQ Volunteer Chaplain. Since then he has attended the University on a number of occasions, and begun to have conversations with the students and staff that have demonstrated to him a hunger for the Christian belief.

We had a very successful visit from Bishop John in September 2023. He indicated that he saw very pleasing trends emerging from our church. Whilst he was here, he also noted that it was very pleasing to see that our church consisted of a large component of children of various ages, which is a very important part of any Church, in fact they are the very people who will continue our Church into the future.



This year saw some new innovations and projects, such as the introduction or reintroduction of name badges and the commencement of the Food Pantry program.

A gift month was introduced this year with the specific purpose of raising funds to finance a Young Adults Coordinator, to lead the young adult's group and help make inroads into USQ. Whilst the target of \$20,000.00 was not quite met, the result was very encouraging. At this time we are yet to find our Young Adults Coordinator.

During the year a proposal was received to consider some form of amalgamation of our church and the Booval Anglican church. Whilst they are in a strong financial position they were struggling with an aging congregation and the provision of a parish priest. The proposal suggested that in essence our churches would combine in some format, both in finance and sharing of priest and teams. The offer proposed a financial boost for our church but at the cost of a large increased work load on Charlie, the admin team, and our other resources. This matter was seriously considered and prayed over for a considerable time. The final decision was to ultimately reject the proposal.

We had some large undertakings this year, including but not limited to a very successful Church Camp at Pointro, Palm Sunday, Easter Services, Carnival of Light and the Christmas services. These events required a large input from all our staff and volunteers and I must say without exception, were all very successful.

Thank you.

Jeff Armytage (Priest Warden)
Helen Irwin (People's Warden)

May we always "offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of our lips that openly profess His name. And do not forget to do good and share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (Heb 13:15-16).





St. Andrew's Springfield