

ST MARK'S DARLING POINT

# VISION 2024

Vision Sunday



# Looking back to 2023

## **God has continued to bless our work and our community in 2023. We are so grateful for what God is doing among us by his Spirit, to the glory of Christ.**

- 427 new faces came through our doors
- 107 (avg) screens watched our online services each week
- 20 people attended Alpha or Simply Christianity
- 25 people joined us as regular members
- 41 (avg) young people attended our kids and youth programs each week
- 223 (avg) came to church each week
- 37% of our regular members are in Connect Groups

Sadly, we have also said goodbye to beloved members of our community: Bev Cohen, Pam Hyles, Peter Muller, Stella Vaughan, Robert Wilson, and John Ziminski.

Throughout 2023, we had three main priorities of deeper community, witnessing to Christ, and raising lay leaders.

### **Witness**

- Sermons on Daniel inspired us to stand for our faith no matter the cost, and our 'Myths of Sydney' and 'Where is...?' series showed us how the gospel makes sense of our deepest longings.
- Our St Mark's Conference: Witnessing Together informed, inspired, and equipped us to join in God's mission in the world together.
- Our Share Jesus course equipped us to share Jesus in our everyday lives in natural and achievable ways.

### **Community**

- Biblical meals and Romans 9-16 urged us to show hospitable love to one another and those who are different to us.
- We had more meals together in one another's homes and in our time together at church.
- We started two new Connect Groups.

### **Leadership**

- The staff team continued to gather, engage, and train our lay leaders.
- The staff team worked hard to step aside and make more space for lay leaders, and we saw people step up into leadership.

# 2023 IN NUMBERS

427



NEW FACES

223



AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

107



WATCHING (AVERAGE)

20



ALPHA + SIMPLY CHRISTIANITY

25



NEW REGULAR MEMBERS

41



KIDS AND YOUTH (AVERAGE)

37%



IN CONNECT GROUPS

# Looking forward to 2024

What's in store for next year? Well, our vision remains the same:

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

We will continue to pursue our regular objectives:



**Excellent worship:** We combine engaging preaching, uplifting music, and powerful liturgy to bless those who attend.



**All-of-life discipleship:** We grow and live for Christ at home and at work, in all facets of life.



**Growing community:** We invite people of all ages and stages of faith into Christian community, and to strengthen that community.



**Effective outreach:** We proclaim the gospel to the lost and look to see people won for Christ.

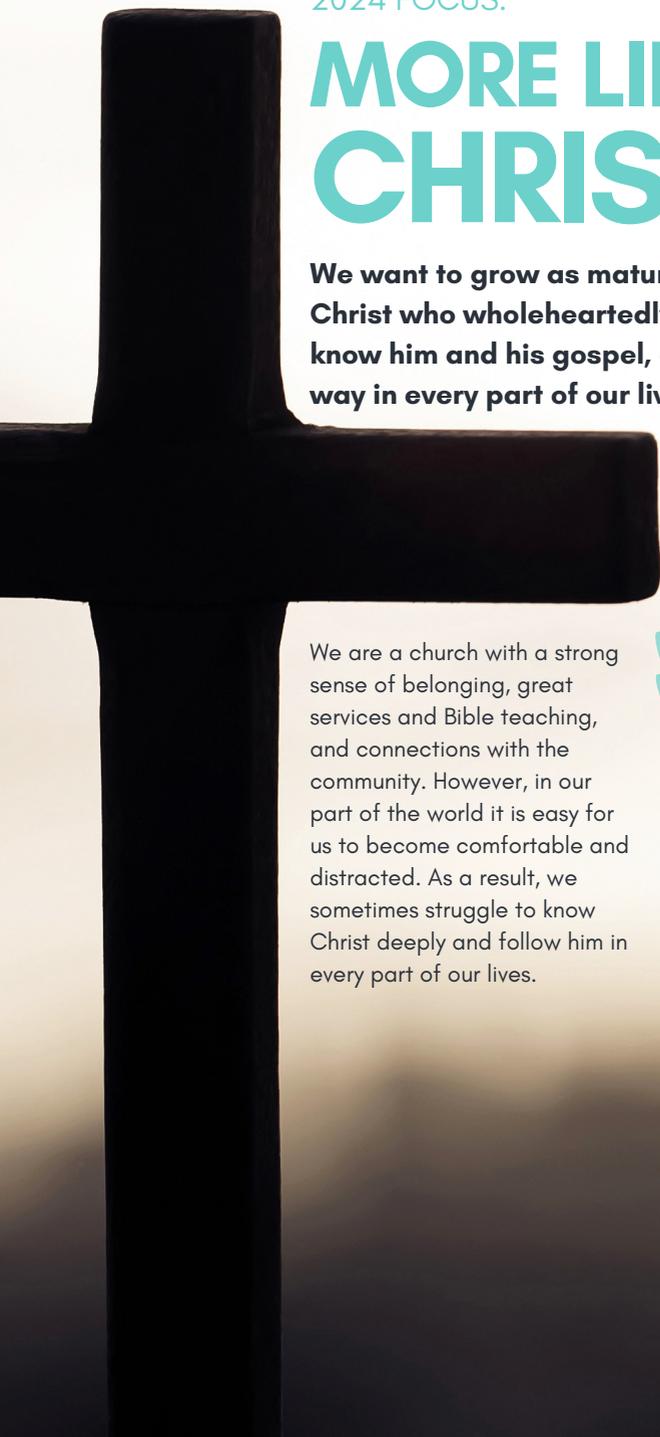


**Active service:** We pursue active faith expressed in works of love in the church, in the community, and in the world.

We will do this 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 want to focus our efforts on one main area for 2024: **Growing more like Christ.**





2024 FOCUS:

# MORE LIKE CHRIST

**We want to grow as mature disciples of Jesus Christ who wholeheartedly love God, deeply know him and his gospel, and zealously live his way in every part of our lives.**

We are a church with a strong sense of belonging, great services and Bible teaching, and connections with the community. However, in our part of the world it is easy for us to become comfortable and distracted. As a result, we sometimes struggle to know Christ deeply and follow him in every part of our lives.

*As disciples of Jesus, we want to become more like him.* We want to be a church marked by spiritual fervour, mature faith, and wholehearted service of the Lord. We believe this is so foundational that it will impact all other aspects of our church life. If we grow in our love for God, our knowledge of him, and obedience of his commands, we will honour him and be even more fruitful and effective as a church.

# Our 2024 commitments

## 1 TEACH

Preach on **discipleship** from Luke 9-12, **maturity** from Colossians, and **living God's way** from Proverbs



## 2 TRAIN

Run a course to help us follow Christ by **integrating love for God, knowledge of God, and the gospel, and practical everyday living**

# 3

## RENEW

Hold a spiritual retreat—a **weekend of deep engagement** with Jesus Christ



# 4

## PRAY

Gather together for **deep, deliberate Christ-like prayer**

# 5

## CONNECT

Create avenues for congregation members to **encourage each other** to wholeheartedly follow Christ





# An invitation

We want to invite you to join with us to seek to grow more like Christ by the power of his Holy Spirit. Pray for help and guidance from the Spirit, reflect on your life, resolve to grow, and share your intention with others.



**LOVE** — grow in your love and devotion to God.

- Worship God weekly in our Sunday services together.
- Engage with him daily in your personal prayer life.
- Reflect on God's goodness in prayer and devotion with others.



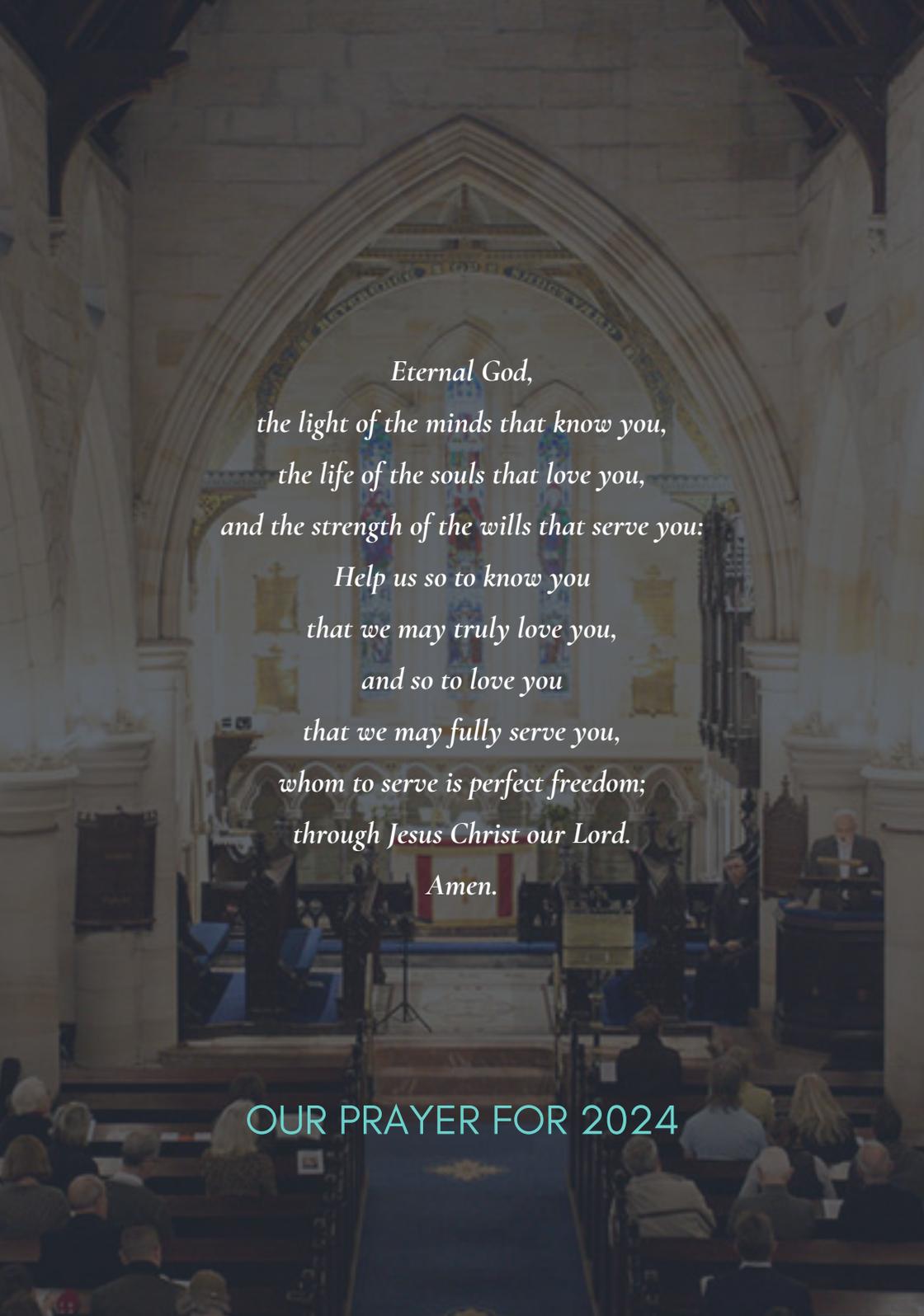
**KNOW** — develop your knowledge of God and his ways.

- Actively engage with Sunday's sermons.
- Join a Connect Group or a course.
- Read the Scriptures for yourself or with another.



**OBEY** — practice obedience in response to God's grace.

- Identify ways you can more wholeheartedly live as a disciple.
- Look for fresh ways to love and serve others.
- Share your commitment with others.



*Eternal God,  
the light of the minds that know you,  
the life of the souls that love you,  
and the strength of the wills that serve you:*

*Help us so to know you  
that we may truly love you,  
and so to love you  
that we may fully serve you,  
whom to serve is perfect freedom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

OUR PRAYER FOR 2024

# Some other developments for your prayers

## **Long term strategy**

We are in a great place as a church. However, we have questions around where we should focus our efforts over the longer term, in order to best use our resources. We plan to engage with church consultants in 2024 to help us build a long term strategic plan.

## **Services**

Our evening service is small but thriving, and we want to continue to nurture this community. Meanwhile, our 10am service is feeling more and more full, so we want to consider how we can adjust our ministry to enable more growth.

## **Leadership**

We are grateful for our many lay leaders and people who serve, but we want to continue to empower lay leadership across all our ministries in order to nurture growth, multiply our effectiveness, and prevent burnout among our existing leadership.

## **Buildings**

Our buildings are some 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.

## **St Mark's Music**

This year, we are launching St Mark's Music to support our ministry of choral and organ music.





# How to partner with us financially

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>



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Transformed by grace  
to love one another,  
serve the city,  
and share Christ.

ST MARK'S VISION

