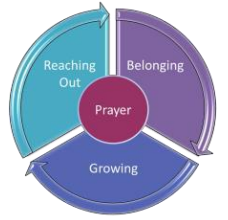


St Mark's Anglican Church, Berowra

Vision 2025







Our Vision

At St Mark's we have made this our Vision statement –

'To know Jesus Christ and make him known'

As Christians, Jesus calls us to:

Love God with all our hearts, souls and minds and to love our neighbours as ourselves. In doing this we will grow spiritually more like Him and seek to share the gospel, so more may come to know Him.

We want to be a community that reflects God's love for us as we love God, one another and all people (*John 13: 34 -35*).

Knowing God's love for all people, we want to see more people come to know Jesus Christ, and for all people to grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.

Such growth happens as God works through the gospel, shared by us in both word and deed as we meet people on their life's journey.

This document sets out our strategies for continuing to work towards this vision over the next 5 years. Parish Council will be actively reviewing progress on a quarterly basis and will provide regular updates to the congregation.

We are excited by the opportunities God gives each of us to be involved in His work here!

Please do join us in praying for, and working together for, His praise and glory, and the good of many!



What does this mean for me?

In these last 5 years we have achieved much under God! We are thankful to all who have been part of it!

We know some areas of ministry need focussed action over the next 5 years. In this document we have prioritised the strategies and have identified initial specific steps to meet those needs.

We realise that we cannot achieve everything in the next 5 years so we have placed as 'other strategies' those which are still important but less of a priority. We can activate these 'other strategies' once we have achieved our first priorities.

The areas (and steps) we have identified are not exhaustive, nor exclusive. We will keep doing well what we do well, whilst we also work on the areas we have identified.

To do that, we need God's help – and yours!

- We need God's help – nothing worthwhile happens without the work of His Spirit, and without his wisdom our thinking is vain. So please join us in praying about these matters – now and regularly over the months and years ahead.
- We then need your help as we all work together to achieve God's will for us!

As you read this document you will see numerous opportunities for you to be involved here at St Mark's, so we might all grow in our knowledge and love of Jesus! You may also have other ideas on how we can meet these strategies over the next 5 years – we would love to hear from you!

We each need to prayerfully consider the questions:

- **Why am I here, and what on earth has God put me here for?**
- **What is God's desire for me in my Christian life over the next 5 years?**
- **What are the specific ministries or works I should be involved in?**

How we each answer those questions will shape how we will each be involved here over the next five years. In turn that will determine how we grow in our knowledge and love of Jesus, and help others to do the same – and all to the glory of God!

God invites us to partner with him in his work – nothing is more important or exciting!



SUMMARY

St Mark's Vision

'To know Jesus Christ and make him known'

St Mark's Goals

Prayer

To pray for God's kingdom to grow in Berowra, and beyond, by many coming to know and put their trust in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Belonging

To strengthen relationships in our Church community and so deepen our sense of connectedness and belonging to Christ and one another.

Growing

To grow each person at St Mark's in their passion to be more like Jesus and in their knowledge and love of God.

Reaching Out

To be a Church community where each of us is involved in reaching out and engaging with our local community to such an extent, and with such relevance, that we will influence our community with the good news of Jesus Christ.



Prayer

To pray for God's kingdom to grow in Berowra, and beyond, by many coming to know and put their trust in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer precedes, accompanies and follows all our plans and activities.

Strategies to 2025

1. Strengthen our individual and church community prayer life through:
 - 1.1. Prayer retreats and regular gatherings for prayer;
 - 1.2. Creating opportunities for individual prayer during and after Sunday services;
 - 1.3. Encourage informal and/or spontaneous prayer with one another.

Other Strategies

- More regular weekly prayer e-updates;
- Monthly congregational prayer meetings;
- Start monthly prayer meetings after 10am church by:
 - Enlisting a roster of people willing to run games and look after the children;
 - Have the 10am service finish earlier before the prayer meetings;
 - Encouraging someone to take charge of prayer meetings and be responsible for keeping a record of prayers and answers to prayers.
- Have a 'prayer box' in the foyer for people to post prayer requests, which will be prayed by people who meet to pray regularly on Tuesdays and Fridays;
- Develop a network of prayer triplets.



Belonging

To strengthen relationships in our Church community and so deepen our sense of connectedness and belonging to Christ and one another.

Strategies to 2025

2. Create more opportunities for social interaction amongst existing church members, and with potential new church members, for building relationships through:
 - 2.1. Church camps;
 - 2.2. Hospitality Lunches / Dinners;
 - 2.3. Women's / Men's events;
 - 2.4. Sharing pastoral care needs and actively caring for one another.
3. Improve welcoming by all our members including:
 - 3.1. Building 'welcome teams' for each service, including 'unofficial' welcomers;
 - 3.2. Developing a welcoming attitude among the congregations;
4. Utilise various communication platforms to improve the effectiveness of internal and external communications.

Other Strategies

- Encourage, engage and support our parents and their children;
- Create opportunities for more spiritually-mature Christians to mentor younger Christians including those younger Christians already involved in ministries;
- Discuss the roles of men and women in our church so that together we can develop a greater understanding of how we may love and serve each other with the differences God has given us;
- Strengthen the links for children to youth, youth to young adult, and young adult to adult ministries, so as to facilitate smooth transitions;
- Annual year-end combined service;
- Encourage people to take on the organisation of 'interest groups'; open to all and advertised to all (such as a cycling group, bushwalking group, construction group, fishing group, 4WD group etc.);
- Promote the dissolution of 'cliques' by encouraging people to meet new people every couple of church services;
- Provide more opportunities for up-front and in-the-pews interviews with congregation members about specific topics;
- Maximise effectiveness of internal and external communication (through use of various communication platforms).



Growing

To grow each person at St Mark's in their passion to be more like Jesus and in their knowledge and love of God.

Strategies to 2025

5. Promote joyful passion for Jesus Christ by:
 - 5.1. Encouraging and supporting members in being more intentional about their own spiritual growth and the spiritual growth of others;
 - 5.2. Church worship services that evoke a heart response (including through a variety of service styles, prayer, music, preaching by both staff and lay preachers, and with regular opportunities for sharing about our walk with Christ);
 - 5.3. Energetic, engaging Bible preaching and teaching with a greater focus on life applications.

Other Strategies

- Grow and strengthen Small Groups:
 - Improve the visibility of Small Groups, so people not in a group are aware of what groups exist, their meeting times and details;
 - Strengthen and increase the number of our Small Groups, so that each person at St Mark's is helped to become more like Jesus in character and conviction;
 - Identify and train new leaders of Small Groups, to start new Small Groups, thereby enabling more people to join Small Groups;
 - Encourage existing Small Groups to split into more groups, so that more people can be accommodated in all the Small Groups;
 - Set up Small Groups based on particular needs or areas of study.
- Developing and using Gifts:
 - Assist people to determine their 'gifts' so they can be passionate and confident about the ministry roles in which they can serve – by running some form of 'spiritual gift discovery' course.
- Encourage people of all generations to help grow the body of Christ by serving in church ministries and participating in church activities, including:
 - Promoting our core ministries;
 - Assist the ministry team to facilitate new ministries.



Reaching Out

To be a Church community where each of us is involved in reaching out and engaging with our local community to such an extent, and with such relevance, that we will influence our community with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Strategies to 2025

6. Build on the community presence we have through Carols under the Star, other ministries and social media, to increase our involvement in community events, such as the Woodchop, school fetes and school working bees;
7. Run our own St Mark's programs that meet the needs of the community;
8. Explore and establish clear pathways from the community into St Mark's.

Other Strategies

- Train, equip and provide opportunities for our members to share their faith;
- Minister with the other local Christian churches, and Berowra Christian School, to run outreach events and pray together for the community;
- Invite community participation in St Mark's events and Creative Ministries – e.g. Carols, BBQ, Children's art displays, games and photography;
- Collection of donated items outside Coles (e.g. for Anglicare or homeless people);
- More concentrated blocks of time for our community outreach surveys and promotion of St Mark's upcoming events;
- Promote Small Groups for seekers and establish a home group to church pathway;
- Develop outreach ministries that don't necessarily involve coming to church - e.g. skate-park ministry, post cards to our community, visiting new arrivals;
- Show radical love! Free drive-through BBQs and prayer, Saturday free community afternoon teas (on a non-Uniting church fete day);
- Being mindful of how we may be reaching those watching our live streamed services.



Feedback

This Vision 2025 document has been developed by the following members of Parish Council between October 2019 and March 2020 and amended in January and February 2021 to take account of feedback from the October 2020 focus groups:

- Rev Ian Millican
- Peter Buckham
- John Clayton
- Rachel Coates
- Annabel Dodd
- Jason Gould
- Vivien Harrison
- Charlie Parry
- Peter Routh
- Jim Wright

- and assisted by Abram Dobbie.

Thank you for reading the vision we have for our church for the next five years. Please speak to your Parish Council members if you are moved to:

- Comment on our Vision 2025;
- Be further involved in our ministry strategies;
- Propose other strategies which you think are important.

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will move in our church to set us on fire for God's kingdom here in Berowra and beyond.