



***Transformed by Grace to Love One Another, to Serve the City, and to Share Christ***

**FROM THE RECTOR  
Rev Dr MICHAEL JENSEN**

### ***Boldness to Share the Gospel***



One of the most striking things about Jesus' teaching is his confidence in his people: "You are the salt of the earth... you are the light of the world." He doesn't say we *might be*, or *should try to be* - but that we *are*. Salt and light are small things, but they make a difference

wherever they are present. Salt preserves and brings out flavour; light reveals what is true and beautiful.

And yet, many of us hesitate to live this out. We worry about how we'll be received. We don't want to sound strange or self-righteous. We fear awkwardness or rejection. The world's pressure to keep faith private is strong - and sometimes we quietly agree to it.

But boldness isn't brashness. It's not shouting louder or forcing belief. It's a calm, confident trust in God's power to work through our weakness. Boldness grows as we remember that the gospel really is good news - news that the world desperately needs. It grows when we pray, when we walk closely with Christ, and when we encourage one another to speak naturally about our faith.

This coming year, I am inviting us to pray for a renewed boldness - to be the salt and light Jesus says we are. Let's begin with small, courageous acts: a simple invitation to church, a

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gentle word of hope, a story of how faith has shaped our lives. These are the ways the light spreads.

May the Spirit give us grace to speak with boldness and love, for the glory of Christ and the good of our neighbours.

*In Christ,*  
**Michael Jensen**

### **CHRISTMAS AT ST MARK'S 2025**

Join us for Christmas this year at any of our services. We'd love to see you!

**Sunday 14 December**  
5.30pm – Carols and BBQ

**Thursday 18 December**  
7.30pm – Festival of Lessons and Carols

**Christmas Eve**  
5pm – All Ages Christmas  
11pm – Choral Communion

**Christmas Day**  
8am – Choral Communion  
10am – Christmas Service

**St Mark's Anglican Church**  
1 Greenoaks Ave,  
Darling Point  
Phone: 02 9363 3657

Visit: [stmarksdp.org/whats-on](https://stmarksdp.org/whats-on)

Hope: from the cradle to the cross and beyond

## A SEASON OF CHANGE AND RENEWAL IN OUR MINISTRY TEAM

### FAREWELL TO TIM ESCOTT



We farewell Rev Dr Tim Escott as he concludes his ministry at St Mark's to become the new Senior Minister at St Philip's, Caringbah.

Tim has served us with warmth, wisdom, and deep faithfulness to the gospel. He has been an outstanding preacher, a wise pastor, a thoughtful and diligent strategist and a courageous leader. He has modelled Christ to us in so many ways! His role in seeing us through the dark days of COVID was a great blessing of God to us.

We give thanks for all that God has done through him and his family, and we send Tim, Naomi, and their family with our love and prayers as they begin this next season of ministry.

### THANK YOU TO SAM AND JONO

We also express our heartfelt thanks to Sam Begg and Jono Dunn, who have completed their time as Student Ministers with us. Their enthusiasm, humility, and care have greatly enriched our church life. We pray for them as they continue to grow in ministry and prepare for future service.



**Sam** has filled in as our Children's Minister and has done an amazing job at helping Kid's Church grow spiritually and in number. Sam is starting in ministry with the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students at ANU in Canberra in 2026.



**Jono** has been our Youth Minister. He's been such an inspiration to all our youth! Jono will continue his studies at Moore College and take up

a student ministry role at Panania Anglican in 2026. We will also miss Vanessa and Phoebe, their daughter.

### THANK YOU TO BRIAN LEUNG



We also want to thank Brian Leung again for so ably leading the music at our 5:30pm service.

### WELCOME NIKITA AND JONNIE



We are delighted to welcome **Rev Nikita Psaltis** and **Rev Jonnie Wintle** to the St Mark's ministry team. Nikita joins us as **Youth and Children's Minister**, and Jonnie as **Assistant Minister**. Jonnie will



be looking after our 10am congregation, our Spiritual Growth objective, and working with Young Adults, among other things. He'll be joining us with his wife Issy and their son Abel. Please make them all feel at home as

they settle into life and ministry here at St Mark's.

**Rev Dr Michael Jensen**  
**Rector**

### REMEMBERING AT CHRISTMAS



Christmas can be hard when we've lost a loved one. On Friday 5 December 2025 at 7pm we are holding a service to remember and give thanks for those we have lost, and to pray for 'God's peace which passes all understanding' to be with each one left behind. Details:

<https://stmarksdp.org/whats-on/>

## MUSIC SCHOLARS' CONCERT DELIGHTS

Our beautiful St Mark's Church was filled with music lovers on Sunday 14 September. This was a Music Scholars' Concert which featured the four recipients of the choral scholarships. These have been sponsored by Mr Basil Sellers



AM who presented the awards individually. As the audience, we were privileged to hear such beautiful music at this concert, with our four choral scholars singing so superbly. They performed vocal

and instrumental music by Debussy, S. Bach and G.F. Handel, Roger Quilter, Gabriel Faure, Frank Wildhorn and others. The program was planned by Sam Giddy, our Music Director, who was the recipient of the inaugural Organ Scholarship in 2016-2018. He accompanied on both the organ and piano and performed two of the items he recently performed at the Concours International pour Orgue de Saint-Maurice (where he received first place and also won the audience vote).

The scholars were Katherine Wilson-Budden, Stephanie Gough, Stephanie Chiam and Aneke Golowenko. They are all talented, dedicated musicians and it is exciting to see them flourish as part of the choral scholarships programme.

**Ann Renwick**



## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LUTHER AND BONHOEFFER

### Genuine Spiritual Relationships



In October, a group (including some St Mark's parishioners) led by Michael and Catherine travelled through Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic on a remarkable journey In the Footsteps of Martin Luther and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. From the bustling streets of Berlin to the quiet cloisters of Erfurt and the hilltop castle of Wartburg, we traced the lives and legacies of two reformers who, in different centuries, stood courageously for the truth of the gospel.

We visited places where history and faith intertwined - the Bonhoeffer House in Berlin, the Wittenberg door where Luther nailed his 95 Theses, the prison camp at Flossenbürg where Bonhoeffer met his death, and the university town of Marburg where theological giants once debated. Along the way, we read Scripture, sang hymns, and reflected together on the call to faithful discipleship in our own time.

It was both pilgrimage and education - an experience that deepened our gratitude for the gospel and for those who bore witness to it at great cost. As one traveller put it, "I came to understand that courage for the truth is not an idea - it's a life lived before God."

The tour echoed our call to boldness - to stand firm for Christ, as Luther and Bonhoeffer did in their generations.

**Rev Dr Michael Jensen**  
**Rector**



## FRIENDS OF ST MARK'S (FOSM)

We've been so encouraged by the response to our events this year, with lots of broader community members joining us, deepening friendships and really pleasing attendance rates. The September clinical psychologist Melissa Levi guest speaker event was a highlight and covered the topic *Big Conversations Every Family Should Have About Ageing, Dementia, and Care*. Melissa was a really engaging, honest and inspiring speaker. She shared practical and wise advice on how we can navigate the ageing journey and the resultant conversations in a positive and constructive way. Feedback on the night was very positive. Many commented that after hearing the ageing talk, they "felt more motivated to start conversations they've been avoiding, more confident in talking to their family, less overwhelmed, and relieved to know they are not the only one dealing with this" and are keen to attend more ageing talks in the future. We are grateful to Woollahra Council for their support of this event.



*Dr Melissa Levi, Councillor Julian Parmegiani and Rev Dr Michael Jensen at the Friends of St Mark's recent ageing talk.*

Our October Choral Evensong was very popular and uplifting. We are looking forward to our Choir Concert on Sunday 30 November at 2pm. Book now: <https://stmarksdp.org/whats-on/>

[Click here to join the FOSM mailing list](#) so you can be the first to be notified about the exciting events we have planned for 2026 or email [fosm@stmarksdp.org](mailto:fosm@stmarksdp.org)

## WEDDING MINISTRY

Having officiated for many weddings recently, I have been reminded of what a wonderful gospel opportunity they are for our church. Every wedding I get to tell the couple and their families and friends about the love of God who calls people to be his bride and secures our relationship 'not with a sparkling engagement ring but with a wooden cross'.



I've also had family members and couples tell me how grateful they are for the pre-marriage counselling that has significantly impacted the quality of the relationship for the couple, showing that we actually care for them with the love of Jesus. Please pray that God will use this ministry to see people join the bride of Christ, including the body that meets at St Mark's.

**Rev Michelle Philp**  
**Assistant Minister**

## SPEAKING CHRIST INTO THE PUBLIC SQUARE

Michael Jensen continues to represent the Christian message with clarity and grace in the national conversation - through books, media, and mentoring others to speak wisely. He is currently raising support to sustain this public ministry, including his new book *Lost Arts* (due early 2027), showing how deeply humane the Christian moral vision is today. We are seeking to raise \$50k to support this work. Will you help us?

Please visit <https://stmarksdp.org/giving/> to share in our ministry through your financial giving, including bequests. Thanks for your partnership!