

St John's Sutherland

Prayer Diary

December



Vision and Leadership

- 1st
- Give thanks that God continues to lead us and confirm His vision for St John's as we draw near to Him. Pray that we might continue to look to Him and remain faithful to this vision of 'Connecting our Community with Christ' in all of our ministries at St John's.
 - Please pray that Andrew would take time to prioritise the important things to do that would help us to draw near to God and grow in our service of our Lord Jesus.
 - Please pray for those who preach, that they would be faithful in their preparation and really seek to bring God's word to God's people here in Sutherland.
 - Please pray for us as a church, that we would be ready for a new Senior Pastor, and that we would be ready to see where we need to change and grow.
- 2nd
- Praise God for 2011, for Rod's faithful ministry, for all those who faithfully serve and follow Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.
 - Please pray that 2012 will be a great year.... a year to welcome a new Senior Pastor and refresh our resolve to make disciples and shine out for Jesus in Sutherland.
 - Pray for those who attended the Spiritual Gifts workshop in November as they consider their strengths and passions, and how they use them in serving our Lord Jesus in a more effective and fulfilling way.
- 3rd
- Pray for the staff (Andrew, Ian, Benita, Faye, Graham and Sue) and the Wardens (Sue, Elizabeth & Gavin) as they work together to lead the church in the direction of fulfilling the Vision.
 - Pray for the church nominators (Kylie Cameron, Ian Doust, Lynne Johnson, Greg Upex and Tim Venum) as they continue to seek for a new Senior Pastor. Give thanks for their diligence. Pray they will not grow weary, but keep looking to God for His leading and direction.
 - Give thanks that God is already preparing the heart of the person He is calling to be the new senior pastor at St John's. Pray that we would be patient throughout this process, and that we would be ready to welcome him and his family into our church family when they arrive.

Church Services

- 4th
- Give thanks for the **8am Service**, and for the faithfulness of those who help out on the rosters each week. Pray that the monthly 'Tea and Toast' gathering would continue to be well attended.
 - Praise God for the strong attendance at the **9.45am Service**. Give

thanks for the many new faces coming to St John's. Pray that they feel welcomed and supported. Praise God for the many volunteers who contribute to the 9.45am service. Pray for continued energy in their ministries. Praise God for the Creche ministry which is now up and running again. Pray that the children will be able to settle well when they are dropped off.

- Give thanks for the 5pm Service (DRV) which draws together a diverse mix of residents. Give thanks for the team who pull this service together each week. Pray for opportunities to continue to grow together as a community around God's word.

- 5th
- Please pray for the 7pm Service, that its members and friends will continue to experience a closeness with God and each other through this service. Pray also that recently trained service leaders will be confident in using their gifts to lead the congregation in worshipping God.
 - Give thanks for everyone involved in the Music Team and the commitment they give to the ministry. Pray for Mark Cameron, Nicole Ford and Dan Gale as they lead the team. Pray that they would be sensitive to the needs of the congregation and band members as they choose and play songs. Pray for everyone involved in music as we lead up to the busy Christmas period, that God's hand will be on the preparations for the Carols and other Christmas services.
- 6th
- Pray for those who may visit one or more of the Christmas services. May they be open to the message of love and grace of Jesus' birth. Pray also for the planning and preparation of those services, for those who will contribute their spiritual gifts to our Christmas worship and celebration.
 - Give thanks for all those involved in the various ministry roles and rosters each week, bringing the services alive with Bible readings, music, welcomers, sound, projection and more. What a great model of the body working together to serve each other!
 - Pray for all the congregations during this period of transition. Pray that we would be able to rely on God and stay committed to looking out for each other's needs. Pray that all services would build a strong sense of belonging for members and visitors alike.

Support Ministries

- 7th
- Praise God for the Life Groups at St John's and the support and encouragement that members have received this year through their

group. Ask God to draw more St John's members into a Life Group in 2012. Pray these groups will continue to be places where spiritual growth, support and accountability abound. Pray that existing groups will consider options to meet again next year, and be open to welcoming new members.

- Give thanks for the **Mentoring** training which drew to a close at the end of October. Pray for opportunities to develop this new initiative into the life of St John's over the coming year.
- Praise God for the 4 **Healthy Relationships Seminar** which ran in 2011 supporting and informing members of St John's as well as those in our local community. Pray that these seminars might continue to address relevant issues and reflect the love of Christ to those who attend.

- 8th
- Pray for opportunities to reach out and connect with new members of our congregations.
 - Pray for members who are effected by change during this 'interim' time - pray for God's strength, comfort and peace during this time.
 - Praise God for the **Book Club**, for its relaxed atmosphere and good discussions, and that it offers a place to connect with others.

- 9th
- Praise God for the **Prayer Chain** and for the real comfort it brings to those in need. Praise God for the team of people who commit to pray for each request. Pray they will be encouraged by answered prayer.
 - Give thanks for the **Meals Ministry**, providing meals to those in need at St John's as well as people we link with in the local community. Pray for Sarah Mross, co-ordinating this ministry, as she pulls together a form to help the Playtime team in "ordering" meals.
 - Pray for those at St John's who are facing sickness or long term illness, as well as those supporting loved ones. Pray for healing, and that as they lean on God they would experiencing His peace and comfort.

Children and Youth Ministries

- 10th
- Thank God for the children and youth who are part of the St John's family. Ask God to continue to bless them, that they would grow in their love and knowledge of God and his Son.
 - Give thanks for the parents of these children and youth, and for their support and commitment to the ministries at St John's. Pray for them as they disciple their children and show God's love in tangible ways.
 - Thank God for all those people who minister to the children & youth.
 - Ask God that plans will be firmed up for our focus to upper primary

and youth in 2012.

11th Children's Ministry

- Praise God for a great year at **Promiseland**, with the space theme and teaching this term being well received by the kids. Pray for the upcoming Family Service on 11th December and ask that it will be a special time for the children as they end another year at Promiseland. Praise God for the invaluable support, work and effort from all those involved this year.
- Pray for the upcoming **Sun Fun Days**, as the Promiseland leaders take a well earned break. Give thanks that parents and other St John's members give so generously of their time to help out in the school holidays.
- Give thanks for **Kaleidoscope Kids** which runs each Wednesday afternoon. Praise God that this year has been a constant year with most of the children attending weekly. Pray for the upcoming Family Fun afternoon on 7th December. Pray that we will reach the community and touch the lives of kids and families in Sutherland.
- Praise God for the opportunity to teach **SRE** (Scripture) in all four local primary schools. Give thanks for a wonderful year where all classes have been filled! Pray especially for the Year 6 kids, that they can move into high school with the knowledge and love of Jesus in their lives. Praise God for the dedicated support of all the scripture teachers this year....pray they will enjoy the Christmas break, being refreshed and ready for a new year of teaching ahead. Pray for the Christmas assemblies that are happening in early December, that the children can learn the Truth of Christmas.
- Pray for the vision of running **Holiday Camps** next year. Pray that a team can be built up to make the best of the opportunity to touch children and families in the school holidays. Pray for the team as they try to figure out the best way to move forward. Pray for the soccer camp in April, the Kids Fun Day planned in July, and a week long program planned for late September. Pray that the camps provide links to other ministries at St John's.

12th Youth Ministry

- Pray for the new **Junior John's Place** program for children in Years 5 & 6 on Friday afternoons. Give thanks for the children who have been coming along. Pray that good relationships will form between these children, and with the leaders.
- Pray that **John's Place**, the youth drop-in centre at North Sutherland, will continue to be established in the local area. Pray for the youth who come on Friday nights, that their lives will be transformed

through this ministry. Pray also for the youth from John's Place who have joined our 7pm service community.

- Give thanks for the **Youth Mission Team**. Pray for genuine relationships to form as leaders spend time with the youth hanging out at John's Place.
- Pray for the upcoming Break-Up/Christmas party for all of the youth and volunteers at John's Place on Friday 9th December. Pray especially that those youth will return when the centre reopens in February next year.

Equipping

- 13th • Give thanks for the various equipping events which ran this year. Pray for an opportunity to review these events, and plan for next year.

Adult Ministries

- 14th • Give thanks for the opportunity for the men to gather together at the **Men@stjohns** events this year. Thank God for the event held at Bonnie Vale this month and the 20 men who attended. Pray that relationships will continue to grow amongst the men at our church. Pray for the men's team as they plan events for next year and work out what best serves both the needs of men in our church and people who may be invited. Pray that someone will be interested in joining the team, particularly someone in their 20s.
- Praise God for the **Women in Fellowship** ministry and for the 4 events which ran this year. Pray for those who came along who already knew Christ...that they would be built up in their faith and in relationship with other women. Pray for those who are still searching...that they will be challenged to think again about Jesus, especially at Christmas. Give thanks for the dynamic team of women who pull these events together, giving thanks for Faye Hillier's leadership over the past 7 years, and praying for Justine Harding who steps into this role in 2012.
- 15th • Praise God that the monthly **Tea 'n' Toast** gathering after 8am church has become well established, providing a welcome place for people to gather together, chat about the service, and stay connected.
- Pray for the **Seniors Club** team who decided at their last planning meeting not to prepare a program for 2012, but to instead meet with the Chaplain from Thomas Holt Village to discuss other ways in which they might support his ministry in the village. Pray for a clear way forward from this meeting on 6th Dec, and for the shaping of a

recommendation to the Adult Ministries Portfolio Holder. And give thanks for the faithful service of the team, especially Pam Grove, the only founding member and dedicated treasurer.

- 16th
- Praise God for the Open House ministry which offers a place each month for people to gather together over a cuppa. Pray for Yvonne, having surgery on 24th November. Pray for others who attend whenever they can...just coming along is an effort but they love to do it. Give thanks for those who faithfully provide transport, without which Open House would be the poorer.
 - Give thanks for the Nursing Homes and Retirement Villages ministries carried out each month by faithful teams of volunteers. Praise God that the Lark Ellen Service Team are able to provide a bible study each month after the service. Ask God to raise up others to help so that this bible study might run every fortnight. Pray for the residents in these facilities (The Palms, Lark Ellen, Nagle Apartments, and Thomas Holt Village) that they will experience the love of Christ in a very tangible way this Christmas.

Social Justice

- 17th
- Praise God for His love and mercy, and for leading us as a church to be engaged in promoting and advocating for peace and justice.
 - Pray for our partners, TASK, who work in the slums of Phnom Penh in Cambodia. Pray that God might work through them to bring about His purposes, and that His peace and protection might be upon the staff and the people that they serve.
 - Pray for the children that will receive Operation Christmas Child boxes this Christmas, that through this small gift they will experience the love and hope that Jesus brings. Pray also that Samaritans Purse will be able to work through the communities involved in this project and make an impact in these people's daily lives.
- 18th
- Praise God for the John Franklin Lunch, and for the opportunity that we have to reach out to our local community in this meaningful way each year. Pray that the event will be well attended, and that we can show Christ's love to those who may not otherwise feel much love at Christmas time.
 - Give thanks for the Abolitionist Sunday services that ran on November 20th. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance in how we respond to the injustice of slavery and human trafficking in our world today.

- Pray for the Social Justice Team to be God's agents in stirring up interest and commitment at St John's to a range of social justice issues such as fair trade, refugees, indigenous issues and more.

Community Engagement

- 19th
- Praise God for the Community Engagement Team and for the various opportunities they have provided St John's to connect with others. Pray for the team as they look at some changes in how they function so that they can be more effective.
 - Pray for the Christmas Outreach in Loftus and for the planning and preparation which has already begun around the community carols. Pray for ways in which to encourage local residents to become involved, and for help from church members to make it happen.
 - Praise God for the Court Support program run at Sutherland Local Court. Give thanks for a flow of new members after some local church "promotions" which produced an unusually good response. Pray for guidance as they consider whether their good fortune could be used to benefit other hard pressed groups such as the Downing Centre. And give thanks for the generous spirit of the team members whose "networking" is having a growing impact on other Prison Fellowship activities.
- 20th
- Give thanks for the John's Tucker ministry, offering hampers to those in need at Sutherland Primary School and also at St John's. The team would like more requests from the school so that we can help families in need. The school still believes there are lots of families who would benefit from a hamper. Pray the team can develop an easy system to facilitate these connections. Praise God for the opportunity to bless Playtime families in need through the giving of hampers at Christmas.
 - Praise God that the food given out through John's Cupboard allows staff to connect with people in a practical way. Pray for good conversations with those who come knocking at church house, showing love and concern to those who are feeling marginalised and unloved.
 - Praise God for the Kids Hope program at Sutherland Primary School. Give thanks forthe success of innovations to better support and mentor children. Pray forinterest from potential mentors on "Ask Me" Sunday in the services in December; pray also for refreshment and renewed enthusiasm and commitment for the dedicated mentors.

- 21st
- Give thanks for **MU Australia** (Mother's Union). Praise God for everything he has blessed us with....we are so privileged to be part of His family. Give thanks for the ministry that MU had during 2011.
 - Praise God for the **Playtime** ministry which runs at St John's every Monday and Thursday during school terms. Pray for the future of this ministry as Nicole Wyatt steps down from leading at the end of this year. Give thanks for her faithful leadership and her passion for connecting with families at Playtime. Praise God for the two St John's members who tried leading at Playtime this term. Ask that God would bless them for their service. Pray for two non-Christian mums showing interest in coming to church and reading the Bible. Ask God to remove any obstacles to their coming and to open their hearts to the Gospel.
 - Give thanks for the opportunity to engage with the **Sydney Alliance** movement this year. Pray that St John's will continue to strengthen its connection with the alliance. Pray for the plans for training in 2012.

Mission

- 22nd
- Praise God that as a community we can support a number of link missionaries in spreading God's word. Continue to pray for all our link missionaries and the financial support we provide to them. As we lead up to Christmas time and our personal expenses seem to increase, let's pray that we don't forget our link missionaries as they help people all around the world get to know Jesus.
 - Pray for the **Mission Team**, as they come to the end of the year, and still a lot of their objectives are to be met. Pray they can find strength, time and energy to commit to projects such as developing a short term mission program, updating our link mission board and continuing to encourage life group interactions with link missionaries. Pray for the team as they begin to plan for 2012 - that they can be renewed and refreshed with ideas to continue our support of link missionaries. The team constantly receives requests for additional support of link missionaries. Pray that next year we might be able to extend our mission support to some local missionary groups.
- 23rd
- The **Adams** (Brad, Krisha, Sebastian, Helen, Patrick, Lauren)... teaching at Bingham Academy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Give thanks for a wonderful start to the school year - the new teachers and their families really seemed to have settled in well. Ask God to continue to

help them to adjust and to manage the inevitable illnesses that they will encounter. Pray for their children, giving thanks for a good settling in to the new school year. Pray especially for Helen and her epilepsy. Pray for wisdom for Brad & Krisha and her neurologist as they seek to ensure she has the right treatment for her condition. Pray also for the spiritual growth of the students and their families.

- **Ambassadors in Sport** sharing Christ with children through soccer camps and coaching. Ask that God would continue to lead David Johnson as he builds the camps and coaching, that Ambassadors would continue to expand into Victoria and South Australia. Thank God that Andrew Cameron is able to continue work with Ambassadors from afar in the US.

- 24th
- The **Guzmans** (Cesar, Ani & Sebastien)... pastoring a congregation in the Penalolen district of Santiago, Chile.
 - The **Millars** (Andrew, Leana, Tyler, Reid, Mackenzi & Denzel)... teaching English in northern Spain. Praise God that He has provided two homes for them to house-sit in Australia, giving them a place to call home during Dec/Jan. Give thanks that a lady from Lugarno Anglican Church has offered to come and cover some of their teaching roles at the Academy while they are away. Pray God will provide another person to cover the remaining classes.
- 25th
- The **Starkeys** (Drew & Hannah) ... in Tonga. Pray they will experience continual peace and emotional strength. Pray that Hannah's co-workers will find her ongoing training beneficial and that new learning will be applied to their work. Pray for wisdom in upcoming decisions.
 - The **Webbs** (Ross & Lyndal)... working alongside local Christians in Vanuatu and PNG translating and teaching the Bible. Praise God that they were able to return to Zuepak, PNG, with a precious load of 800 New Testaments and 600 MegaVoice audio players. Give thanks for the opportunity to lead a study on an "Overview of the Bible" and to teach others about God's truths. Pray for the weeks ahead, that their words and actions will not be twisted and given new meaning. Pray also for the local believers, that they will have courage to tell out the true story of Jesus, and that others will hear and believe.
- 26th
- Give thanks to God for **Glenn Starr's** work as a scripture teacher at The Jannali High School this year. Pray that he would be refreshed over the school holidays, and that the friendships he built with students would be strengthened next year. Pray also for the Jannali

Board of Christian Education as they try to raise awareness within local churches, raising sufficient funds to support Glenn.

- Praise God for the **Sutherland Board of Christian Education** and for **Fiona Francesconi** who works as a scripture teacher in Kirrawee and GyMEA High Schools. Give thanks for the new Board members who have taken on positions recently. Give thanks to God for Rod's faithful service as Chairman for over 25 years. Pray for Fiona, that she may have a restful long service leave. Pray also for GyMEA and Kirrawee High SRE in 2012.

Communications and Technology

- 27th
- Give thanks for the various individuals and teams who work behind the scenes at St John's, enabling us to communicate effectively with one another and with our local community.
 - Give thanks that new computer equipment has been prioritised for purchase, providing for staff and ministry needs. Praise God that a new Promiseland laptop has been purchased and is already in use. Pray for sufficient finances for the remaining items to be purchased.
 - Pray that people would feel led to join one of the teams in the 'Communications and Technology' portfolio IT team, Website team, Media team, Design team, and the Audio Visual team.
 - Pray that ministry teams, and those organising church events, would make good use of the **St John's website**, providing rich, informative and exciting content.

Property Development

- 28th
- Pray that we might have a renewed sense of purpose for the buildings at St John's, and an ability to make them more inviting and accessible.

Property Maintenance

- 29th
- Praise God for the current building and grounds, that they are still in good shape after all this time. Pray for wisdom in knowing what to prioritise when maintaining the church properties.
 - 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.

Finance

- 30th
- Continue to pray for St John's financial situation during this interim period. Praise God that we have been able to renovate the Senior Pastor's home at 63 Ninth Ave without eroding our savings too much.
 - Give thanks for God's provision and the good stewardship of offertory money. Pray we will use it wisely and creatively to further God's work at St John's and in the local community.
 - Pray that we will plan effectively for 2012, given the challenges that 2012 will bring. Pray that the budget reflects God's will for St John's, and that we are able to balance the competing ministry priorities to effectively advance his kingdom.

Administration & Planning

- 31st
- Pray for our Wardens (Elizabeth, Gavin & Sue) as they take on extra responsibilities in this interim period, whilst we await the arrival of a new Senior Pastor.
 - Pray for Ian, Faye, Benita, Sue and Graham as they also take on extra responsibility over this period of transition.

Praise God for His
Presence and Peace
this year