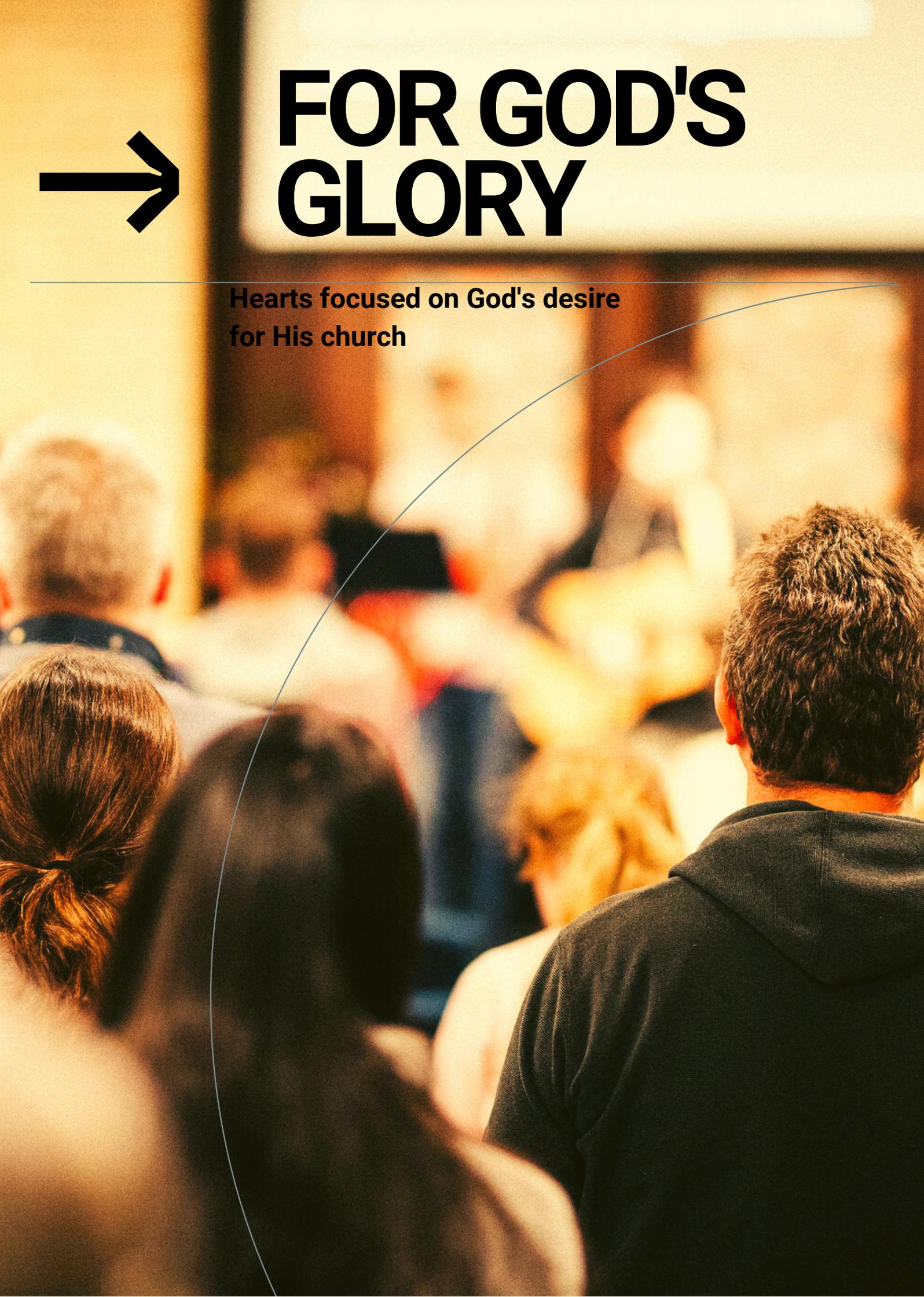




FOR GOD'S GLORY

**Hearts focused on God's desire
for His church**



FOR GOD'S GLORY

St David's Forestville Anglican Church 22-23



THE VISION

To see God glorified
as thousands
are being transformed by Jesus
in the Forest and beyond.

Our prayer and desire is that as a church, we're all about seeing God glorified in our own lives, in each other's lives, and in the lives of those in the Forest and beyond. What a privilege it is being transformed by Jesus as his Spirit works in us and those around us.

We're thankful to God for the way that He has worked in so many lives since St David's started meeting together in the 1950s. Many have been saved and grown in their love for our Lord Jesus since then.

Yet, there are currently over 13,000 people in the Forest alone, many who don't know the saving good news of Jesus and are currently going to endure the eternal justice of God.

Under God, will you join us to see more people transformed by Jesus and eternally saved? We want to be like a lifeboat, with Jesus as our commander, working together to see people rescued then joining us in this rescue mission.

Over the next 5 weeks, we'll be wrestling together in God's Word, to see His desire for us to mature as his children, both individually and as a church.

DEEPLY TRUSTS THE WORD

Study one

Please watch the video at forestvilleanglican.com/forgodsglory

Icebreaker: Share a helpful habit you have maintained for a large portion of your life (e.g. exercise, regular bedtime, reading). If you have one, share a habit that you have developed later in life.

- 1a. Before you read the passages below, how would you rate how deeply you trust God's Word in theory? ie. How valuable and reliable do you think God's Word is?
(Mark the line below with an 'o'. 1 = not at all trustworthy ; 10 = completely trustworthy)
- 1b. How would you rate how you trust God's Word in practise?
i. That is, how often do you read the Bible?
(Mark the line below with an 'x'. 1 = hardly ever; 10 = daily and closely.)
ii. How much of a priority to you put on small group and church to be deep in the Word?
(Mark the line below with a 'v'. 1 = hardly ever; 10 = weekly.)

1 _____ 10

Think it through: Is there anything you can learn from your approach to God's Word from your three answers?

READ Psalm 1

2. How does the relationship of the righteous and wicked differ in how they take direction for their life?

READ 2 Timothy 3:16-17

3a. What does it mean that the Bible is God-breathed and how does that shape our attitude to the Bible?

3b. What four ways does 2 Timothy 3 describe that the Bible can be used in our lives and what do they mean?

3c. How have you seen God's Word at work:

- In the life of the church?
- In a small group?
- With a friend?
- In your own life?

READ Hebrews 4:12-13

4. Ephesians 6:17 describes God's Word as the sword of Spirit and Hebrews 4 that we've just read, reinforces this. In what sense are we to be not simply knowing the truths of the Bible, but allowing them to transform our lives, the life of our small group and the life of our church?

Think it through further

5. Based on the passage of the Bible that you have read and others you know, how would you define the Bible, its origins, its importance and its purpose?

READ Matthew 7:24-27

6. How do these words of Jesus further emphasise how we approach God's Word? What does it mean for our group to not simply hear and know the truths of the Bible, but also put them into practise?

7. Share ideas that you've used, or heard of, that will help you be deep in the Word:

- Personally... as a group... as a church?
- What can be done (discuss a few):
 - > At home > With a friend/spouse > On the road > At a church service
 - > After church as you socialise > As a family > As a family
 - > Whilst your gardening/doing a chore > On a break time > Whilst exercising etc.

Applying what we've learnt

In light of today's study, how would you rate:

- How much you will commit to reading the Bible this month?
(Mark with an 'x'. 10 = daily and closely. 1 = hardly ever).
- How much of a priority with you make Bible study?
(Mark with an 'o'. 10 = every meeting. 1 = hardly ever)
- How much of a priority with you make Church?
(Mark with a 'v'. 10 = every Sunday. 1 = hardly ever)

1 _____ 10

Live it out

- What do I need to do in response to this?
- What is one immediate action I will take?



ON MISSION

Study two

Please watch the video at forestvilleanglican.com/forgodsglory

Icebreaker: How did you hear about Jesus - the first time or a more definitive time, or a collection of encounters? > Reading the Bible > Church or kids or youth group > School Scripture or similar > Friend or family member > Other - Share....

Read Matthew 28:16-20

1. The risen Lord Jesus appears to the disciples with a clear message for the church going forward. Who does it centre on and how does it demonstrate the importance of growth for the early church?

Read Acts 2:38-41; 4:18-20, 31

2. How do we see the early church prioritising or being compelled to share the gospel and in what ways does this encourage and challenge us as a local church community today?

3. Divide into groups of 2-3 and look at one of the passages below. After discussing the two questions, come back together and share your responses.

How do we see the early church compelled to share the gospel or what methods do they use?

In what ways does this encourage and challenge us as a local church community today?

- Acts 11:19-26
- Acts 14:1-7
- Acts 17:16-24
- Acts 19:8-10; 20:17-24 (both set in Ephesus)

Read John 3:16-18

4. What does this famous passage tell us about the God's mission in Jesus?
What response is necessary?

Read Romans 10:9-15

5a. John 3:16-18 reminded us 'who' saves and the importance of belief in God's Son Jesus.

In Romans, Paul makes it clear that saving faith is a gift from God and not a work from us (Romans 4:1f, 11:6). According to Romans 10, what must a person hear, and, with God working in their hearts, declare and believe?

5b. What is the role of the Christian community in all this?

Read Romans 12:9-21

6a. In Romans 10 we thought about the importance of declaring the gospel.

How does the Christian community 'commend' the gospel by the way they live in the world?

6b. What is the danger of emphasising *declaring* the gospel versus *commending* it?

6c. What is the danger of emphasising *commending* versus *declaring* the gospel?

6d. Which are you more likely to emphasise? Why?

How can you/we strengthen the one you are weaker in?

Read 1 Peter 3:8-17

7a. How does this passage reinforce what we have been thinking about?

Applying what we've learnt

7b. How can you ensure that you live by these words in verse 15?

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

But do this with gentleness and respect...

Live it out

What can you do personally or as a group to be 'on mission'?

To which of the following will you commit, to help you to be able to "give a reason for the hope you have" in Jesus?



Write out, practise and share your testimony:

<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/share-the-gospel/what-is-a-christian-testimony.html>

Memorise Two Ways to Live:

<https://twowaystolive.com/>

Learn another gospel tract and carry it with you either in paper form or digitally:

e.g. <https://www.navigators.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/navigators-bridge-to-life.pdf>

LOVES GOD

Study three

Please watch the video at forestvilleanglican.com/forgodsglory

Icebreaker: Share about someone that you love or loved and appreciated deeply.

How would you rate the love you have for the most significant person in your life?

1 _____ 10

1. **READ Psalm 103:1-5**

How does David express his love for God in this Psalm?

2. **READ 1 John 4:8-10**

What is the relationship between God's love for us and our love for Him?

Why is this important?

3. **READ Romans 11:33-12:2**

Paul has been reflecting throughout Romans about the dire nature of sin, the judgement that all deserve, both Jew and Gentile, and yet the mercy of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ. At the end of Romans 11 he breaks into praise. Why should this be the natural outworking of the gospel?

What else is the obvious response Paul calls for in Romans 12:1-2?
(cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18)

Live it out

How can we demonstrate aspects of these two responses from question 3:

- * as a small group
- * in the Sunday gathering (including the less formal time)

Reflection: Each person write out one thing they will focus on and do to enhance the love of God in the small group or the Sunday gathering.

4. READ Hebrews 10:24-25

Discuss: What is the church being called upon to do by the writer to the Hebrews?

Share: Why do you think this is important, not just a few times, but on a weekly basis?

How does our time on Sunday strengthen, both our love of God and, our expression of it as a community?

How does regularly meeting as a small group enhance this also?

Going further (skip to 'Live it out' if time is limited)

5. READ Matthew 10:37-39

This confronting passage challenges how we approach love for others in comparison for our love for Jesus. Take a moment to briefly write down, but don't discuss, any immediate reflection or thoughts you have on this.

How would you rate your love for Jesus? (10 being the most)

1 _____ 10

Reflect: How does this compare to your answer to the first question at the beginning of the study?



Live it out

How can we grow *together* in our love for God as we gather?

What additional ways can we foster and demonstrate our love for God? We will return to explore this in the coming studies.

If you haven't mentioned them already, how do the themes of the earlier two studies cultivate or express a love for God?

IN COMMUNITY

Study four

Please watch the video at forestvilleanglican.com/forgodsglory

Icebreaker: Share an experience of community that you have appreciated.

1. READ Acts 2:38-47

- a. How do we see community in action in the early church?
- b. How does the early church demonstrate both their allegiance to God and their care for the community of believers?
- c. As you think about your small group and our church, how do these two work together to foster each other? ie. How does a commitment to the gospel truths / the apostolic teaching strengthen the mutual concern in the church community and vice versa?

2. READ 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:11-13; 1 Peter 3:8-9, 15-17

- a. What sticks out to you from the passage/s?
- b. How do these passages balance corporate mutual concern and personal responsibility along with the mandate to be outwardly looking, whether as an individual Christian or a church?

3. READ 1 Thessalonians 1:2-7; 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-14; 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

How are Paul and his co-workers demonstrating being 'in community' with the churches they are connected to?

Whether we are in some type of leadership role or not, how can we demonstrate an ongoing commitment and fostering of a sense of community:

- in our small group
- in our wider church life



SERVES OTHERS

Study five

Please watch the video at forestvilleanglican.com/forgodsglory

Icebreaker: Share a time you either served alongside others in a Christian setting, or you were served by a Christian brother or sister or a group of Christians.

1. 1 John 4:19 states, "We love because he first loved us"

READ 1 John 4:19-21 and **1 John 4:8-12** (a passage we return to from study 3)

Where does our love, and therefore, caring service for others find its origin?

Why is this so important (see 1 Peter 4:11-12)?

Discuss what this might mean for your small group expressing God's love for each other.

2. READ Matthew 25:31-46

In light of this passage how should we be thinking of those we serve in the life of the church as well as opportunities in the broader community?

Pause to consider: How do we remain active in service and yet not get overwhelmed?

3. In **Matthew 11:28** Jesus invites us, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest' whilst Paul states in Philippians 4:143 that "I can do all this through him who gives me strength" and in Colossians 1:28-29, Paul is "strenuously contend[ing] with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in [him]."

Where do these passages point us in life and in serving and how do they help?

How can we ensure that we serve in Christ's strength and not our own?

4. How do the following passages add to our understanding of serving?

If time and group size allows, divide into three groups to focus on one passage each

- **1 Peter 4:8-11**

- **Romans 12:3-8**

- **1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

(note the context of 1 Corinthians 13 following after the discussion of spiritual gifts)

5. READ James 4:13-17

James identifies a concerning attitude. Where is God in the picture?
Where are the people and their energies and abilities?

6. READ Ephesians 4:11-13

What is the purpose of using the gifts God gives us to serve within the church community?

Reflection

What are you passionate about as a Christian and in the life of the church?

What is an area of ministry you would like to serve in or help initiate?

(if you do not get to share with the wider group make it a point to share with your group leader).

Live it out

Discuss ideas about how your small group can practically serve (focus on 2-3 as time allows):

- * the needs of the community (both spiritual and physical)
- * the needs of the weekly congregation/s you are a part of?
- * the needs of each other as a small group?
- * the needs of people your group members are connected with?

Reflection on the past five weeks. On the following page you will see the proposed plans for 2023 focused on the five characteristics we've been investigating. This is designed so that they can partner with you, your small group and our church to build up these central aspects of God's church in order to glorify Him and grow in maturity and number (see the vision on page 3).

On a separate piece of paper write down, for each of the 5 characteristics we have looked at

> Deep in God's Word > On Mission > Loves God > In Community > Serves Others

1. What has this all been about?
2. What do I need to do in response to this? (review the 'live it out' study sections)
3. What is the immediate action I need to take?

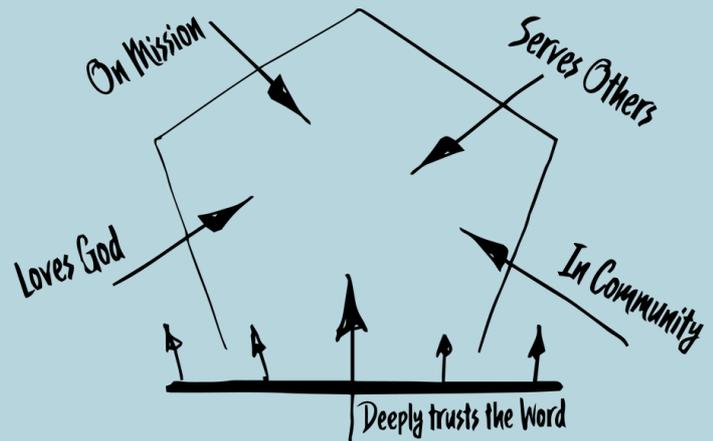


ST DAVID'S 2023

Our prayer is to see God glorified as all people at St David's are being transformed to become mature disciples of Jesus. There are many ways to express this, and the way we want to try and express this moving forward, is in terms of five characteristics of a mature disciple. All are important and all intertwine with each other.

Our desire, under God, is that we would be disciples of Jesus who are maturing in:

- **Deeply trusting God's Word**
- Being **on mission** to see others saved
- **Loving God** with thanksgiving, prayer and praise
- Belonging **in community** with God's family
- **Serving others** gladly and fruitfully



So the ministry staff team, after consultation with the Parish Council, are proposing the following changes for 2023.

Given the five characteristics outlined above, each member of our ministry staff team will move their focus from individual services, to one or more of the five characteristics. God has gifted each of us differently and we want to try and reflect that in how our team will work together.

Jon Kwan will continue to be our Lead Pastor, lead our ministry staff team, Parish Council and us, as a church. He will also focus on helping us all grow in **servicing others**.

Scott Taylor will continue to Pastor 8am and 10am, and he will focus on helping us all grow in **deeply trusting God's Word** and being **on mission**.

Josh Bishop will continue to Pastor 5:15pm and lead our **youth** team. We would like to increase him to 5 days/week so he can focus on helping us all **love God**, particularly in our Sunday gatherings.

Marina Blythe will continue as our **office administrator** and increase from 10 hours to 12 hours/week.

We would like to invite Sarah Bishop to increase to 3 days/week so she can lead our **kids** team and develop this ministry to grow even more.

We also would like to invite someone to join our team 3 days/ week to focus on helping us belong **in community** with each other.



DEEPLY TRUSTS THE WORD - ON MISSION - LOVES GOD - SERVES OTHERS - IN COMMUNITY

WHAT WILL THIS MEAN FOR US?

Both individually and as a church, we seek to be maturing in all five of these characteristics of the Christian life. Making these changes isn't the only way to try and achieve this goal of growing mature as followers of Jesus, but we think this will be a helpful way to focus our hearts, actions and words.

Crucial in bringing about these changes is also the financial support from St David's members.

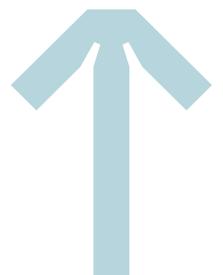
To help us achieve these goals, we need to reach an operations target of \$504,000 for 2023. We are asking every member of St David's to consider **pledging** towards this target, so that we can go ahead with these plans with a high level of confidence that we will have the necessary funds available.

This is equivalent to a target of \$42,000/month in 2023. This is only slightly higher than our average giving in the last four months.



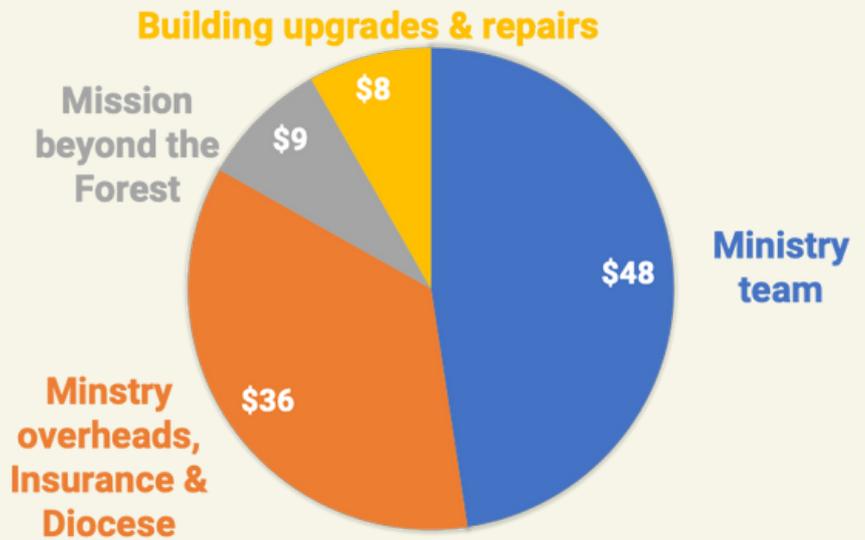
Additional to our **pledged** operations target, we are encouraging members to consider giving a separate one-off **gift** to support new initiatives in 2023. These gifts total \$45,000 and are outlined on the next page.

Looking ahead for ST DAVID'S



2023 OPERATIONS

For every \$100 given toward the St David's Operations target of \$504,000, our Parish Council intends to use it in the following manner.



2023 GIFTS

\$10,000 TARGET - COFFEE CART + WELCOME BANNERS

Purpose - to improve people's first interaction with us at church, creating a more welcoming atmosphere and helping people connect, both before and after church, in deeper community.

\$15,000 TARGET - WARRINGAH RD SIGN UPGRADE

Purpose - to engage with our community with clarity, so that people know who we are, that everyone is welcome, and to provide clear directions on how to meet with us at church.

\$20,000 TARGET - INTERGENERATIONAL BUILDING START-UP FUND

Purpose - to be generous to gospel ministry in the future. This is a startup fund for a future building project, either an offsite rectory or church building modifications (to be decided at a later date).

TREASURER'S DISCRETION

Purpose - to support St David's initiatives for 2023, but you want your gift to be allocated to the place of most need. The Treasurer - in consultation with the parish council - will allocate your gift where it is most needed, either one of the gifts or topping up a deficit in our operations target.



PLEDGE + GIFT FORM

Please complete this form and place it in the letterbox at church or email it to treasurer@stdavids.com.au by **Sunday 6th November 2022**.

If you have any questions please contact office@stdavids.com.au

After your pledge form is processed, you will receive an email from our Treasurer with your unique number to use as your reference for Direct Transfers.

Decide on your pledge amount

Operations target \$504,000

My pledge towards St David's 2023 operations target:

I would like to give \$ weekly / fortnightly / monthly / annual *
(please circle)

for an annual total amount of

\$

* Annual pledge given by
September 2023

Gifts \$45,000

My contribution towards St David's 2022 One-Off Gifts - given by 31 December 2022

I would like to give

\$	Coffee cart + welcome banners Target: \$10,000 ^
\$	Warringah Rd sign upgrade Target: \$15,000 ^
\$	Intergenerational building start-up fund Target: \$20,000 ^
\$	Treasurer's discretion (allow treasurer with Parish Council, to best allocate this gift.)

^ in the case of a Gift being oversubscribed - funds will be automatically allocated to the Treasurer's discretion category

TOTAL GIFT: \$

form continues over >

Thank you for partnering with us in 2023

You can set up payments using Direct Transfer from your bank account

For both Operations giving and One-off gifts -

After your pledge form is processed, you will receive an email from our Treasurer with your unique number to use as your reference for Direct Transfers.

I plan to set up my regular OPERATIONS giving Direct Transfer to commence on (date) ____ / ____ / ____ .

Account Name: St David's Anglican Church Forestville

BSB: 062 170 Account Number: 10160734

Your contact details

Name/s:

Street:

Suburb: Postcode:

Mobile: Email:

Signature/s: Date:

Which gathering do you attend? 8am / 10am / 515pm Please circle

This pledge is representative of: An Individual / A Family Please circle

Please fill in and return this form

In person: place it in the mail box at the back of the church

Email: treasurer@stdavids.com.au

Mail: Treasurer - St David's Anglican Church PO Box 128 Forestville NSW 2087

Our Treasurer will keep your form on file, but don't forget to keep a copy of your pledge and gift details for yourself.



CHRISTMAS BBQ @ FORESTVILLE SHOPS

Saturday 10th December

180 + ELEMENT CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Friday 16th December

CHRISTMAS KIDS CLUB

Tuesday 20th December

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve - 24th December

5pm family service + BBQ

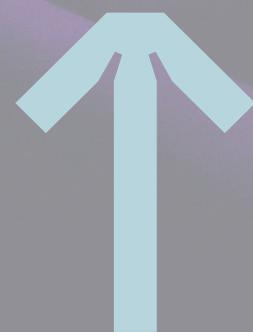
8pm service + supper

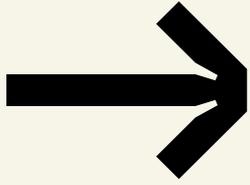
Christmas Day - 25th December

9am service + morning tea



CHRISTMAS @ ST DAVIDS





FOR GOD'S GLORY

**Hearts focused on God's desire
for His church**

Pledge + Gift Sunday

Sunday 6th November

Praise + Thanks Sunday

Sunday 13th November

