



Mission and Ministry at St Luke's Deakin

The Parish of Deakin has spent a significant amount of time and energy over the past two years exploring, experimenting and discerning God's call in the world, in our local community, in our Church and in our families and places of work.

Over the past two years this has included a number of Parish meetings, opportunities to gather, discuss and discern, groups of people praying actively together, questionnaires and consultations. The following are our hopes, dreams, beliefs and strategies. While we believe strongly that God is calling us to become and be all that is below, we also continue to remain open to God's continuing call and new directions.

Becoming all that God Desires

We long to be a community in Christ!

A Holy Communion – encountering God

The Parish of Deakin seeks to be a place where God is encountered in all that we do. We believe whole heartedly in God who is Trinity, and within that image we find our inspiration to be a community where God is encountered in our relationships. We recognise that we are a people who often fall short of this image, and yet we know that God is gracious and forgiving, and we strive to reflect this God in our relationships with one another.

We thereby commit to:

- worship that reflects the Divine nature of God – a Holy communion;
- worship that, while reflecting our Anglican heritage, is accessible and provides opportunities for the people of God to encounter the Divine;
- teaching that reflects the nature of God as found in the Trinity and opens hearts and minds to the possibilities of God;
- providing space, activities and events that allow the people of God to encounter the Divine within each other, and all of creation.

A Holy Community – reflecting God

We desire to not only be a community where God is encountered, but to be a people who through both word and action reveal the Divine in every moment. We desire to live in relationships that are whole, honest, encouraging and nurturing – no matter what stage of the journey we are on.

We therefore commit to:

- encouraging one another in Godly living, and nurturing those who struggle;
- hold one another to account, offering true forgiveness, and calling each other once again into communion with the Divine, and each other;
- resolve conflict through caring and nurturing means, and yet be honest with each other;
- engage with others in our wider community and world as Christ;
- not be afraid to speak out when we believe that there is injustice, pain or distortion of the Divine's will in the world and in our lives;
- take action as God's people.

A Christian Community – discerning God

We recognise that we are far from a perfect people, and will often fall short. We believe that to live as a Christian means to engage with God, and God's people. We believe that there are many ways to interpret scripture and to practice our faith in Jesus Christ, and do not believe that ours is the only way. Our community desires to discern God's call for us within (and beyond) our own traditions and practices. We recognise that we approach this from an Anglican perspective, and hold dear to our traditions and customs that have served God's people for centuries. With our strong heritage we also seek to discern the mind of God in new ways, and are open to the Spirit's guidance and leading.

We therefore commit to:

- praying together – for one another, and for all who are placed on our hearts;
- being sacramental people – living out our baptismal call, and being nurtured in this by regular Eucharist;
- studying, discerning and engaging with the Word of God;
- honouring our Anglican heritage, and interpreting our traditions and customs for the people of today;
- nurturing, resourcing and encouraging one another in the living as disciples of Jesus Christ;
- building up each and every member of our community to be confident in their faith, and confident in expressing and practicing it wherever they are.

A Diverse Community – all God’s people

We seek to be a place where people on all stages of life’s journey, and from a diversity of backgrounds (age, race, gender, sexuality, economic ability, physical ability etc) are able to come together and celebrate life in Jesus. We recognise that this we often put barriers in the way of such relationships, and so we seek to be a community that is able to speak honestly about such fears, and combat them through love for one another.

We therefore commit to:

- loving God, and loving one another (our neighbours);
- being inclusive of all people – we shall strive to be a place where people are welcomed and included as best we are able;
- naming and expressing our fears, seeking to further understand, and finding ways to be reconciled;
- learning and understanding the needs of each other, and finding ways that meet such needs in the name of Jesus.

A Welcoming Community – space for God

We acknowledge that Churches can often become exclusive, especially as you travel closely with one another in faith. While we seek to build such strong relationships, we also aspire to be welcoming to others and inclusive of them, and their gifts, into our lives. We also recognise that we seek to draw others into faith in Jesus Christ, and pray that the Holy Spirit might give us the words and actions that will enable us to share our faith, reveal God’s love, hope, joy and peace.

We therefore commit to:

- actively taking time together as a community to review our relationships, and seek to build up those who need strengthening, or name those relationships that have become exclusive or destructive, and seek reconciliation and resurrection;
- encouraging one another to welcome – modelling openness and engaging in hospitality;
- having events and activities that are intentional in the building of friendships and bonds within the community, and welcoming all.
- learning how to express our faith in both word and action so that we might be able to share the good news of Jesus Christ with all who we encounter on our journey.

A Community in all places – revealing God

Finally, while our gathering together is a significant part of our life as a Christian community, we recognise that faith is most often practiced in the places where we are: home, work, school, travelling etc. We also believe that we are called to minister within the world, and that the Spirit sends us forth to reveal the Divine, and calls us to be servants of all.

We believe that Christ is with us, and we are in him. Therefore wherever we are, Christ is also. Therefore we are called to live out our faith in all places and at all

times. We recognise that this is difficult, and that the reason why we gather into Christian community is to nurture and encourage us for other parts of the journey.

We therefore commit to:

- pray for and with one another;
- use our community gatherings as places that build us up for ministry to, for, by and with Christ;
- engage in training and study that will assist us to grow in confidence in our faith, and the expression of that faith to others;
- actively seek to reveal Christ, especially in places where it seems the Divine is absent;
- be prepared to move out of our comfort zones and go where Christ calls us to be in our local community, nation and the world;
- actively seek to support those who carry out God's mission, especially to the poor, marginalised, lost and isolated;
- actively encourage our members to participate in missionary work locally, nationally and internationally through agencies such as the Anglican Board of Missions-Australia.

Strategies & Directions for 2010 – 2012

With these commitments as our foundation, we thereby seek to apply our time, talents and resources to the following areas over the next two years.

Development of Community

- Home Visits

It is our desire to develop a team to undertake home visits and provide pastoral care, especially for aging and frail members of our community.

Parish Council wished to encourage members of the community to share meals together in one another's homes. Parish Council agreed to start that process this year by inviting three other members of our community to a meal in their home.

- Faithlife Resources in and for the Home

A Parish library has been established.

We also seek to create and develop resources to assist families in the practice of faith at home.

We will encourage members of our community to share their faith and practices with others and be intentional in our worship and liturgy containing elements that can be practices at Church, and used at home and beyond.

- Leadership Training

We hope to provide training for:

- Those who lead Children's Ministry
- Those who would like to establish a home study group
- Those who will lead our worship
- Those who visit others
- two people to undertake theological studies at St Mark's.

- Age-Level Ministries

- Investing time, training and resources to ministry with children and young people.
- Creating activities that meet the needs of younger families.
- Creating activities that meet the needs of Grandparents.
- Creating activities that meet the needs of the frail and elderly.

- Congregational Worship Celebrations

We seek to further build upon our three Eucharistic communities. We believe that these communities offer a diversity of expression within our Anglican traditions. It is therefore not our intention to divide these communities by combining for special services, but instead to create opportunities for each part of the community to gather and share together.

We commit to a "joint-breakfast" on 5th Sundays in the month between the 8:00am and 10:00am Services. We further commit to dinners and lunches that give opportunities for all people to gather together and celebrate life.

- Adult Christian Education

We seek to further develop opportunities for study, training and reflection by adults within our community. We believe that if we desire spiritual children, we need spiritual adults.

- Leadership within the Community

We seek to meet the needs of a full time stipendiary priest, and a part time family minister.

We seek to train, nurture and encourage members of our community to give of their time to provide leadership in the community.

We also seek to encourage members of our community to engage in mission and ministry within the local community. We will also actively encourage members to participate in mission on a national and international scale.

Development of Site

St Luke's has inherited a wonderful gift in terms of our location and the land that we are stewards of. We seek to use our placement, our buildings, and our resources as opportunities to meet our commitments, and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

We envisage a place where:

- worship is central;
- intergenerational events take place;
- space is provided for hospitality;
- space is provided for quiet, prayer and spiritual nurture;
- space is provided for Parish groups, large and small, to meet together and carry out ministry to, for, by and with each other and the community;
- opportunities are given for parents/grandparents to gather, and be supported;
- community groups meet and share;
- people are able to access our facilities, no matter their physical ability;
- opportunities are provided to engage with people, especially those who live in our area, work in our area, and are schooled in our area;
- quality housing is provided for our staff.