

Welcome to St Luke's



ANNUAL REPORT For the 2024 AGM



ST LUKES
ANGLICAN CHURCH
— CLOVELLY —



AGENDA FOR AGM

Scheduled for 11.30am on Sunday 7th April, AD2024 – at St Catherine’s School

Preliminaries

Sign declarations, Establish quorum, Appoint minute secretary, Receive apologies.

Reports

Minister’s report

Wardens’ report – accounts, proposed budget, and report

Pause for prayer

Elections

Wardens (2)

Auditor

Parish Council – yes/no; 3/6/9; Nominees

Nominators (5)

Synod representatives (for the triennium of 2023–25) – *one replacement*

Recommendations

For the incoming Parish Council

Conclusion

Election results

Close in prayer

Confirm minutes

For outgoing and incoming office bearers

Handover

All elected/appointed to sign a subsequent declaration



MINISTER'S REPORT

Our vision:

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST FOR OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY

Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honoured, as happened among you ... May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ. – 2 Thess. 3:1, 3:5

I love this prayer that the Apostle shares with his friends in Thessalonica: that the word of the Lord would *speed ahead*. Normally speeding is frowned upon, but this is the kind of speeding we should pray for!

Paul longs for the gospel to spread and spread rapidly. And Paul longs for the gospel to spread into every part of these Christians' lives: so that their hearts would be directed, not to fleeting pleasures, but to loving God.

As we reflect on the last year of God's church at St Luke's, we have much to be thankful for. As we look ahead, we can join in this prayer with Paul: **that the word of the Lord might speed ahead, in the east and in our lives.**

CONNECT BUILDING PROJECT



After many years, we are on the verge of starting our Connect Building Project. Our DA with Randwick Council took 11 months to be approved. Since approval in June 2023, we have appointed a professional Project Manager (Midson Group), lodged a successful DA amendment, our Architects (MCA) have completed their detailed design, four builders submitted tenders for the project, and our Committee unanimously settled on a preferred builder. We are currently in negotiations over inclusions and potential cost savings, amidst a time of rising construction costs.

In March, we brought to St Luke's the need for an additional \$200,000 *minimum* to be pledged by Mon 25th March, with a responsible goal of \$400,000 to allow breathing room. If we can reach our goal here, we could see the builder starting in late April. Praise God! (And **pray** that the word of the Lord would speed ahead, as God provides the funds we need through his church).

MOVING TO ST CATH'S

As a church, we have also gone through a major change process with our Sunday gatherings moving to St Catherine's School Chapel on Sunday 10 December. And with mixed emotions, we consolidated our three services into two new congregations, at 10am and 4pm. We are deeply thankful to God for St Cath's hosting us and for the opportunity of a larger space with more seats and parking. With these changes, I believe we are better placed to grow. (**Pray** that the word of the Lord would speed ahead and that this season at St Cath's would be a time of growth, not survival).

The move to St Cath's is only possible through many faithful volunteers amongst us, who are arriving early and staying late to setup chairs, music and sound gear, tables, the coffee machine, a stack of signage, and then help us to welcome newcomers and worship God together. (I love the story of one new person who was walked up from Macpherson St by one of our friendly welcomers, and has stayed ever since! **Pray** this ministry of welcoming would only speed ahead, as we look to welcome many more!)

We had our biggest ever Sunday, for the Archbishop's visit in April 2023 (142 unique adults / 243 unique persons). Since our move to St Cath's, our biggest Sunday (in Feb 2024) has been 131 unique adults / 216 persons.

CHANGES IN OUR STAFF TEAM

In 2023, we welcomed Amani to our staff team (part-time) and we thank God for his godly leadership of CY and ministry to a growing cohort of Year 12-13's. In December, as our congregations changed, our staff team have also changed roles and responsibilities, with Mark Taylor taking on *Community Groups*, Fiona adding *Welcoming*, and Amani overseeing *Devotion* – in addition to their existing responsibilities. It's such a privilege and joy to be able to have a staff *team*. As a church, we're able to resource God's people here better than ever, though we have even more ideas once the building is completed!



THE GIFT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

I love our church and I'm so thankful to God for you and for everyone who calls St Luke's "home". We have amazing leaders, a gifted staff team, and a vision to reach thousands with the new life that Christ offers. All of the changes that we're navigating – the building project, the move to St Cath's, new roles for the staff team, and more – are all about serving the people of our church and the people of the east, to the glory of God. So please **pray** that the word of the Lord would speed ahead, so that thousands more would experience new life in Christ, now and in eternity.



Our mission:



Our vision to **give** and **live** new life in Christ is worked out through a simple strategy to engage our community, involve everyone and grow people in new life in Christ – both for adults as well as kids and youth.

ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY (+ MISSIONAL LIVING)

Prayer + Purpose: Under God, to see a flood of new contacts and converts, alongside a growing passion to share Christ.

In 2023, 32 adults have arrived and connected with us. Although we weren't able to run *Fun in the Park* in 2023, we still had dozens of visitors at Easter at St Cath's (too many for us to welcome well, which is also a challenge for us!) There were enough guests to launch an Exploring course in term 2, with our courses having 6 attenders each term in 2023. Through this, five people have become Christians or recommitted their lives to Christ. We also had a huge Street Party, and a good number of visitors at Christmas services.

Our vision to see *new life in Christ for our whole community* is also lived out in our prayers and our personal connections. Significantly, 60% of us have again invited someone to church in the 12 months to October 2023 (in our annual survey). Our goal here is to encourage each of us to a prayerful passion for the lost, to make our Sundays accessible to sceptics, and to provide events and opportunities to help you walk with people taking their next step to consider Jesus. [Dave]



INVOLVE NEWCOMERS IN OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

Purpose: to welcome newcomers into our church and into our lives.

We love meeting new people at St Luke's! We thank God that we have new faces in the building almost every Sunday and are regularly joined by people exploring Jesus or looking for a new church family.

We ran multiple events throughout the year to deepen relationships. Our weekend away was a highlight with 130 people away together at Lake Mac. Our women's Refresh morning doubled in 2023, to over 60 people. And there were many coffees and meals to welcome people into our lives and build friendships. [Fiona]

GROW EVERYONE IN JESUS' NEW LIFE

We seek to help each other grow in our new life with Jesus by fostering the 'means of grace' that God gives us.

These are the five rhythms we've noticed in the New Testament:

Gathering | Community | Serving | Deeper devotion | Mission

Gatherings [Fiona]: In 2023 we moved from three Sunday gatherings to two new gatherings meeting at St Cath's. God has been wonderfully kind as we've made that change, and we praise God for the blessing St Cath's has been as we continue to gather each Sunday. Alongside the move we have been restructuring our Sunday ministry teams, into three ministry areas - the Host team, the Worship team and the Kids and Youth team. We have seen growth in each of these teams through this change.

We've explored God's word through series in Luke's gospel, Malachi, Philippians, Proverbs as well as various topical and vision series. We've appreciated a number of guest speakers over the last year, including Archbishop Kanishka Raffel, Dr Peter Orr and Al Stewart. We continue to value thoughtful planning and quality execution in our Sunday gatherings.

Community Groups [Mark, from Jan 2024]: Our Community Groups are a crucial and powerful part of our life together. At the same time as our Sunday gatherings grow larger, we need to grow smaller through these rhythms of rich community. We're blessed to have amazing leaders, who keep showing that it is more blessed to give than to receive - as they open their homes and their hearts week-by-week. The kind of gospel-shaped community that we enjoy in our groups is a rare treasure in a world of busyness, loneliness, distractions, and expressive individualism.

In 2023, we welcomed Mark and Emily Browning to this team of leaders and praise God for them. As we start 2024, many groups are full and we'd start another group if we had more leaders. Please join us in this prayer, and for Mark in this strategic priority of supporting our existing leaders and developing new leaders for the future.

Serving [Fiona]: Our hope at St Luke's is every member of the body has a rhythm of serving through which God is growing and shaping us in the ways of Jesus, who first served us.

It is wonderful how many people serve at St Luke's. We currently have 114 people serving on Sundays (up from 111 in 2023 and 98 in 2022). 16 people started serving after attending Belonging last year. Encouragingly, in our October survey, 94% of people report they feel their gifts are being utilised (up from 92% in 2022 and 85% in 2020)

To support our leaders, we ran a start of year Kick Off training event as well as termly leaders gatherings in 2023 for community group leaders and ministry team leaders. These are continuing in 2024, in a slightly different format as we continue to invest in our leaders. We also updated and developed a set of online resources to help onboard all those who start serving on Sundays at St Luke's for the first time.

God has provided wonderful leaders at St Luke's, who serve with energy, focus, love and grace, and through their labours He is bearing much fruit.

And yet, particularly because in God's kindness we have been continuously growing as a church community, there are more leadership roles than leaders at present. There are some ministry teams that currently don't have a team leader. And we would run more community groups, if we had more community group leaders. Please join me in praying for more leaders and that God would give each of us hearts like Christ's as we play our part in seeing new life in Christ for our whole community.



Deeper devotion [Amani, from Dec 2023]: Our prayer and purpose here is to grow God's people by fostering a deeper devotion to God in all of life, that would 'direct our hearts to the love of God'. As well as some Prayer and Praise nights, the primary expression of this area of ministry is resourcing individuals and families for their daily rhythms of prayer and Bible reading. Each January, we publish an update to the *Pray Daily* resource. Our Bible bites connect with 156 different people, and we've experimented with a Bible sprint in the first quarter of 2024.

Living on mission: We've included this under the 'Engage' area above.

KIDS + YOUTH SYSTEMS

We're so thankful for all that God is doing in the lives of our kids and teenagers – and for the many leaders and teachers and volunteers who serve in kids and youth ministries.

Our ENGAGE ministries – Splash (K-2), Fresh (3-5) and CY (6-12) – all sustained healthy numbers or have grown during 2023. Splash and Fresh both grew each term, before a drop in term 4 (primarily due to upper years transitioning up).

We're also passionate about each child and teenager growing to *love Jesus recklessly, love Jesus' people sacrificially, and love Jesus' world passionately*. We keep fostering intergenerational relationships; we're investing in our *Growing Leaders* cohort (with six of our youth attending the Leaders-in-Training conference in January 2024); and we're seeking to support parents as they disciple their children to know and serve Christ.

As we begin 2024, we again had 95 kids registered for Summer Kids Club. We've just had our biggest ever night at *Clovelly Youth*, with 49 teenagers (plus another 5 one-off visitors) – and we'd also had the highest average attendance in the history of CY (35.5 youth). We're also blessed with more leaders, though please pray that God would multiply our leadership teams.

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MINISTRY

Parish Council: *Chris Bellenger, Simon Gerber, Scott Groves (Wardens); Elissa Deenick, David Columbro, Angela Brickell, Michael Jothy.*

We have a wonderful Parish Council, who've worked so well together and especially amidst this intense building project period. At our 2024 AGM, we will certainly have a vacancy to be filled, as we farewell Elissa Deenick.

STAFFING FOR MINISTRY

I'm so thankful for the team God's provided for us, as we stretch ourselves and our prayers and our budget to take this next step in our vision.

Senior staff team:

Dave Rogers – Senior Minister
Mark Taylor – Director of Kids + Youth, plus
Community Groups
Fiona Smartt – Director of Ministry [3 days]
Amani Kazogolo – Youth, plus *Devotions* [3 days]

Admin:

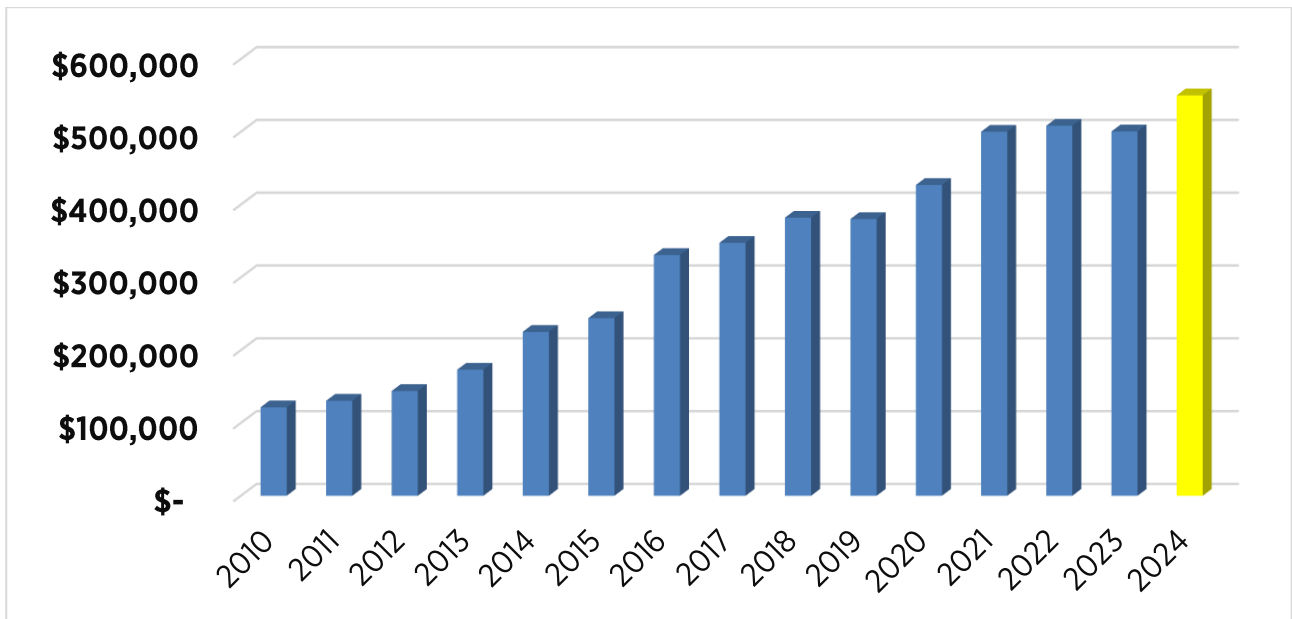
Kate Street [12 hours]

BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS

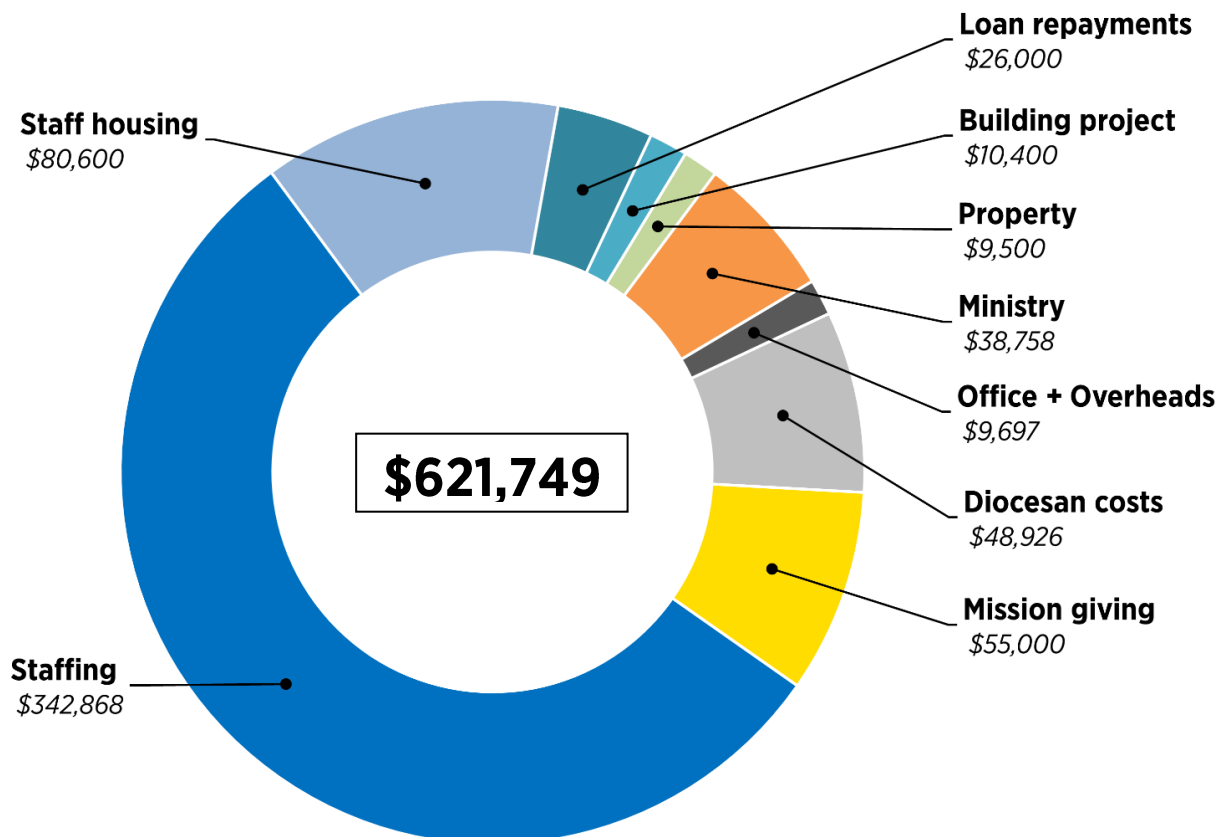
The audited accounts and proposed budget are available, online at **clovelly.org.au/events/agm**, or as print copies available on Sundays.

At the AGM, our Wardens will present a budget (available separately), including a giving target for our *operational* budget – to distinguish from our *Connect Building Project* budget.

Offertory (2024 budget)



Expenses (2024 budget)



Would you join us in prayer and in financial partnership
as we seek to serve Jesus, serve you, and serve our city
to see New life in Christ for our whole community?

clovelly.org.au/give

CONCLUSION

New life. In Christ. For our whole community. That's our prayer, vision, and commitment.

And yet we mustn't forget that it is the risen Lord Jesus who is more committed to this vision than even we are – enough that he died to save us and to gather us as his people (Tit. 2:11–15).

Would you pray that God would cause his gospel to speed ahead, in a very significant year for God's church in this place?

Soli Deo Gloria

Rev. Dave Rogers, 22.03.2024



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