

1 A VISION FOR GROWTH

...growing deep and wide in Christ

2 A VISION FOR CHURCH COMMUNITY

...caring for all

3 A VISION FOR MISSION

...strategic Mission
local and worldwide

4 A VISION FOR STEWARDSHIP

...the future of God's
resources in our hands

**St Aidan's
Strategic Directions
2015–2020**

Planning for the Future

Main Focus for 2016



Planning for the Future

Our Vision

At St Aidan's we have a vision of what Characterises us as a Church.

***To build a community of people who
...are passionate about God***

We:

- Actively seek to know God more.
- Expect to be transformed by God's word in the Bible
- Live out our faith in word and deed
- Testify about God's presence in our lives
- Teach others to be disciples of Christ

...cultivate vibrant relationships

We:

- Intentionally reach out to others with God's love
- Let others know that they matter and have worth
- Enjoy spending time getting to know each other
- Share of themselves in meaningful connections
- Pray regularly for each other and the growth of God's church

...enthusiastically serve others

We:

- Cheerfully give of our time, money and resources for God's work through St Aidan's
- Voluntarily give of ourselves to meet the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of others
- Willingly use our gifts and talents to build up the body of Christ



Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

1 Thess. 2:8a

- Gospel
- Love
- Life.

St Aidan's Strategic Plan 2015–2020

Key Focus Area 4: A Vision for Stewardship

Theme: Our church needs to plan carefully for the present and future use of all our God-given resources.

(Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Peter 4:1-11)

KEY OBJECTIVES FOR 2016:

A. COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Parish Council to develop a plan for the use of Social Media and integration of the Website by id of competent person.
2. Identification of and Training to be provided for Presenter and Sound Desk volunteers.

B. PROPERTY

1. The Parish Council to prepare and present a 10 year plan and budget for future use of parish infrastructure and property.
2. Maximise use of existing spaces to provide appropriate scope for growth.

C. FINANCES

1. Parish Council, Wardens and Ministry Team to encourage use of direct debit and other electronic funds transfer methods for offertory giving by parishioners.
2. Parish Council to continue examining staffing needs in line with changes and growth.

D. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. To modify our staffing to best achieve our goals, with particular focus on existing outreach opportunities.
2. To encourage 'every member ministry' so that all parishioners see they have a vital role to play in the life of the church.

4 Key Focus Areas

Much work had been done in 2011 in setting St Aidan's vision for the future. Inspired by and listening to God in his word and with much prayer, three statements to characterise the essence of St Aidan's were formulated.

*Passionate about God
Vibrant in relationships
Enthusiastic in service*

This document arises from Parish Council spending time formulating how to muster and apply our resources so that the vision can be effectively realised.

This requires some planning and direction so that we as a parish can achieve those ends. This is their working document for decision making.

We have grouped 4 key areas where we believe effort and physical resources should be focused to achieve the vision.

They are:

1. Growth — growth in numbers and discipleship. God wants people in his Church. The parish church is still the primary means by which people are brought to a relationship with God and grow in Him. The 2011 census tells us that there are 1400 people in our area that identify as Anglican. Whilst some of these will be going to other churches clearly many others could be enjoying fellowship with us. It's a good place to begin.

2. Pastoral Care — we want to continue to cultivate a culture of genuine care and concern for one another. It's more than the minister can do alone. In this area he's like the player / coach. We want to develop a culture of every member ministry. Every one has God given gifts important in the building up of Christ's church.

3. Mission — we want to look beyond our walls and into the community in which we live. We want to go with the gospel of Jesus into our parish and make real connections that result in lives brought to Christ. We want to be involved in our world in supporting evangelism, church planting and growth in greater Sydney, Australia and the world. We want to have a heart for social justice and equity and support those who do right on behalf of others.

4. Stewardship — we want to think about our resources in such a way that their management helps achieve our vision.

St Aidan's Strategic Plan 2015–2020

Key Focus Area 1: Grow the Church Family

Theme: Our church needs to grow deep and wide in Christ (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Key Objectives for 2016:

A. MORNINGS

1. Grow: To grow the morning services numerically and spiritually. 2015 outreach, 2016 Discipleship.
2. Integration: Sustain integration of new people into the morning services through encouraging regulars to invite new families/people for lunch.
3. Services: Continue to develop the morning services to be appropriate and welcoming for newcomers, especially parents with young children and the elderly. Continue to Examine what we do and our environment.
Develop better links to Playtime, Homegroups and other weekday ministries.
4. Develop a welcome pack.
5. Advertise our services in the Village Observer. Plan Budget for paid ads.
6. *8am initiatives*: Back to church Sunday. Crèche. Transport options for elderly. Inclusion and practical support for singles.
10am initiatives: Welcomers to the front door and rearrange nametag desk. Encourage regulars to be punctual and look out for newcomers. Improve presentation technology. Inclusion and practical support for singles.
Healing Service: Advertising. Investigate other Anglican healing services. Guest speakers especially Hospital Chaplains.

B. USING OUR GIFTS

1. Through teaching and modelling to encourage parishioners to discern and use their gifts in the life of the parish.
2. Training for Service Leaders, Readers, Prayers and Preachers. February Training.

C. YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

1. Plan for Youth leadership beyond 2015.
2. Intentional links with youth and 10am service.
3. To work better with existing families by providing such things as parents' nights / Parenting Course.

St Aidan's Strategic Plan 2015–2020

Key Focus Area 3: Local Mission

Theme: Our church needs to be committed to bringing the Gospel to Longueville. (2 Corinthians 5:11–6:2)

“Local church evangelism can claim to be the most normal, natural and productive method of spreading the gospel today...”

Every Christian congregation is called to be a worshipping, witnessing community... If we truly worship God, acknowledging and adoring his infinite worth, we find ourselves impelled to make him known to others, in order that they may worship him too.

Each local church is situated in a particular neighbourhood. Its first mission responsibility must therefore be to the people who live there. The congregation is strategically placed to reach out to the area around it.”

JOHN STOTT, *The Living Church* (IVP, 2007)

KEY OBJECTIVES FOR 2016:

1. Maintain Outreach Committee from S.A.M.E. reportable as a subcommittee of Parish Council.
2. Evaluate 2015 Christmas / New Year outreach.
3. Publish 2016 Events Calendar
4. Playtime—integrated into families ministry.
5. Investigate marriage enrichment / *parenting course*.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1. S.A.M.E Committee to investigate and foster community engagement through events such as; neighbourhood lunches, Clean up Australia, National day of Thanksgiving and musical events.

St Aidan's Strategic Plan 2015–2020

Key Focus Area 3: Mission beyond the Parish

Theme: Our church needs to link strategically and wholeheartedly with our Mission Partners wherever they are.

THE FOCUS OF OUR MISSION SUPPORT

Missions beyond the parish that we are committed to supporting are in Australia and Africa.

A. Evangelism and Church Planting:

- Bush Church Aid (BCA)
- Full Gospel Church, Masaka Uganda
- Sydney Diocese Greenfields Churches

B. Empowerment and Social Justice

- Sydney Refugee Team
- Anglicare
- Compassion International

KEY OBJECTIVES FOR 2016

1. Maintain Missions Committee as a sub committee of parish council.
2. Foster greater understanding of all our mission partners.
3. Seek to have guest speaker opportunities from our mission partners.

St Aidan's Strategic Plan 2015–2020

Key Focus Area 2: Pastoral Care & Community Life

Theme: Our church needs to be a community that cares for all (1 Thess. 2:1-12)

Key Objectives for 2016:

A. BELONGING: *Community building across and within congregations*

1. Foster communication – continue to update Parish Directory and website.
2. Investigate MailChimp and group text facility
3. Continue to identify and encourage use of gifts of parishioners.

B. NETWORKING: *Breaking down congregational barriers*

1. Improve communication across congregations. Esp. Fellowship Lunches.
2. Foster both inter and intra congregational fellowship especially through hospitality and meals.

C. WELCOMING: *Integration of newcomers from week 1 to week 52 and beyond*

1. Create and make available an electronic parish directory.
2. Encourage inviting newcomers for a meal.

D. HOME GROUPS:

1. Grow home groups from 5 to 6 in 2016.
2. Appoint Home Groups Co-ordinator and Leader Trainer.
3. Series for Lent for all groups to study.

E. PASTORAL CARE: *Linked to home-groups*

1. Home group leaders to be intentional about care for members.
2. Home group leaders to keep office and prayer chain informed of pastoral needs by email.
3. Encourage provision of a meal to those in need.

F. PRAYER

1. Home group leader prayer life training.
2. Encourage greater participation in regular prayer meetings. Prayer retreat in Lent and Advent