

Prayer Diary

Aug / Sept 2010



Vision and Leadership

- 17th Aug • Continue to pray for the Vision & Leadership Team, as they continue to think strategically about furthering the vision. Pray for the Team's ongoing work, as they keep hold of the big picture.
- Pray for the six main focus areas for the development of the vision this year, and for the portfolio holders and ministry personnel responsible for them ... church services (Gav B, Rod H and Ian FJ), leader development (Rod H), children's ministry (Sue B and Benita DR), youth ministry (Sue B and Ian FJ), social justice (Sandra V) and community engagement (Rod H). Pray for a clear 'action plan' to come together as we try to make all these areas work, and pray that as a church we will be ready to embrace whatever changes might be necessary to see the vision become reality.
- 18th Aug • Pray for the staff team ... Rod, Ian, Benita, Faye, Graham and Sue ... as they work together to lead the church in the direction of fulfilling the vision. Give thanks for the developing sense of 'team' as the staff work together, and pray for time amongst the busy-ness of day-to-day ministry to be able to maintain focus on the big picture of our church.
- Pray for Rod, as he works on his own areas of leadership and 'vision' as well as overseeing the rest of the team, and the development of the vision as a whole. Pray for his discipline and time management, as he works at maintaining a sustainable lifestyle, balancing work, leisure and personal spiritual growth.
 - Give thanks for the establishment of a Leader Development Team, and pray for the team as it works towards a more intentional approach to encouraging, supporting and developing leaders in our church.

Church Services

- 19th Aug • Pray for the Service Teams and Committees, including DRV, as they meet regularly to assess, discuss and plan for each of the services.
- Pray for Parish Council as they focus on Church Services as a key area in 2010 and aligning this with our vision.
- 20th Aug • Pray that the services at St John's would be closely aligned to our vision in building a strong sense of belonging for members and being a place where newcomers can connect, as we share community with one another and with God.
- Pray for the 9:45am and 7:00pm services as they continue to trial a new structure for the music ministry, giving thanks that it has been working so well.
- 21st Aug • Pray for Mark Cameron as music coordinator and for Andrew Harding, Dan Gale and Kyle Lane as band leaders, as they serve the church in this important ministry.
- Give thanks for the sound operators and projectionists and the important impact they have in our services.
 - Give thanks for the continuing faithfulness of those who help out on the various rosters at each of our services.

Support Ministries

- 22nd Aug • Praise God for the encouraging emphasis on prayer.....for the increase in those attending the **Big Prayer Days** each term, and the greater use of the **Emergency Prayer Chain**.
- Praise God for the organisation of **Life Groups** that Mark Harding has done as the Life Groups Coordinator. Praise God for the leaders who manage each life group and for the members of each group. Pray that existing life groups would be open to welcoming new members and that more leaders would be raised up so that all can experience the benefits of being part of a life group.
- 23rd Aug • Give thanks for the **Meal Ministry** and for those who provide meals to others in times of need. Pray that God would raise up a coordinator for this ministry, that it might become a vital support not only within St Johns but also in our connection with the local community.
- Give thanks to all who help out with the various **support ministries**, for their continued support of those in our church and community.
 - Pray that as a church we are open to the needs of all around us, and that we can continue to make an impact.

Children and Youth Ministries

24th Promiseland

- Aug
- Praise God for the commitment of the leaders and the wonderful asset they are.
 - Pray also for new leaders to fill some of the gaps in the primary group (2 more needed).

25th Kaleidoscope Kids

- This has had a great start with a small number of regular children.
- Pray for at least one male leader to step up so that we can have a focus on the boys and girls separately, and therefore attract more children as we focus on the differences.
- Pray also for the leadership team as they continue this new ministry.

26th School Scripture (SRE)

- Praise God that we have filled the space at Sutherland North.
- Ask God to provide a teacher for a Year 1/2 class at Sutherland.

27th Youth Ministry

- Praise God that the proposal for a new Friday night youth drop-in centre program has been given the 'go ahead'. Now the real work of cleaning, finding equipment, training leaders, raising funds and following God's lead into the local youth community begins.
- Pray for the upcoming Blackstump festival: for the patience of those who will organise and support our campers; for the inspiration and challenge of those who will attend the festival; for Ian who will be presenting a Bible study at the festival; and, for Rod as he supports the leadership of the festival with chaplaincy services.
- Pray for YASDUN, its leaders, and for the youth who will attend and benefit from this Life Group.
- Pray that the youth connected to St John's would feel welcome in the church family, enabling them to make St John's their spiritual home.

Adult Ministries

28th Men@stjohns

- Pray for the men's team as they plan for the Term 3 event to be held in September.
- Pray that this important ministry will continue to meet the needs of men in our church.
- Give thanks for the men committed to attending the weekend away from 19th-21st Nov. Pray that others will commit to come as well.

Adult Ministries (*Continued*)

29th Women in Fellowship

- Aug
- Praise God for the women's events each term, for the opportunity to meet together and grow relationships with one another and with God.
 - Pray for Kath Ansell as she prepares to come and share with us at the breakfast event at Como Hotel on September 4th. Give thanks for her passion to encourage us in our walk with God.
 - Ask God to raise up a speaker for the women's Christmas event, with the opportunity to invite friends and family along to hear of God's love, at a time in the year which can often be busy or lonely.

30th Seniors

- Ask for God's wisdom and guidance for the leaders of the various seniors ministries at St John's.
- Give thanks for the warm welcome that our seniors teams receive when they visit nursing homes and retirement villages. Ask for opportunities to reach out to residents, families & friends each week.
- Give thanks for the faithful service of all team members.
- Ask for God to prepare new members / reserves to join the Tuesday teams at nursing homes and Seniors Club as needs arise.
- Ask for 'Open House' to grow in meeting the needs of our community.

Outreach

- 31st
- Pray for Glenn Starr (The Jannali High School) and Fiona Francesconi (Gymea and Kirrawee High Schools) as they share the gospel week by week in the schools. Pray too for the Boards which support them, that they will continue to be able to raise sufficient funds to maintain these vital missions in our local high schools.

Social Justice

- 1st
Sep
- Give for the Social Justice team. Pray that they will be open to God's leading about where St John's can serve Him and those less fortunate than ourselves. Pray for God's direction on where to focus our attention, energies, time and financial support as a church and as individuals for the year ahead.
 - Pray for wisdom for those elected into Government, particularly as they determine policies on issues like indigenous welfare, asylum seekers and foreign aid. Pray too that we as a church, and as individuals, will use our voices to 'speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves'.

Social Justice (Continued)

- 2nd Sep • Praise God for 'Operation Christmas Child', and for the Macbeth family who feel led to run it each year at St John's. Pray that we will be generous and joyful in our giving.
- Pray for those that come seeking practical help through the church office, that we can meet their physical needs. Pray also that we can be Christ-like, offering true love and generosity to those who are often feeling vulnerable.

Community Engagement

- 3rd • Give thanks for the assembling of a **Community Engagement Team**, and pray as the team sets up on-going oversight for the various arms of this portfolio. Pray for a clear plan, as we move forward in developing further opportunities for engaging with our community.
- Pray for the **Kids Hope** program at Sutherland School. Give thanks for the success of the Fun Lunch held at the school in mid-August. Pray that the fun and love they experienced would remind them that they are valued and valuable. Pray for the provision of new mentors.
- 4th • Pray for the **Playtime** ministry, running on Mondays and Thursdays. Pray that leaders and support team members will be energised to allow the Monday group to develop successfully, so that this ministry may continue to grow in its effectiveness. Pray for a number of the Playtime families who are facing difficult circumstances. Pray that they will find a welcoming environment at Playtime where they are able to share their burdens and be encouraged in their relationships.
- Continue to pray for **Court Support**, and the week-by-week connections with people feeling vulnerable and ill at ease with their circumstances.
- 5th • Pray for the process of researching our local community, as we seek to understand what needs exist in our community, and where we can get involved to lend a serving hand.
- Pray for the opportunities taken by **MU Australia** (Mothers' Union) as they engage in multiple ways with the wider and unchurched community, and work and pray for the strengthening and encouraging of marriage and family life.
 - Give thanks for our involvement with the **Coffee@Peace Festival**, and pray that the 'show-bags' containing information about Fair Trade as well as about St John's, and a Luke's Gospel, etc, will continue to have an effect on all who took them.

Mission

- 6th Sep • Pray for the **Adams** (Brad, Krisha, Sebastian, Helen, Patrick, Lauren)... as Brad and Krisha continue to run, and teach at, Bingham Academy in Addis Ababa. Pray that God will use their gifts and abilities to serve him in the school and wider community.
- Pray for Andrew **Cameron** ... as he leads "Ambassadors in Sport" in Australia, that it will grow and that the vision Andy has for it will be realised. Pray for Ambassadors finances, as the ministry seeks to get more established.
- 7th • Pray for the **Guzmans** (Cesar, Ani & Sebastien)... pray for perseverance and wisdom for Cesar as he pastors a congregation in the Penalolen district of Santiago, Chile, as well as giving parish training to students from the ministry training college. Pray for Cesar and Ani as they build relationships with those who came to the marriage program.
- Pray for **Sylvia Jeans** ... as she adjusts to life back in Sabah, after retiring from CMS. Pray that she continues to be supported to do what she believes God has called her to.
- 8th • Pray for the **Millars** (Andrew, Leana, Tyler, Reid, Mackenzi & Denzel)... pray for 'Immersion', the cafe and English school they have established in Gijon, Spain. Pray that through the classes more people will come to know Jesus. Pray that God will continue to provide for them and that as the cafe grows they will need to rely less on financial support from others.
- Pray for the **Prattens** (David, Catherine, Jess, Amy, Esther)... praise God that they are now renting in "the Shire". Praise God for the blessing of David and Catherine's work. Praise that Esther is home from Kazakhstan. Pray that she settles into life in Australia.
 - Pray for the **Webbs** (Ross & Lyndal)... as they continue to work alongside local Christians in Vanuatu, overseeing the translation of the bible into local languages.

Equipping

- 9th • Pray that the upcoming training for various teams and ministries is beneficial for those who participate.
- Pray that the Equipping Team can continue to generate new ideas and opportunities for learning for St John's and the local community.

Communications

- 10th Sep
- Pray that we can continue to explore ways to better communicate with the church family and those in our community.
 - Pray that we can continue to improve the way we support the communications needs of the various ministries in our church.
 - Pray for God's guidance as we perform a review of the website to ensure it meets the needs of our church.
 - Give thanks for the continuing enthusiasm of Patrick Helm in his role as IT Team leader.
 - Give thanks for Glenn Reeve as he faithfully changes the church sign each week, and for Kristen Doran as she continues to come up with great designs for our church publications.

Property Development

- 11th
- Praise God for the positive support given by the Diocesan representatives for the development proposal.
 - Pray for the ongoing discussions with the developer. The negotiations are often slow and frustrating. Pray for a positive outcome.
 - Pray that the committee might have wisdom in decision making and in negotiating, being Christ-like in all our actions.

Property Maintenance

- 12th
- Praise God for the current building and grounds, that they are still in good shape after all this time.
 - Give thanks for those people who willingly give their time to the maintenance, cleaning and lawn mowing rosters. Ask God to raise up other church members to get involved and to help share the load.
 - Pray for Patrick Helm, in his role as Portfolio Holder, that he can make progress on this year's objectives within the portfolio structure.

Finance

- 13th
- Pray for the commitment made at this year's AGM to employ additional staff, for our need for \$29,000 per month.
 - Praise for God's provision in the recent response to the Warden's appeal for ongoing resources to meet our budget needs.
 - Pray for ongoing congregational support to make these staff members salaries payable.
 - Pray for ongoing and special needs to support our link missionaries.

Administration

- 14th Sep
- Pray that God will guide Parish Council in choosing a replacement for Gareth Wyatt following his recent resignation from Parish Council.
 - Pray for our Wardens (Sue, Elizabeth and Gavin) as they take responsibility for many aspects of the administration of our church, putting in long hours around their day jobs.
 - Pray for Sue as she tries to balance the regular things like producing the bulletin and songsheets, with the one-off things like parishioner requests and projects that Rod and Graham ask her to do.
 - Pray for Graham as he balances the many tasks and requests on his plate. Pray for wisdom to focus on the right things.

Planning

- 15th
- Pray for God's guidance for the Parish Councillors as they work with their ministry leaders to activate their portfolio plans for 2010. Pray that these plans will work towards achieving our vision. Pray that Parish Councillors might work together in love and cooperation, respecting each other's views and arriving at decisions that will glorify God and support the work of our church.

Future Prayer Days.....(6am, 10:30am, and 7:30pm)

- Thursday September 16th
- Wednesday October 20th
- **Monday November 15th □ BIG Prayer Day, Term 4**

*Monday August 16th BIG Prayer Day
postponed to Monday 31st August*