

# VISION 2010

## OUR MISSION

‘To know Christ and make Him known’

This mission can be expressed as four key activities and one over-arching purpose:

**Gather.** God is at work in our world to gather a people for himself by his Word and Spirit. We gather together to hear his voice, declare his praises and encourage one another. (Revelation 7:9-17, 1 Peter 2:4-10, Hebrews 10:19-25).

**Grow.** God’s will is for us to become more like the Lord Jesus, as individuals and as a body. Growth will be expressed in Christlike character and convictions. (Ephesians 4:1-16)

**Give.** Christians are called to follow in the footsteps of Jesus who gave himself for us on the cross. God challenges us to invest our time, talents and treasures in the service of Christ’s kingdom. (Mark 8:31-38, 2 Corinthians 8:1-14, 1 Peter 4:10-12)

**Go.** God’s people are sent into the world to be salt and light. This is expressed by working for justice, caring for God’s creation and sharing with others the good news of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 5:13-16, Colossians 4:2-6)

**Glorify.** We are made and saved for God’s glory, not our own comfort or reputation. All we do should reflect this priority. (1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1)

## OUR VALUES

Our values are beliefs and commitments which shape decisions and inform ministry priorities. The following list is not intended to be exhaustive, but expresses some of the key characteristics we hope to see in our life together

We value the **authority and power of God’s Word**. We believe that when the Bible is taught clearly God’s voice is heard, lives are transformed and God’s church is built. Hearing and obeying the Scriptures will be central to our public gatherings, small group meetings and homes.

We value **Christ-centred prayerful spirituality**. We believe that Christ is the vine and we are the branches that can only bear fruit as we remain in him. We wish to make intentional prayer central to all our activities.

We value **every-member discipleship and ministry**. We are committed to helping Christians grow in their faith, discover their gifts and use them for God’s glory in the church and world. We believe that leaders should be trained and supported and that ministry is best done in teams.

We value **innovation, experimentation and risk-taking**. We are committed to giving people permission to ‘fail’ or ‘succeed’ faithfully. We will be willing to try new approaches to ministry even when the outcome is uncertain

We value a **mission focus**. We believe that a concern for lost people should shape our decisions about ministry, money and programs. We are committed to regularly reviewing our activities in light of these priorities. Our concern for God’s mission will extend to gospel work in the rest of Australia and overseas.

We value **engagement with our local community**. While recognising the urgency of people’s need to come into a saving relationship with Jesus we will care for them as whole people – physically, socially and spiritually. We will also model good stewardship of the non-human creation. We are committed to exploring ways of meeting with non-Christians on their own ground rather expecting them to come to ours.

We value **co-operation and partnership**. We are not isolationist and are committed to working together with other churches and Christian organisations to further the cause of the gospel. As part of the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn we intend to make a positive contribution through Synod and other bodies.

## **OUR CONTEXT<sup>1</sup>**

The Anglican Parish of Turvey Park encompasses the suburbs of Turvey Park, Mount Austin, Tolland, Bourkelands and Glenfield in the regional city of Wagga Wagga. The first services on the Fernleigh Road site were held in the 1950’s. Currently an average total of 160 people meet each Sunday at 8.00am and 9.30am.

Within our parish there are a mixture of social and economic groups. The suburbs of Mount Austin and Turvey Park have a relatively high percentage of older people while Tolland and Bourkelands have a higher percentage of younger families. There is a significant indigenous population in Tolland West that is not represented in our congregation.

Compared to our parish as a whole attenders at St Paul’s are more likely to be married, retired, involved in full-time employment and older. A survey of current attenders found they were generally positive about parish leadership and life but were less certain about the existence and value of small groups and strategies for keeping contact with people on the fringes of parish life and reaching out to the wider community.

Interviews were conducted with a small number of people in the community who are not part of our congregation. While the majority were aware of our existence few had any knowledge of our activities and ministries.

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<sup>1</sup> This section draws on a more detailed report prepared by Lisa Michalowski, a social work student at Charles Sturt University.

## **OUR VISION**

Recognising that we depend on the goodness and grace of God for growth and change, we set the following goals for 2010

### **Gather**

We dream of a church of at least four congregations with a total of 350 people meeting together each week. Each congregation will have its own character and plan for mission and be committed to establishing new congregations as the need and opportunity arises. At least half our regular attendees will be involved in a small group. We will have developed specific ministries to children, young families and people of retirement age and be contributing to a city-wide Anglican youth ministry. We will have an ongoing maintenance plan for our physical facilities and be updating them as necessary to facilitate new forms of ministry.

### **Grow**

We dream of a church where individuals are growing in their Christian convictions and character. We will have an integrated program of Christian education, with basic and supplementary courses in each of our four key activities. We will have developed material to help our members pray and read God's word in their homes and families. We will have an organised pastoral network to care for people in the joys and sorrows of life.

### **Give**

We dream of a church that is intentional about welcoming new people, helping them discover their gifts and deploying them in Christ's service. We will have ministry teams active in each of the four key activities. We will encourage people to give generously to God's work and supply with them the information and opportunities they need to do so.

### **Go**

We dream of a church committed to God's mission in Turvey Park, Wagga Wagga, country NSW and beyond. We will be training our members in personal evangelism and providing high-quality events and courses to which they can invite their non-Christian friends. We will have developed our partnership with the Parish of Tarcutta and be actively pursuing partnerships with churches in other country towns. We will have deployed at least three people into full-time Christian ministry. In co-operation with Anglicare and other agencies we will have established a presence in Tolland. Our practices will be consistent with good stewardship of God's creation.

## **Glorify**

We dream of a church that enhances the reputation of the triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## **PICTURES OF THE VISION**

Our vision is not primarily about buildings and plant so it is not easy to draw a plan of what it will look like. Ultimately ministry is about God and people, so the following are four attempts to sketch what difference the vision could make in real lives:

### *James and Peggy*

James and Peggy are retired farmers who moved to Turvey Park after passing the family property onto their son. They have been active churchgoers all their lives, but since moving to St Paul's they have discovered a new vibrancy in their faith. James is part of the Chain Gang men's ministry and hosts a small Bible study and support group for men who are approaching retirement. Peggy is a valued mentor to many younger women in the congregation.

### *Peter*

Peter was raised in a Christian home and has come to Wagga Wagga to study primary school teaching. Moving away from home has given him the opportunity to own faith for himself. He is part of the St Paul's music group and has been discipled by one of the older men in the congregation. When he completes his study he is committed to remaining in rural NSW. Wherever he settles he will be an active Christian witness in his workplace and through involvement in the life of a local church.

### *Rachel*

Rachel is a single mum who lives in Tolland. She first came into contact with St Paul's through an outreach ministry in her suburb. The ministry helped her organise her personal finances and also introduced her to the person of Jesus Christ. Now she is a growing Christian committed to community development and justice in her neighbourhood.

### *Robert and Wendy*

Robert and Wendy, together with their two primary-aged children, live in Bourkelands. Both attended Sunday School at Turvey Park but drifted away from Christ and His Church during their teenage years. One day their neighbour invited them to a new family-friendly congregation at St Paul's. To their surprise they said 'yes' and over time discovered that faith in Jesus Christ is not just for childhood. Now they are part of a team planning to establish a congregation in a new suburb.

## **OUR STRATEGY**

How will we get there?

### **2006**

Develop Gather 101: An Introduction to our Church

Establish third congregation.

Begin re-organisation of ministry around the '4-G' structure.

Develop Grow 101: An Introduction to Spiritual Growth and Give 101: An Introduction to Christian Ministry

Introduce a 'process evangelism' course.

Begin discussions with Anglicare about Tolland ministry.

Develop five-year maintenance and development plan for our facilities, including those items identified in Lisa Michalowski's report.

### **2007**

Have pastoral care network in place.

Social Justice team to have identified one item from 'life-giving justice' document for local action.

Have four key activity teams in place.

Develop Go 101: An Introduction to Christian Mission and Discipleship

Begin development of supplementary courses.

Commence Tolland Ministry

### **2008**

Recruit core team for new congregation

Complete structure of basic and supplementary courses.

### **2009**

Establish fourth congregation

### **2010**

Establish a strategy for the resourcing and support of other rural congregations.

## **STAFF AND OTHER RESOURCES**

'Staff' refers to people who are given responsibility for a particular area of ministry and form part of a staff team. They may be mixture of full and part-time, paid and unpaid, recruited from within and outside the parish.

### **2006**

Continue employment of MTS Worker

### **2007**

Expand Admin Support in Office

Expand employment of parish evangelist

### **2008 or 2009**

Appoint staff member to oversee new congregation

### **2010**

Appoint specialist staff member eg women's or children and young families worker.

## **APPENDIX A**

### An Integrated Program of Christian Education

#### **Gather 101: An Introduction to Our Church**

- our salvation
- our story so far
- our vision for the future
- our ministries
- how to get involved

#### Supplementary Courses

- Baptism Preparation
- Leading Services
- Making the Most of Sunday

#### **Grow 101: An Introduction to Spiritual Growth**

- foundations for spiritual growth
- disciplines for spiritual growth (Bible, prayer, accountability etc)
- resources for spiritual growth
- planning for spiritual growth

#### Supplementary Courses

- Bible overview
- Growing in Prayer
- The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

#### **Give 101: An Introduction to Christian Ministry**

- the nature of Christian ministry
- discovering your SHAPE for ministry
- a Christian approach to money and giving

#### Supplementary Courses

- training for specific areas of ministry (eg Leading a Bible study, Encouragement, Children's ministry etc)

#### **Go 101: An Introduction to Christian Mission and Discipleship**

- Knowing and Telling the Gospel
- Your role in world mission
- Discipleship in Daily Life

#### Supplementary Courses

- more detailed training in specific techniques of evangelism
- Called into Life: Vocation for every Christian
- Your Kingdom Come: God's concern for Justice

## A Possible Ministry Structure

### **Gather**

- Music and worship team for each congregation
- Welcome and Integration Team
- Preaching Team

### **Grow**

- Small Group Ministry Team
- Generational Ministries (eg Sunday School, Youth Group)
- Prayer and Spirituality Team

### **Give**

- Gift Discovery and Deployment Team
- Stewardship Team

### **Go**

- Evangelism Team
- Overseas Mission Team
- Social Justice Team