



VISION

2023



ST MARK'S DARLING POINT

stmarksdp.org

OUR VISION

To be
transformed by
grace
to love one
another,
serve the city,
and share Christ.



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2022

Looking back

2022 has been a year of emerging from Covid restrictions and reviving our regular ministries. God has continued to bless our work and our community.





189

NEW FACES

came through our doors on Sundays

128

SCREENS

watched our services online each week

22

PEOPLE

attended Alpha or Simply Christianity

51

PEOPLE

joined us as regular members

38

KIDS AND YOUTH

joined us each week in our Kids Church and Youth programs, on average

37%

OF OUR REGULAR MEMBERS

are in Connect Groups

229

CAME TO CHURCH

each week, on average



Sadly, we have also said goodbye to beloved members of our community: Per Cappelen-Smith, Henry Crouch, Phoebe Ferguson, Jim Fleming, Craig Hamilton, Cynthia Harwood, Angela Isles, Sally Kimpton, Linda Lau, Antoinette Ogilvie, Averil Spender, and Charles Wade.

Throughout 2022, we had a focused priority of going deeper into our faith by going deeper into the word.

There have been many stories of spiritual growth spurred on by various fresh initiatives:

- our **sermon series** on the ten commandments, the doctrine of God, and the book of Romans opened our eyes to the glory and grace of God toward us
- our **St Mark's Grace in Action Conference** and our **Going Deeper evenings** stimulated us to think more deeply and live more radically for Christ
- our **Doctrine 101 and Biblical Theology 101 courses** helped us to better understand God, his word, and his work in the world
- **52% of people** are engaging in regular Bible reading and prayer in their personal lives





LOOKING FORWARD

2023



VISION

What's in store for next year? Well, our vision remains the same as it has always been:

To be transformed by grace to love one another, serve the city, and share Christ.

ACTION

We will continue to pursue our regular objectives and purposes: to worship him, develop as disciples, grow in our relationships, serve one-another, and reach out to our community (look at the back page for a more detailed look at these).

Most of this will happen through the ordinary work of engaging with God together in his word and prayer, eating together and caring for one-another in community, and seeking to hand the baton to the next generation.

In addition to this, we also hope to make progress in three main areas next year. Read on to learn more.



Community

**Grow in the breadth
and depth of our
relationships
especially through
eating together.**

We are a strong church community, with **93% of our people feeling a strong sense of belonging** to our church. However, as we have engaged in conversation with many of you, we have heard you express a desire for **deeper connections** with one-another that reach beyond the hour together on a Sunday.

To encourage this, we are planning to:

- create **more opportunities to eat together and connect personally** with one-another
- raise up and support **more Connect Groups**
- identify and encourage **lay-initiatives of hospitality and connection**
- speak and teach more about the practice of **gospel hospitality**



**GOSPEL
HOSPITALITY**



Witness

Empower and equip the church to witness to Christ in their personal lives.



Being seen

Our church has a strong presence in the community. We engage in regular outreach as a church, and we reach many regular visitors in significant times of their lives through our baptism, weddings and funerals ministries.

At the same time, **each of us is called to witness to Jesus Christ with our lips and in our lives.** There is a growing cultural pressure against Christians that makes it difficult to stand for Christ. Instead of caving into fear and despair, we need to be confident witnesses of Christ—owning our identities as Christians, being ready to talk about our faith, and inviting others to come and see Jesus.



Empower and equip

To help achieve this, we are planning to:

- run **a course on equipping people to witness to Jesus Christ** in natural and achievable ways
- preach from the books of **Daniel** and **1 Peter**, which encourage us to stand boldly despite the consequences
- address some of the **difficult questions** that Christians face today
- provide **practical opportunities** for congregation members to confidently witness to Christ

Leadership

Empower lay people to exercise leadership in the church.

We are a church blessed with many engaged and faithful Christian people who love to serve, many of whom are gifted leaders in their own spheres of life. We are so grateful for the many lay leaders we already have, but it is vital that the ministry team makes more space for lay leadership in order to nurture growth and multiply our effectiveness.

To enable this we plan to:

- **identify areas** where the staff team can make space for lay leaders
- **see lay leaders** step into leadership roles
- **gather our leaders** for encouragement, fellowship, and development
- see the staff team continue to grow in their ability to **delegate and support** lay leadership

Some other developments for your prayers



① Staff

Our staff team feels stronger than ever. We want to make the most of this by continuing to work on coordinating, aligning and communicating our mission, values and activities with each other and with our congregation members.



② Buildings

Our buildings are one of our greatest assets, and yet they can often make community difficult. Michael Jensen and the Parish Council are engaging in early stages of a building master-plan to make the most of the resources that God has given us.



③ 5:30pm service

Our evening service is a wonderful diverse community of people who love God and want to continue to grow in Christ, but it has always struggled to find a critical mass of people in order to be most effective. We want to seriously address this issue in 2023.



HOW TO GIVE

The best way to give is to set up a regular gift via EFT using the details below.

Account name: St Mark's Church
Darling Point

BSB: 032 054

Account number: 250036

Ref: (Your name)

Thank you.

Some gifts are tax-deductible. To find out more about giving, including exploring other ways to give, please visit <https://stmarksdp.org/giving>



OUR DNA

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St Mark's Vision

OUR OBJECTIVES

Excellent worship.

"Let's have great services."

A St Mark's service combines engaging preaching, uplifting music, and powerful liturgy to bless those who attend.

Growing community.

"Let's welcome newcomers and grow stronger together."

St Mark's invites people of all ages and stages of faith into Christian community, and to strengthen that community.

Active service.

"Let's be active in serving."

St Mark's pursues an active faith among its members, expressed in works of love in the church, in the community, and in the world.

All-of-life discipleship.

"Let's be growing as Christians."

St Mark's members live for Christ at home and at work, in all facets of life.

Effective outreach.

"Let's see people become Christians."

St Mark's proclaims the Gospel to the lost and looks to see people won for Christ.

OUR VALUES AND THEMES

We pray

We seek God's wisdom in the Bible

We eat together

We 'hand on the baton' to the next generation

We serve

We are a safe place

We leave no-one behind

We consider the mission beyond



ST MARK'S

1 Greenoaks Ave, Darling Point
stmarksdp.org