

Parish of St Luke, Toowoomba

A new Parish Vision 2022.

(Drawing on resources from the ACSQ Vision – copies of which are available from our Parish Office)

We base our life in the acknowledgement that the Mission of the Church is the Mission of Christ – to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God, that is:

- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers;
- To respond to human need by loving service;
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation;
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth;
- To worship and celebrate the grace of God; and
- To live as one holy catholic and apostolic Church.



We are seeking to be a 'flourishing faith community', inspired by these characteristics:

1. Have Jesus and his mission as expressed in the Gospels at our centre.
2. Be active in making new disciples.
3. Have porous boundaries welcoming all to come and see and belong.
4. Reflect the make-up of our surrounding community (i.e. age, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic).
5. Be sustainable in practices, leadership and finances.
6. Be energetically engaged with our local community and the wider world.
7. Be intentional learning communities.
8. Be always in the process of renewing ourselves and our focus on mission.
9. Have many effective leaders, both lay and ordained.
10. Focus on the whole mission of God.

We will shape our life through these aspirational values.

We aim to be:

- **Faithful** — steadfast in love for God and each other and steadfast in purpose to undertake God’s mission.
- **Imaginative and creative** — being intentional about reforming culture and traditions for God’s world.
- **Courageous** — to risk new things and, where necessary, to make bold decisions.
- **Authentic** — being genuine and confident in living and speaking about what we believe as followers of Christ.
- **Comprehensive** — being welcoming and respectful of a broad range of ideas, people and approaches, and open to dialogue and learning.

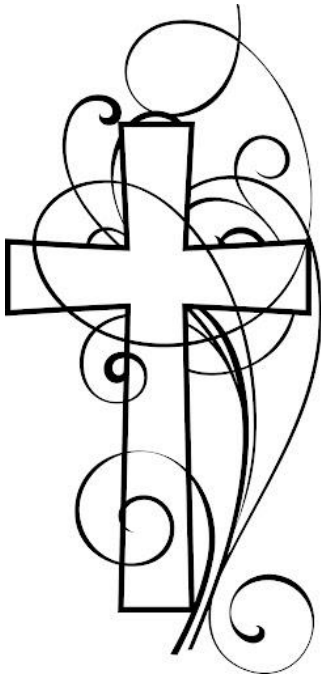


Our Vision for 2021-2024 will be shaped by attention to four areas:

Worshipping,
Proclaiming,
Serving and
Learning.

We recognise that we have many strengths, many challenges and many opportunities. We trust that God will continue to guide us as we journey forward.

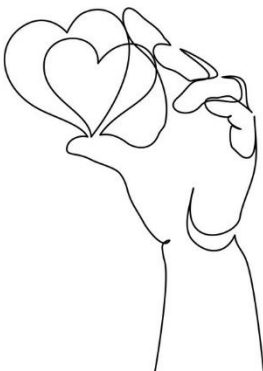
GOALS



To grow as a **Worshipping Community** we will:

- Be, and be known as, a community which shares excellent worship:
 - varied in time, style and focus;
 - theologically grounded in the Bible and the best of modern scholarship and the depth of Anglican tradition;
 - open and welcoming;
 - challenging and engaging;
 - seeking to engage the people of our community across different ages and circumstances;
 - seeking guidance and advice with open hearts to revise and renew our offering of worship.
- Be, and be known as, a community striving for excellence in music:
 - drawing on the depth of the richness of music across the ages and exploring quality modern expressions of worship in song and sound;
 - celebrating music for the gathered community and the wider surrounding community.
- Be, and be known as, a praying community:
 - in gathered community, in households, in small groups and individually;
 - seeking to develop and enhance our life of prayer at every level.

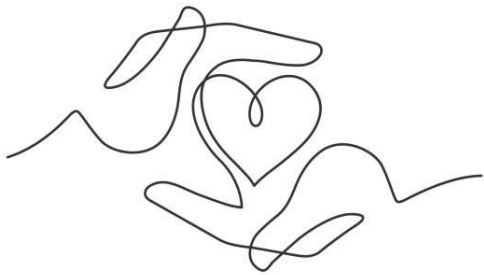
To grow as a **Proclaiming Community** we will:



- Be, and be known as, a community passionate to share the good news of Jesus Christ and God's invitation into relationship:
 - seeking to proclaim our faith and God's invitation in word, in printed resources, through personal invitation and utilising all of the resources available to us. This will include increasing our expertise in technology and embracing social media to reach a broader connection with the community around us;
 - engaging in proclamation individually, as households and as a faith community.

- Be, and be known as, a friendly, compassionate, inclusive, generous and open community.

To grow as a **Serving Community** we will:



- Be, and be known as, a community actively engaged in using our available resources to meet the needs of the surrounding community:
 - actively seeking to know the needs of the community and to respond in diverse and appropriate ways;
 - inviting broad engagement by the church community and the wider community in the service which is discerned;
 - engaging in service individually, as households and as a faith community;
 - recognise that we are part of a wider network, and seek to serve in cooperation and networking with others.
- Be, and be known as, a community seeking justice, reconciliation, peace, sustainability and equality:
 - challenging prejudice and barriers to equity;
 - guided by biblical principles;
 - inspired by the best of modern scholarship and research;
 - faithful and prepared to speak truth to power;
 - acting and speaking always with integrity and for the benefit of all.

To grow as a **Learning Community** we will:



- Be, and be known as, a community actively seeking wisdom with open minds and guided by the best resources and teaching available:
 - utilising resources online, printed and offered in person;
 - delivering learning opportunities online, printed and in person for individuals, households and groups;
 - explore diverse levels of theological engagement, from introduction to the faith through to advanced training.
- Be, and be known as, a community which honours and trains diverse leadership:
 - resourcing lay and ordained people for ministry;
 - seeking to identify and develop diverse gifts.

- Be, and be known as, a community in which each and together we are seeking deeper understanding of the Bible, Theology, Church History, Christian living and Anglican Tradition.

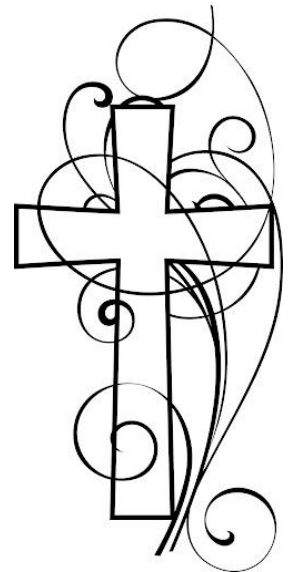


ACTIONS

To advance these goals and initial strategies, the actions we will pursue are:

Worshipping

- Maintain regular, quality opportunities for worship on Sundays and weekdays in the parish.
- Prepare to offer a range of styles and opportunities for worship:
 - on Sundays and weekdays;
 - focussed on diverse ages and needs;
 - including in particular:
 - more contemporary and accessible patterns of worship, particularly open and engaging for children and young people;
 - quiet and reflective times and style of worship;
 - traditional, Eucharistic, choral offerings of worship.



Proclaiming

- Offer and encourage prayer for our confident engagement in proclaiming our faith, as individuals and as the faith community.
- Explore and prepare clear, practical and accessible resources to assist members of our church community to engage in proclaiming our faith.



- Hold at least one gathering (or series of gatherings) each year to train, prepare and encourage members of our church community to engage in proclaiming our faith.
- Develop accessible and encouraging resources inviting engagement with the good news and relationship with God, in community:
 - which can be shared with people from the wider community with whom we connect through serving opportunities (including Plant Stall and Larder), concerts and other social community gatherings and to be available when people join us for worship or when the church buildings are open.
- Undertake a comprehensive and diverse pattern of social events across the year:
 - to facilitate our bonding as a church community;
 - as open and non-threatening opportunities for people from the wider community to meet and connect with us as a church community;
 - to which we all commit to be actively inviting to our family, friends, neighbours, colleagues and members of our social networks.
- Review and develop the ways in which our online resources are displayed and populated with information and invitation:
 - including Facebook, website and streamed services.
- Utilising the resources of the 'Pathways' program, explore stages and ways of leading people into engaged faith, beginning with 'families with young children'.

Serving

- Maintain and develop our service through the Larder and other existing patterns of service, offered to the community, through groups of our faith community and as individuals.
 - By the end of 2022 be able to describe our existing ministries of service and reveal the ways in which they have been enhanced since this Vision has been embraced.
 - By the end of each year in this pattern of vision the description and development of each ministry will be known and shared within and beyond our faith community.



- Explore the real needs of our surrounding community to determine the best ways of responding.
 - Continue exploration of responding to the challenges of DV/IPV.
 - Undertake a review of the needs of the surrounding community to determine practical areas of response and support, either directly or indirectly.
 - Implementation of solutions as quickly as possible then to meet those needs.
- Maintain and develop our patterns of pastoral care.
 - Ensure regular training and support for all those engaged in pastoral care.
 - Encourage the identification and development of gifts to expand our offering of pastoral care.

Learning

- Maintain quality preaching and teaching through the printed resources offered when we gather for worship.
- Review the current learning opportunities available in the parish, particularly small groups.
- Implement new small groups when appropriate and at accessible times.
- Offer training for group leaders.
- Publicise clearly and widely within the church community the available groups and resources for ongoing learning.
- In 2022 establish a group for deeper and more engaged theological exploration (using EFM or other advanced resources).
- Explore available resources, online and printed, which will be appropriate and accessible for groups and individuals and groups in our parish community.
- Integrate and advertise learning opportunities through our parish website and other communication networks.
- Prior to the end of each year review the opportunities for learning provided and prepare ongoing and new opportunities for the coming year.



Stewardship of our Community

We will continue to seek to serve our faith community past present and future through:

- faithful stewardship, generous giving, engaged mission (rippling from local to international opportunities);
- responsible and balanced budgeting and use of the available financial resources;
- responsible and careful maintenance of the physical resources entrusted to us;
- courageous and imaginative development of all our resources to provide for our needs and the needs of the wider community;
- ensuring that facilities are developed to enhance the mission of the church as we pursue this vision, as we engage in our daily life as a community and to enhance our capacity to provide facilities for gathering, including facilities for hire by the wider community;
- ensure that any resources are used in ways which honour the donors and those who have provided those resources in the past;
- careful attention to the concerns of members of our church community as we focus on growth and development.

The goals, strategies and actions in this Vision will guide the work of the Parish Council and we will all be encouraged to find our place as the Vision is lived.

The Parish Council will report to the Parish the progress of the reviews, presenting plans and directions which emerge, report regularly on the actions which have been identified, and a comprehensive report will be presented (at least) to each Annual Meeting.