

St John's Sutherland

Prayer Diary

February



Vision and Leadership

- 1st
- Give thanks for Andrew Hudson. Pray that he might continue to provide support and encouragement for the staff and the congregations during this period of transition.
 - Pray that Andrew would continue to remind us of the Vision that God has given us at St John's. Pray we might continue to look to God and remain faithful to His vision of 'Connecting our Community with Christ' in all of our ministries at St John's.
 - Give thanks for the announcement of Tom Hargreaves' appointment as Senior Pastor. Pray for Tom and Simone, and their two daughters, Madeline and Grace, as they finalise their ministry at Heathcote Anglican and prepare to join St John's at the end of August.
 - Pray for us as a church as we prepare for their arrival. Pray that we will welcome them into our church family, and that we would be ready to see where we need to change and grow.
 - Give thanks for the parish nominators (Kylie Cameron, Ian Doust, Lynne Johnson, Greg Upex and Tim Venum) and for their diligent and prayerful approach to finding a new Senior Pastor.
 - Give thanks for Benita and the role she has played at St John's as the Children's Ministry Co-ordinator over the past 2 years. Pray that she will continue to rely on God, trusting Him to lead and guide her.
 - Pray for Marcus Macbeth and Nicole Wyatt, both taking up part-time employment at St John's in 2012....Marcus keeping Promiseland the best hour of every kids week, and Nicole coordinating and building up the Playtime ministry, as well as teaching school scripture at Loftus and Woronora Public schools.
- 2nd
- Please pray for Andrew in the lead up to the Church AGM.... this is an important time in the life of St John's. Pray that God would help people sense what is right for their commitment in regard to serving as a Warden, Parish Councillor, or Nominator.
 - Also pray for the smooth running of the AGM meeting, that God would help us be of one mind, enabling us to listen to other points of view in a way that glorifies God.
 - Please pray for the morning and DRV preaching program as we conclude the series on John's Gospel, that preachers would be diligent in their preparation and that we would all get the message that John writes... that we would believe that Jesus is the Christ, and that by believing, we may have life in his name.
 - Please pray for Andrew that he manages his increased workload at Youthworks Year 13 program. Pray also for the safe delivery for Andrew's daughter, Anna's, baby in mid February.

Church Services

- 3rd
- 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.
 - Give thanks for the strong community feel that we experience at the 9.45am Service. Give thanks for all those who serve so faithfully to make the service so welcoming and God honouring. Pray for service leaders, musicians and preachers, that together we would continue to invest quality time and energy into making 9.45 a gathering of God's people that members would not want to miss out on.
 - 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.
- 4th
- 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 for the various volunteers that contribute to the service and that more congregation members will step forward to bolster these ministries.
 - Give thanks for everyone involved in the Music Team and the commitment they give to the ministry, and especially for Mark Cameron, Nicole Ford and Dan Gale as they lead the bands. Pray that together we would be encouraged to worship and praise God through music.
- 5th
- Praise God for the Christmas Services and the Loftus Carols program attended by more than 300 people, a large proportion of them non-church people. Pray that the message may have touched their hearts, and that God will challenge them with the message of salvation through Jesus.
 - 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

- 6th
- Praise God for the Life Groups at St John's and the support and encouragement that members receive through their group. Pray for the groups starting up again in February, that they will continue to be places where spiritual growth, support and accountability abound. Pray that people looking to join a group will be able to find one that's suitable for them.
 - Give thanks for the Mentoring training which drew to a close at the end of last year. Pray for opportunities to develop this new initiative into the life of St John's over the coming year.
 - Please pray for Faye as she co-ordinates the Healthy Relationships Seminars for the year. Give thanks that Thelma Hutchins is able to run two seminars again. Pray also for Keena Hudson as she steps in to run the first seminar on 'What makes relationships work'.
 - Give thanks that we are able to offer Parenting Programs again in 2012. Pray for the '123 Magic' program that will run on 3, 10, & 17 March, that parents (and grandparents) from St John's and Playtime will benefit from attending. Pray also that these programs will enable us to connect with people in the local community.
- 7th
- Praise God for the Book Club, for its relaxed atmosphere and good discussions, offering a place for people to connect with others. Give thanks for those that have shown an interest in joining... pray that they will feel welcomed and able to participate in the discussions.
 - 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.
 - 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

- 8th
- 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.

9th Children's Ministry

- Praise God for Promiseland, 'The Best Hour of Every Kids Week!'. Pray for the year as the children and leaders start back on 29th January, especially the new pre-school children and those moving into the k-6 group. Pray they will engage well with the '5 G Challenge' - Grace, Growth, Group, Gifts and Good Stewardship. Give thanks for the provision of another Team Time leader. Pray for Marcus as he begins employment as the Promiseland Director on 19th February.
- Please pray for the Kaleidoscope Kids ministry, that a co-ordinator and another leader will be found to enable this group to continue running each Wednesday afternoon. Give thanks for Benita's key input into this ministry, which has seen it grow and connect with primary age children and their families.
- Praise God for the opportunity to teach SRE (Scripture) in all four local primary schools. Give thanks for the team of dedicated scripture teachers, praying especially for Nicole Wyatt who will begin teaching in early February. Pray the children will listen well, learning in a very tangible way about God's love for them.
- Pray for the vision of running Holiday Camps this 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.

10th Youth Ministry

- 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.
- Pray for the Youth Mission Team's continued intention to reach out to youth in the hardcore music sub-culture of the Sutherland Shire, through the Band Night events. Pray also for their plans to provide a chaplaincy service to youth through those events.
- Pray for the establishment of a new Biblical Foundations small group for youth on Sunday afternoons, before the 7pm service. Pray that

youth connected to our church and contacted through John's Place may find interest in learning more about Christian faith and lifestyle.

Equipping

- 11th • Pray that as a church, we will be able to run a range of events this year which equip us to serve and love others better, as we look to serve God.

Adult Ministries

- 12th • Give thanks for the Men@stjohns ministry, and the opportunity these events provide for solid relationships to form and grow amongst the men at our church. Pray for the planning of this year's events, especially the weekend away. Pray that new leaders will step forward to join the team this year.
- Praise God for the Women in Fellowship ministry. Pray for Justine Harding as she takes over the leadership of this team in 2012. Give thanks for the break that the team has had over the past two months. Ask God to help them pull together a fantastic program of events which will build relationships with the women at St John's as well as reaching out to family and friends, and those in the surrounding area, in the coming year.
- 13th • 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 as they consider ways to partner with the Chaplain from Thomas Holt Village this year. Pray for the meeting in early March, for a clear way forward.
- 14th • Praise God for the Open House ministry which was, on a small scale, attracting a good cross section to its "coffee and conversation" times. Pray for the ministry, as it starts up again this month, that it will continue to draw together a diverse cross-section of people. Pray that 2012 will be a year in which a strong and clear direction will emerge with a dedicated leadership able to carry it forward.
- Give thanks for the Nursing Homes and Retirement Villages ministries carried out by faithful teams of volunteers. Give thanks for the opportunity to celebrate the faithful service of these volunteers at the recent 'Seniors Morning Tea'. Pray that new and better ways can be found to reach and serve the senior members of Sutherland in 2012. Pray for the residents in the facilities we visit (The Palms, Lark

Ellen, Nagle Apartments, and Thomas Holt Village) that they will experience the love of Christ in a very tangible way.

Social Justice

- 15th
- 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's peace and protection might be upon the staff and the people that they serve, and that the Lord's will might prevail in the current difficult situation.
 - Give thanks for the work of our partner, **TEAR Australia**, and pray that the money raised through the Useful Gift Shop at Christmas time might be used wisely in order to truly bless many living in poverty.
- 16th
- 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 - connecting with those who offer to serve, as well as those who come to be served. There are many people, especially the elderly, who do it tough at Christmas time. This year about 500 meals were served on Christmas day!
 - 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

- 17th
- Praise God for the **Court Support** program run at Sutherland Local Court. Give thanks for the impact that the simple act of offering a cuppa, a smile, or the right words can have at a time when some may find themselves at their lowest point.
 - Give thanks for the **John's Tucker** ministry, and for the wonderful array of Christmas hampers they delivered to Playtime families and others in need in the local community last year. Pray for strong relationships to develop with the principal and teachers at Sutherland Primary School. Please pray that more food will be donated to replenish what was used over 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.

- 18th
- Praise God for the Kids Hope program at Sutherland Primary School. Give thanks forfive years of impacting mentoring and ministry to nearly 20 children and their families; for the inspiring commitment and investment in the lives of the children by the mentors; for the growing appreciation and support for Kids Hope by the staff. Pray foran enthusiastic start as mentoring relationships resume this month; for positive new relationships between mentors and teachers; the provision of mentors for children currently in the program; the way forward for Kids Hope in the future.
 - Give thanks for MU Australia (Mother's Union). Pray for their work and the dedication of those who are involved in the activities of MU at St Johns'. Give praise for the lives that they touch through their work at Sutherland Hospital and with Court Support.
- 19th
- Praise God for the Playtime ministry which runs at St John's every Monday and Thursday during school terms. Praise God for answering prayer about the future of this ministry, with Nicole Wyatt beginning employment two days a week in February to ensure this ministry continues. Pray for the families who will return to Playtime this year, that they will be loved and cared for through this ministry. Pray also for new families to join. Pray that God's love will shine through the team as they serve and share each week.
 - Pray for the community engagement activities we will have the opportunity to be involved in this year, that as a church we will be able to continue to *Connect our Community with Christ* through our involvement in the community.

Mission

- 20th
- Praise God that as a community we can support a number of link missionaries in spreading God's word in different communities. Pray for the St John's community to be able to continue to financially support our link missionaries. As we start a new year, may this be time for people to consider their giving and consider the needs of our link missionaries.
 - Give thanks for all the St Johns community who supported our link missionaries in 2011....thanks for the ongoing prayer, communications and financial support.
 - Pray for 2012, that we as a community will not only focus on our local surrounds, but we will continue to pray faithfully and support our brothers and sisters in Christ who's main focus is to let people all

across the globe knows of God's wonderful love for them.

- Pray for people helping to pull together a proposal for **Short Term Missions**. Pray that they will seek God's guidance in what is needed to meet the needs of St John's community wanting to travel on short term mission and also the needs of the missionaries they will be linking in with.

- 21st
- The **Adams** (Brad, Krisha, Sebastian, Helen, Patrick, Lauren)... teaching at Bingham Academy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Please pray for the Ethiopian staff, trying to raise funds to collectively purchase land for affordable staff housing...called the "Rehoboth Housing Association". Give thanks for Helen's continued health after serious and unexplained seizures in 2010. Thank God also for the progress of Bingham Academy and Krisha's opportunities to teach the Business Studies course again and refine her teaching programs. Pray also for the country of Ethiopia, still suffering immensely from the drought and recent death of foreigners, making travel within Ethiopia risky. Pray also for neighboring Somalia and continued fighting there with many Somalians seeking refuge in Ethiopia.
 - **Ambassadors in Sport** sharing Christ with children through soccer camps and coaching. Pray for the upcoming camp in the Easter holidays (17th - 20th April), as St John's partners with Ambassadors to connect with primary aged children in the local area. Pray that many children will attend and experience the love of Christ through this fun-filled week. Pray also for the presentation night at the end of the camp, that the children, their families and the wider St John's community will have a great night together.
- 22nd
- The **Guzmans** (Cesar, Ani & Sebastien)... pastoring a congregation in the Penalolen district of Santiago, Chile. Pray for Cesar's health. He has suffered from depression for the past 12 months and while he has been able to treat with medications, he struggles at times and needs our prayer and God's healing hand upon him. Pray also for Ani and the family as they support Cesar during this difficult time.
 - The **Millars** (Andrew, Leana, Tyler, Reid, Mackenzi & Denzel)... teaching English in northern Spain. Pray for a safe return to Spain and for renewed enthusiasm for the amazing work they are doing in the city of Gijon. Praise that they could visit and spend so much time with St John's. We give praise for connections with friends and family and also praise that they could meet new St John's members. Praise that they could share their vision and goals with us and that St John's

community is willing to continue prayer and financial support. Pray for the 180 degrees project. Praise that the venue has been provided but pray that it will be able to be adapted as a youth center. Praise for the connections Leana and Andrew have made on the project and pray that their vision and passion will see many young lives turned around 180 degrees.

23rd

- The **Starkeys** (Drew & Hannah) ... in Tonga. Pray for their continued integration into Tongan society and 'way of life', for the ongoing work they are doing there to achieve God's desired outcome, and that they may continue to strengthen the relationships developing with locals.
- 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.

24th

- Give thanks to God for **Glenn Starr**'s work as a scripture teacher at The Jannali High School this year. Pray that he would return refreshed from the school holidays, and that the friendships he built with students would be strengthened this 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.
- Please pray for the **Sutherland Board of Christian Education** as they employ an additional teacher this year for SRE for Gynea and Kirrawee High Schools. May they have wisdom in the selection process. Pray also for the students, that they may listen closely and respond to the message presented to them this term.

Communications and Technology

- 25th
- 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. 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

- 26th • 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

- 27th • 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

- 28th • 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.
- Give thanks for the work of Sarah Mross and John Blackley in overseeing the audit of the St John's accounts during January.
 - Continue to pray for St John's financial situation during this interim period. Give thanks that we are able to employ both Marcus and Nicole this year, in part time positions.
 - 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.
 - Pray that a treasurer will be found, from within the St John's congregation, to help ease the load on the wardens.

Administration & Planning

- 29th
- Pray for the church AGM on 19th February. Pray for the election of Wardens, Parish Councillors and Nominators, and pray that the discussions might be open and loving.
 - Pray for our Wardens and Staff as they take on extra responsibilities while we wait for our new Senior Pastor, Tom, to start work in August.

Pick up a copy of the
***March
Prayer Diary***

in the church entrance
or online at:

www.stjohns.org.au/ministries/prayer