

2024 Ministry Report



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Nigel Fortescue, Senior Minister

I loved school athletics carnivals. I looked forward to Term 2 every year and the chance (yet again) to vie for the prestigious prize - 100m champion. I trained, I prepared, I was always ready. I never won. I ran in such a way as to get the prize but I never took home that coveted blue ribbon. I got reds, greens and yellows but never blue.

In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul reminds us of those halcyon days: *"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."* (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

Paul's point here is that Christians strive hard all the way to the end and don't muck around with Christian faith. We don't run aimlessly but rather, keeping our eyes on the prize, we prepare, persevere and persist at following Jesus with every effort.

Christian people don't muck around with Jesus. Christian people set their hearts on trusting Jesus, honouring Jesus and living for Jesus. All my heart's desires should be focussed around God's plans for me in Christ before anything else.

Paul says of himself, I bring my whole body, mind and spirit in line with Christ through effort and discipline, hard work and determination, keeping in step with the Spirit, walking worthily of the Lord, working out my salvation with fear and trembling, so I will not be disqualified for the prize. He wants none of us to miss out on the crown of eternal salvation. Like Paul, I want you to be wearing that crown on the final day.

One of the resources God gives you to enable you to stand firm and flee from temptation is the local church. Not the institution but the gathering of believers week by week where you can be part of a people who open the Bible and spend time teaching, rebuking, encouraging, comforting, correcting and training each other in righteousness.

I am so glad you have made the choice to be a part of Christ Church St Ives and I count it an enormous privilege to be able to serve you as you seek to run in such a way as to get the prize.

Indeed, our whole ministry team counts it a privilege and

together we are here to serve you as you seek to set your hearts on the Lord, striving to wear the crown. We talk about our work as building wholehearted disciples of Jesus and we are at great pains to build into your life in five specific ways.

We want to build disciples who delight in God, who are deep in the Word and prayer, who love each other and serve one another gladly, and who seek the lost. That's wholehearted discipleship and our prayer for each one of our church members is that this might describe you more and more as you come under the sound of the gospel at Christ Church St Ives.

These five characteristics also provide the shape for the way our ministry and staff team are structured (and so this report). While Magnification, Membership and Ministry help drive the work forward, Maturity is foundational to all we do and Mission helps us to lift our eyes to, and get on our knees for, the world around us. Pursuing all five of these characteristics ensures we stay anchored in the things God wants for us and motivated by the things God is doing.

There were lots of staff welcomes and farewells throughout 2023 but the most significant one was Jan Smith, who we farewelled from her role in the office. When she began the office was filled with the sounds of desk phones and the famous Gestetner machine smell; when she finished she had upskilled to the Google Suite, Slack, Xero, digital copying and more. Jan did it all with grace and a perpetually encouraging smile.

I am thankful daily that God is always at work among us. In his power, this year again, we will see hearts changed. Minds changed. Lives changed. I am praying we will see the world change as we all go out to love, serve and reach people with the gospel of Christ. It will not be remarkable according to the world's standards but it will be glorious and the impact of our prayers and work will be eternal.

Let me conclude with a heartfelt thanks to the staff team who serve you for God's glory; a heartfelt thanks to the Wardens and Parish Council who help guide and govern the ministry; a heartfelt thanks to you for your generosity in supporting the work in a myriad of ways; and a heartfelt thanks to God, who has given us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Bring on 2024!

In Christ

Nigel

Mission

Elliot Temple



Wholehearted disciples are on a mission to seek and save the lost because it's the most loving thing we can do. Jesus came into this world to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10) and he sends his people to do likewise — **“Go and make disciples of all nations”** (Matthew 28:19).

In 2023, our priorities for mission were:

- Gospel Exploration — find 45 guests to explore the gospel deeply, with a focus on renewing the priority within mission for reading the bible with non-Christians.
- Share Life — continue to train our whole church in mission so that we reach more people. Bring together those who have completed Share Life Coaching and harness their energy for the harder aspects of mission, particularly “Step 6. Read”.
- Mission Partnerships — Appoint 1-2 new mission partners, and establish a better pathway for church members to become missionaries.
- Mandarin Ministry — launch an extra Growth Group and increase the energy in the Explorer Group by deploying a new Mandarin Speaking student minister.

Adult Conversions

Praise be to God there has been an increase in adult conversions this year. This happened without making any major changes to our programs, and it's a reminder that we “plant the seed” but God “gives the growth” (1 Cor 3:6). About half of the adult conversions came through the Mandarin ministry. This led to great joy across the whole church as many people were baptised or declared their faith at Celebration Sunday.

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
15	15	11	11	9	5	5	6	24



Gospel Exploration

The table below represents the number of adults who have explored the gospel deeply in evangelistic courses.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021*	2022	2023
Target	35	40	45	50	55	60	45	45	45
Result	45	49	55	53	55	36	37	43	45
NESB¹	7%	33%	64%	70%	49%	22%	57%	65%	76%

¹Percentage of guests at courses from a Non English Speaking Background

*COVID

- Looking back on 2023 there has been a wonderful partnership with Student Ministers, who have enjoyed the privilege of sharing Christ and seeing people saved. Lauren Dewhurst and Courtney Morris met up with three women to teach them the gospel and all three are now professing faith in Christ. Josh Sawyer and Courtney Morris ran Christianity Explored for young adults, and Josh was a table leader at Question Life. Lauren Dewhurst resourced the kids program for Question Life and Alan Cai led the evangelistic group at Mandarin Fellowship.
- We pulled together 30 or so Mission hearted people in 2023 to discuss the cultural challenge of getting non-Christians to read about Jesus in the Bible. The blockages are so many that we couldn't come up with any easy solutions. This is the ongoing focus for 2024... how to increase the number of people looking at Jesus in the Bible. It's going to take energy, insight, wisdom and prayerfulness.

If you know anyone who would like to help with this, please send them my way!

Share Life

Since 2022 we elevated mission to being the backbone of the Christ Church calendar. We remade Share Life into a year long conversation that put mission at the forefront of church life.

- At Share Life Sundays there was a similar number of guests to last year (up 19% since 2021, down 8% since 2022), but there were more people who were interested in Question Life. This year Nights brought the most guests (65) followed by Mornings (59) but Late Mornings did considerably well for the size of the congregation (30).
- There was an increase in conversation about mission in Growth Groups. The new portrait of a healthy Growth Group that was released in 2023 made a significant difference to the commitment of Growth Groups to talking about Mission. The combined event for Growth Groups was a highlight, as hundreds of people came to discuss "How to get involved in evangelism without being someone you're not".

Giving Thanks

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to:

- Jamie Woods — as a friend and incredible MTS ministry trainee
- Leo Chen — who oversees a bustling Mandarin ministry
- Nicole McPherson — who oversees a large ESL team with great passion
- Share Life Team — who championed mission across the congregations: RD Saunders, Pepita Buddee, Rory Beattie, Ashley Conolly, Bec Abraham, Naomi Tabtiang
- Mission Working Group — who oversee mission partnerships: Lindy Luger, Ivan Gow, Fiona Bywaters
- Mission Care Team — who looked after our mission partners: William Hood, Jacqueline Groombridge, Pip Russell
- Lyn Adamson — for invaluable communications and project support

Mission Partners

In 2023 we appointed 2 new mission partners:

- Gavin & Megan Rosser (Jordan) — In mid-2023 the Parish Council approved a new partnership with the Rossers (CMS), who moved to Amman in January 2024 where Gavin has become the Senior Minister of the International Anglican Church of Amman.
- Anthony & Trudi Elyard (Ethiopia) — Anthony & Trudi will be with us for deputation 5-17 May 2024. Anthony will be teaching at a Bible College in Northern Ethiopia and Trudi will be working alongside him mentoring and supporting local community leaders.

Christ Church dedicates 11% of general giving to financial support for mission. More details regarding the funding of mission is available in the AGM Financial Reports.

- We continue to support: Rebekah (South East Asia); Matt & Ellen Tyler (Vanuatu); George Whitefield College (South Africa); Chester Hill Anglican Church (SW Sydney).
- Matt & Ellen will be with us for deputation 25 Feb to 3 Mar 2024. After one year of linguistics training they are ready to head overseas.
- Dave & Leoni Painter finished up as missionaries with CMS.
- In 2023 we also donated in 2023 — \$5000 to Moore College's Regional Australia Student Award Fund in order to support the training of future evangelical Christian leaders for rural Australia; \$5000 to Moore College General Fund; \$10,000 to the Bathurst Diocese in anticipation of a possible partnership with a rural church in that Diocese.

Mandarin Ministry

A new teacher at our English classes (ESL) recently said "the ministry at Christ Church is unique, because of your emphasis on the Bible." I'm proud of how the wonderful team of volunteer teachers at our church have created a thoroughly Bible-centred teaching ministry. Each week there is a Bible story, and at the end of the lesson every student is invited to stay to learn more about Jesus. Some learn about Jesus in Mandarin with Leo, others learn about Jesus in English with Garbo (and her team of helpers). Garbo invites people who are more responsive to the Bible to come to Christianity Explored Universal Edition (Easy English). This year 12 people in the International Ministry have become Christian.

Yolanda, who was baptised 2 years ago, has now become a trained evangelist, co-leading evangelistic courses at Mandarin Fellowship. It's exciting to see how quickly she has learned to teach the gospel, lead discussion and invite friends. Leo has been meeting with Yolanda to train her for leadership.

ESL has grown to almost 100 students per week. Mandarin Fellowship makes up about 5% of the Christ Church community and over the last five years Mandarin speakers have contributed more than 50% of the Gospel Explorers (see "Gospel Exploration" stats above).

The Youth and Children's ministry, ESL and Mornings service together create a fantastic spiritual home for several families with Mandarin speaking grandparents, bilingual parents and English speaking children. It is great to see multiple generations of disciples being built in everyone's heart language at Christ Church St Ives.

Member Story

In November Angus stood up in front of his friends, family and his new congregation to proudly declare his faith in Christ. Angus recently joined Christ Church Nights after attending a study camp for year 12 students run by members of the congregation. Angus writes:

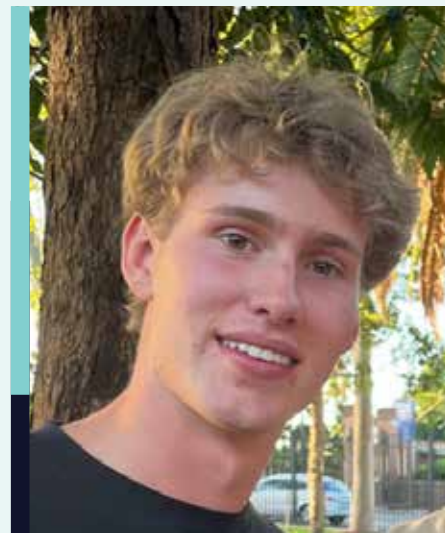
'God first wooed me to himself through the death of my grandpa. Even at a young age, the death of my grandpa, who was a big influence on me, made me consider and believe that there must be a greater purpose in life.

As a family we would go to church a couple of times a year and I would always consider myself a Christian, as I believed there was a god. However, I never fully grasped the amazingsness of who Jesus was, and didn't understand the gospel properly.

The pivotal moment in my faith journey was my decision to go to the Last Chance Study Camp in the hopes of cramming some last minute study for the HSC.

When I got to the camp I was so confronted by everyone's love for people they had never met before, and their amazing generosity of giving up holidays to lead us on a study camp. I ended up not doing much study and instead having really interesting conversations with all the camp leaders. It was through hearing about their testimonies and personal journeys with their faith that God softened my heart to Jesus and I realised the seriousness and importance of the Gospel. And on the second last night I prayed asking for forgiveness and wanted to start living for Christ.'

Angus Fisher



Maturity



James Macbeth & Di Lucas

At Christ Church we seek to build or be wholehearted disciples of Jesus who listen to the Word and pursue holiness in all of life. God's Word is basic to our knowledge and love of the Lord and core to our growth as disciples and leaders.

The Maturity portfolio is charged with ensuring that God's Word is being taught with accuracy and care, and received with faith and action.

Sermon Series, Events & Courses

2023 was marked by a number of challenging sermon series. Revelation in Term 1 proved to be one of the richest series we have done in recent times. This book is a serious test of any church's grasp of the whole of Scripture and our preachers, members and Growth Groups were certainly tested week to week. The inclusion of several lay preachers for the early letters was a highlight.

Exodus was our combined series and once again, we were blessed as all ages and congregations learned to walk by faith and trust in God's power together. In our second year of the Let's Talk mid-year series, we tackled "Work." This included a well received mid-week seminar with some special guests and well attended break-out seminars.

In March, Maturity partnered with Membership to hold a Men's Night at Bill Miller's Shed. It was an excellent, sold out evening. 150 men of all ages especially enjoyed James Francis' seafaring testimony. In June the Women's Equip Conference was hugely popular onsite, with 180 women from across our congregations feeding off the Word and a great high tea together!

Last year also saw the launch of our Marriage ministry, using the 'Building a Safe and Strong Marriage Course' created by Keith & Sarah Condie. Thirteen couples joined us and there was plenty of encouragement to embed this course and ministry into our calendar. Working alongside James Macbeth to make this ministry a reality was an eager and hard working team. The team consisted of Sally Sims, Susan and Stu Beattie, and Ali and Mark Streeter. They are keen to keep developing this vital work of strengthening marriages here at Christ Church into the future.

Growth Groups

Growth Groups are core to the Maturity ministry and the life of our church. In February 2023 we introduced the Portrait of a Healthy Growth Group. At Christ Church we pray that a healthy group is marked by the characteristics of: "Depth in Word & Prayer", "Mutual Accountability", "Pastoral Care" and "Mission-Mindedness". This has proven a helpful and dynamic gauge for leaders and groups to consider the relative health of their groups. We look forward to seeing this Portrait continue to work its way into the DNA of growth groups at Christ Church.

Growing our leadership team and structure has proven to be a challenge over the past 18+ months. This means that many of our growth groups are at capacity, or beyond. So a goal for 2024 is to strengthen our leadership pathways and continue to develop a well rounded training curriculum. Our desire is to train and support our leaders so that they are well equipped to partner with us in God's work of building wholehearted disciples of Christ.

An encouragement in this area has been the growth of our training course for potential leaders, Growth Group Foundations. In 2023 it doubled in size, with 22 members, several of these people will serve as leaders in 2024.

Some highlights in our growth group ministry have been:

- Partnering with Elliot Temple and the Mission portfolio and seeing mission mindedness grow.
- Our week of prayer taking place in individual groups.
- Hearing a number of people testifying to the Holy Spirit working through their growth group at our group launches in February.

- The encouraging responses to our leaders' survey at the end of the year. (For example, 97% of our leaders have seen pastoral care in action in their groups in the past year.)

Of course, all of these things happen under God and we are so thankful to him for the 120 group leaders and the 24 team leaders that have faithfully served God's people in 65 adult growth groups across 2023. Alongside these leaders we appointed our first Maturity Drivers in 2023:

- Andrea Bico — Mornings
- Mark Jones — Late Mornings
- Steph Ling — Nights

Praise God for the continued growth of his people here at Christ Church in 2023.



Member Story

Growth Group Leadership for Nitia and Doug Stace

Nitia began leading bible studies when she had three small children (aged 6, 4, and 2) and lived in a regional town. It was a privilege to lead a Know Your Bible group and for a few years, lead the whole class of women from various churches, under the banner of CWCI (Christian Women Communicating International). It was a huge challenge to be well prepared each week but also a great blessing to be digging into God's Word deeply and prayerfully, forming life-long habits.

After the family moved to Sydney in 1988, Nitia continued to lead a KYB group. associated with another church, but when they moved to Christ Church, Nitia soon began leading a WEB group, while teaching part-time and supporting a busy family and husband, Doug, who travelled a lot with his business commitments. It was a great joy for Nitia to be involved in nurturing the growth and faith of women from various backgrounds at various stages of their walk with the Lord, as well as a great discipline to stay sharp in preparation and faith herself.

When Nitia specialised in teaching ESL in schools, she became challenged to lead some women at WEB in a Simple English bible study group, encouraging the women to learn and grow in their faith in Jesus and helping them to pray aloud by writing down their prayer each week and sending it to be collated by Nitia's co-leader, Christine, so they could all pray in the group for each other. This has also lead to greater maturity and caring for one another within the group.

When it became possible for Doug to fit in a night time mixed Growth Group it was wonderful for them to both attend together. In 2015, Doug was invited to co-lead the group, which he found a great blessing as he was forced to undertake in-depth research and preparation to lead studies. His desk was often littered with notes and commentaries, but more recently, with failing eye-sight challenges, Doug has also sought help from on-line and/or audible commentaries and Bible-based videos, enlarged on his computer screen.

A measure of growth in this group has been a move to a shared leadership model, with group members rostered to lead studies and/or a 30 min. prayer segment, a move which has positively transformed the dynamic of this mature 14 member group.

After many wonderful years of serving as leaders of Growth Groups, health challenges have forced Nitia and Doug to return to regular membership, but they remain determined to encourage others in their walk with the Lord.



Magnification

Andrew McPherson



We want to be a church that delights in God through all of life worship - living lives of thanksgiving, prayer and praise in response to God who has loved and saved us. At Christ Church we seek to build wholehearted disciples of Jesus in our community, in our city and in all the world. As part of that vision, our Magnification teams long to lead hearts to love Jesus - that we delight in Him as we make biblical truths known.

I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.
I will glory in the Lord;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.
Glorify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together.
Psalm 34:1-3

Teams and Training

We give thanks that our weekly gatherings continued to grow in 2023. Many teams of volunteers came together each week with the aim of delivering excellence in our services, both in person and online. We are very grateful for the dedication and skill of all those serving on the platform and behind the scenes. Within the Magnification team we see members of our congregations volunteering each week in leading services, reading the Bible, leading in prayer, delivering the CYF Spot, leading us in congregational singing, mixing the audio in the auditorium, providing visual presentations to support the service, capturing our services on camera, delivering video and audio of the service via livestream, and providing Mandarin translation for our Mornings service. We are also grateful for volunteers who help to make occasions like Easter and Christmas more distinctive and welcoming through creative decoration of the church building.

Under Anton Luger's leadership, our AV team continued to train and encourage new members throughout the year. Philippa Claridge writes:

"Before serving in the AV team I took for granted how many people were required to run a service. I'm now part of a team that loves to bring the congregation together to give glory to God. Serving has helped me to better understand that this is how we encourage each other in our daily walk as we grow to be more like Jesus."

We are grateful to Emu Music, who came to Christ Church in October to deliver an in-house training workshop to our music and AV teams. We looked at all the ways God intends to shape, teach, grow and transform us through our congregational singing, and how we can best give priority to the congregation's voice. This was followed by break-out sessions for musicians and the AV team. The workshops were particularly helpful for team alignment - ensuring that we have a common understanding and language as we work within and across teams.

We also encouraged our congregations to delight in God beyond our weekly services. An example of this was the Praise & Prayer Night organised by the Nights congregation, something which we would like to extend to all congregations in 2024. Through materials developed by the Maturity team, we were also able to link our weekly services to Growth Group activities during the Week of Prayer, as well as celebrate the Lord's Supper within Growth Groups.





Listening and Responding

In 2023 we commenced recruitment of Purpose Drivers for Magnification. Purpose Drivers are people who are the eyes and ears in each congregation - people who listen, look and think about how their specific purpose is being applied to the congregation or the ministry that they are a part of. We are grateful to Arleen Crichton (Nights) and Bryan Wye (Late Mornings) for taking on the role of Magnification Driver for their congregation. We look forward to continuing to work with them so that we can be a church that delights in God.

A Care Ministry seminar held in August (Disability, Belonging and Faith) was a timely reminder of the need to ensure that our services are accessible and inclusive. The addition of pram parking appears to have been well received and we will continue to be receptive to suggestions that help us to be an inclusive church.

Leading Hearts to Love Jesus in 2024

2024 is off to an encouraging start with the installation of a new fixed projection system in the Upper Hall. This will be an immediate benefit as our CYF program kick off, but it will also provide professional projection capabilities more generally as the Upper Hall is increasingly used for other church activities and events.

This year we are partnering with Asaph and Emu Music on some new software tools that are being developed to assist church music teams. This will help to train and disciple our volunteers, as well as assist with song management and metrics, team communications and service preparation. We look forward to seeing the impact of these initiatives throughout 2024.

Please continue to pray for our Magnification team as they faithfully serve us from week to week - that they will continue to lead us with enthusiasm and joy so that through the Spirit, we might be encouraged to speak of the hope we have in Jesus to those we know and love.

Ministry

Tom Pattison



Imagine a church where everyone came to serve, not only to consume.
Imagine a church where everyone got involved, refusing to sit on the sidelines.
Imagine a church where everyone found a great place to contribute with their own particular gifts, skills, experience and passions.

Imagine a church that deeply believed what Jesus said:
'Whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

Most people know that a church needs people to play in the band, run the kids ministry, welcome newcomers and maintain the grounds. Most people know that serving is good for the church. On the flipside, though, have you ever thought that serving is also good for the individual? Joining a team is a key avenue to a deeper sense of belonging in the church community. Expressing your gifts creates a sense of purpose and contribution. Has this been true in your own life? Think back to the moments you felt most passionate about Jesus and his church - were those also the moments when you were serving shoulder-to-shoulder with others?

Encouragingly, we've seen lots of people join a team and start serving this year. We recognise that for some people, 2023 has been a hard year, and you've appropriately not been involved in a formal role. We also recognise that serving in church is not the only way to serve Jesus, and many people are pouring themselves out in other ways. So what follows is an imperfect measure, but it does tell us something encouraging; the number of people serving in church life has increased in 2023.

	Start of the year	End of the year
Mornings	152	187
Late mornings	119	126
Nights	161	179



In 2024, we'd love to see even more people serving. As we continue to preach from 1 Corinthians, the theme of 'gifts' and 'serving' will definitely be on our radar.

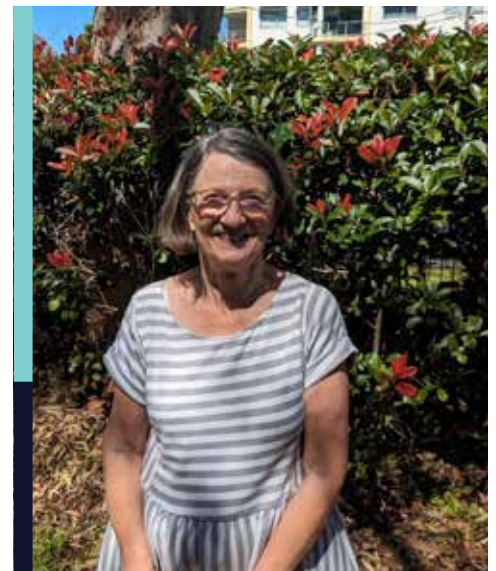
Want to join in? The main way to express that you'd like to start serving in church life is by letting us know at www.christchurch.com.au/serve. Don't know where to serve? This picture shows some of the ways to serve in church life.



Big thanks to our 3 Ministry drivers from 2023: Ann Lancaster, Josh Sawyer (student minister) and Luke Morris. Ann and Luke will be continuing in 2024, while Josh moves on to his second student ministry position as part of his Moore College education.

'I have been greatly encouraged by many who are keen to serve. It has been a joy to help them put this desire into practice by discussing service opportunities and connecting them with the appropriate team.'

- Ann Lancaster -



Membership



Caroline Litchfield

Our mission at Christ Church St Ives is to build wholehearted disciples of Jesus. Membership's purpose is to help us to be wholehearted disciples of Jesus who love each other deeply, so that we are all equipped and encouraged to:

- welcome newcomers warmly;
- care for one another deeply in our Growth Groups, with the care teams facilitating care for those in crisis and ongoing situations who need additional support;
- feel that we belong and have a sense of community, through both formal structures (eg morning tea / dinner after services), and informal member-driven initiatives.

Welcoming, caring and belonging correspond to the 3 aspects of Membership: Connect, Care and Community. Thanks to Garbo Chan (who oversees the Connect and Check in teams and processes), Sally Sims (who oversees the Care teams), and Lachlan Mitchell (Membership Driver for Night Church who oversees the Connect, Care and Community initiatives for Nights), and to all the area leaders, team leaders and members who have served this past year in those respective Connect & Check in, Care, and Community teams. In 2024, Joanna Adams will continue doing part time MTS predominantly in Membership (especially Care), and we welcome 2 Honorary Associates to the Membership Team: Michael Ee (Late Mornings) and Aaron Abraham (Nights, for 3 months).

Connect

In 2023 Christ Church had 1009 recorded visitors at regular services (not including those who came at Easter and Christmas). Split by congregation, 49% of them were at Mornings, 11% at Late Mornings, and 38% at Nights. This is a 34% increase from 2022 (753 recorded visitors)!

These numbers show the importance of the smiling faces of the Connect and Check in teams to warmly welcome our many newcomers, and to collect their details so that we can welcome them well and help them to land.

To help newcomers be wholehearted disciples of Jesus, Connect had a goal to see 50% of them land in either a Growth Group or Explorer Group in 2023. We saw 57% of them do so, and it's encouraging to see this percentage increasing over the past few years: 2021 - 41%, 2022 - 52%. In 2024, this goal is 60%.

Of the 1009 visitors, 133 decided to make this their home church in 2023 (13% retention rate). Our goal in 2024 is to increase our retention rate of newcomers to 15%. One key factor in helping newcomers to land well is Connect To Church Life (CTCL), a 30 minute session where they meet church members and hear from staff or lay leaders about our mission to build wholehearted disciples of Christ, and about the next steps of joining a growth group, a serving team, and starting to give financially.

In 2023, CTCL has become more established in the pathway for newcomers to be welcomed and integrated into Christ Church. It is run 4 times per year (as part of a Connect lunch) for newcomers from the morning services, and 5 times per year over supper after Night Church. Establishing separate CTCL events for Nights in 2023 has proven much more effective, and the additional event is a specific one for the previous year's Yr 12's, helping them to make the transition from Senior High to be members of Nights.

Garbo and her team leaders have continued to run excellent training twice yearly for the Connect teams from all 3 congregations. In 2024 the check in teams will also meet all together to be equipped to welcome all our members, provide nametags to facilitate community, and to enable pastoral follow up. But, in addition to these teams, we all have a role to play. As we seek to engage with those we see at church, our word of welcome and encouragement might put a newcomer at ease, help someone who's still feeling newish after a couple of months to feel that they belong, or you may be the listening and caring ear that a long term member really needs on that day!

Community

The sense of belonging and community happens particularly in the smaller contexts of our growth groups and serving teams, but we are seeking to facilitate it in the larger context of each congregation. The formal structures of weekly morning tea after Morning Church (in term time), the regular Late Mornings Light Lunches, and the weekly Nights supper and monthly dinners have continued to facilitate people lingering after the service to encourage each other and build community. There have also been more organic initiatives in smaller groups (eg; heading out to dinner after Night church – whether McDonalds or Thai). A particular focus in 2024 will be on establishing and growing various teams to build Community across all 3 congregations, in both structured and organic ways.

Special events have also helped to grow community. Share Life Sundays harnessed hundreds of members who served over the 3 weeks, as we were all on mission together, welcoming and engaging with the many visitors. The 9.15 Big Events Team has now been created for Christmas, Easter, Pre-School Sunday, Share Life, and for occasional youth events like Big Fridays (for the roles like extra morning teas / bbqs, parking marshalls, yard activities etc) to make the most of the regular opportunities at Morning Church throughout the year to engage with visiting families and helping the kids to have fun (jumping castle anyone?!) so that their parents will linger after church. Celebration Sunday (19 Nov), with multiple baptisms across the day, was a wonderful expression of community, in all our diversity of age and cultural background. Having hundreds of us in the car park around the baptism tank, watching brothers and sisters in Christ publicly declare their faith, was a truly memorable occasion for the combined Mornings and Late Mornings service, for the Youth Baptism & Confirmation service, and for Night Church.



Member Story

Anita Ko-Law

Anita was born in Hong Kong and became a Christian in 1988. She married Peter in 1981 and they have two adult sons. After coming to Sydney and becoming a member of Christ Church, Anita joined a WEB growth group and served in ESL, teaching English between 2009-2011. Being trilingual, Anita was keen to serve and put this gift to good use.

In early 2020, Peter and Anita relocated from Hong Kong. Later that year Peter was diagnosed with multiple myeloma and Anita became Peter's carer. In May 2022 after COVID restrictions had eased, they restarted attending Christ Church, and both joined a growth group. Peter was in remission, and it was encouraging to meet with others around God's word. Anita joined the Care Ministry in July 2023 to help care for members of the Mandarin Fellowship, using her experience in CALD advocacy (cultural and linguistic diversity) and hospital chaplaincy.

Several weeks later, Peter was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia and sadly died on September 7 2023. During this critical time Anita received prayers and care from her growth group and the Care Ministry, which made all the difference. This period was a difficult time of learning to trust God and leaning into him but with his help, and the help of church members, Anita felt well supported. Having experienced God's faithfulness during her own time of suffering, Anita would like to continue in the Care Ministry and encourage others who are going through a tough time.



Care Ministry

Sally Sims, Care Ministry Area Leader

Christian care involves caring for the whole person, while sensitively helping one another to know, grow and persevere in following Jesus. Growth Groups provide the main setting for care and each member is encouraged to care for others prayerfully, pastorally, and practically and to be willing to receive care themselves. The Care Ministry continues to provide an extra layer of support, especially in crisis and ongoing (chronic) situations. In addition, it provides training opportunities for staff and members, and seeks to ensure that there are excellent care outcomes across the whole church.

We thank God that in 2023 we launched a care team for night church and strengthened the morning church care teams. Care given included home and hospital visits, emotional and spiritual support, prayer, Bible reading, meals, transport, cards, flowers, calls, emails, and texts. Three care seminars were run: 'Living with Chronic Disease'; 'Disability, Belonging and Faith' and a pre-evangelistic Share Life/Care seminar on mental health. We also ran the 'Building a Safe and Strong Marriage' course in collaboration with Maturity. We are deeply thankful to God for James Macbeth and the many ways he has helped to grow the Care Ministry since 2017 and for his oversight of care training since 2020. Priorities in 2024 include seeking to make church more accessible and inclusive for those with disabilities, and prayerfully growing our care teams and church culture of care.



Mornings

Elliot Temple, James Macbeth, Di Lucas & Leo Chen

The Mornings congregation is now two years into formation and as the only congregation with a children's and youth program it is always bustling with families. In 2023 we met 497 visitors, which was 49% of all visitors across the Sunday gatherings. It's a great joy that 78 new arrivals stuck around to make Christ Church Mornings their home and the adult attendance has grown by 15%. The presence of our Mandarin-speaking members found its most poignant and powerful expression at the baptism of a number of our Mandarin families this year. Everyone gathered outside to celebrate with various cultures and generations all baptised together as an expression of unity in Christ. This diversity in fellowship is a small taste of the heavenly multitudes, reminding us to keep pressing forward in our mission to call thousands upon thousands from Ku-ring-gai to come and worship Christ.

With that comes the discomfort of having to adjust to changing congregation size dynamics. Growth Groups serving morning tea has been a blessing to the community, although the groups themselves tend to be where people find belonging. Into the future some energy is required to ensure that although no one can know everyone, every member is known. This attitude to pastoral belonging was embodied by James Macbeth and we express our deepest thanks to God for his 9 years of ministry among us. The leadership of Christ Church Mornings is still being determined, and we look forward to seeing what God has in store.



Late Mornings

Nigel Fortescue & Caroline Litchfield

Christ Church Late Mornings provides an opportunity for a less hurried, deeper engagement with God and each other. It's a service for those who enjoy everything modern worship has to offer but don't need a Kids Program or Mandarin Translation. In practice, this means we have the same vibrant contemporary music as the earlier service but a longer prayer time, more Bible readings and an opportunity each Sunday for an extended reflection on what God is teaching us or a deep dive into the lives of members of our congregation.

Each week, workers, downsizers, empty nesters, retirees and many more ease into a relaxed service with time to think, laugh, reflect and pray. Our light lunches were a highlight of 2023 as we took the opportunity to share our lives and grow in wisdom by

rubbing shoulders with new friends across generations and cultures. Sharing Christmas drinks capped off a year in which God brought different people from different places and made us one congregation ready to embrace our freedom in Christ.

One of those who has been attending said "It's so refreshing to be able to do church at great depth without the hustle and bustle of an early start on a Sunday! I have enjoyed rolling out of church and joining others at the lunch table. It's a great way to deepen our connections with each other."



Nights

Tom Pattison

Baptisms! First-time belief! New people!

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus told his disciples to 'go and make disciples'. By God's grace, that's been happening this year.



For God's glory, we desire to continually make more disciples and to deepen them in the faith. Naturally, if that's happening, we can expect to see more people at the Sunday church gathering. Joyously, in 2023 we saw our weekly check-ins increase.

162 2022 average
check-ins (Feb-Nov)

222 2023 average
check-ins (Feb-Nov)

The growth is very encouraging. That being said, out of love for our neighbours, we cannot be satisfied with an increasingly full building, because so many of Ku-ring-gai's 124,000 residents still live disconnected from their creator. The fields are ripe for harvest.

Like the rest of Christ Church, we've been pursuing wholehearted discipleship through the lens of the 5Ms. So the key leadership team of our congregation in 2023 was:

- Arleen Crichton: Magnification
- Lachlan Mitchell: Membership
- Steph Ling: Maturity
- Jamie Woods: Mission
- Luke Morris: Ministry

It's my pleasure to report that the only change to this leadership team in 2024 will be Jamie Woods (finishing MTS) being replaced by Josh Hayward (former youth minister).

Tuesday

Nigel Fortescue

Every Tuesday morning, we flick on the lights, rev up the organ and open the prayer book to lift our hearts in praise of God - and it is great. A group of about 50-60 men and women join us each week to praise the Lord in a more traditional Anglican style. If a church has multiple gatherings that are all the same, unsurprisingly, that church will reach all the same sort of people. Tuesday is one of our different services that reaches different people.

Throughout 2023 we studied 2 Corinthians, 1 John, Exodus and Acts both in church and in our growth groups. Following the service and a delightful morning tea, the majority of people stay to go deep in the word and prayer.

I am so thankful for our growth group leaders and the way they care for our church members, many of whom find life more difficult than they used to.

We have loved having our MTS trainees participate in Tuesday Church and will miss Jamie Woods who has preached, led and loved us with enthusiasm. It is a delight for us to participate in the training of young men and women and we are so thankful to have Jo Adams continuing on in 2024.



Children, Youth + Families

Peter Oates & Josh Hayward

The Children's, Youth and Families (CYF) Team aims to see kids, youth and families prayerfully growing as wholehearted disciples of Jesus through excellent teaching of the Scriptures in the context of Christ-like friendships.

2023 was an excellent year for Kids and Youth, as we were able to build on momentum from previous years and work hard to keep opening the Bible each week on Fridays and Sundays with everyone aged 0-18, and to partner alongside parents as they disciple their own children in their homes.

With around 260 bible talks given, 560 growth groups participated in and close to 770 Scripture lessons delivered, the relentless pace and deep impact of gospel ministry continues here at Christ Church St Ives.

Partnering with Parents

In 2023 we have loved partnering with parents. Our Exodus combined series was a deep joy across nearly every single element of Children's and Youth Ministry, along with the rest of the services and growth groups in the church. In November we ran an inaugural seminar for Parents of our Year 5 kids on Pre-teen Parenting, thinking hard about how to help kids grow up well in their faith while also getting a snapshot of the Youth Ministry at Christ Church.

We are seeking to make this part of the intentional strategy to equip, encourage, and enthuse parents as they raise their kids and teenagers to love Jesus. We are thankful for the growing relationship with parents and seeking to strengthen the relationship further into 2024.

Camps

The importance of camps to kids and youth ministry cannot be overstated. The ability to deeply engage with Jesus free from distraction and have supercharged relational time with one another is such a deep joy. Amidst the rising cost of living, we are grateful that we are still able to run all our camps!

Summer Camp kicked off the year with close to 200 youth and their leaders getting stuck into the book of Ecclesiastes, thinking deeply about the wisdom of God.

At our CYF Training weekend in April, CYF Leaders sat under the teaching of Mike Dicker, Principal of Youthworks College who spoke from John 15-16 exhorting leaders to love the people they lead as they point kids and youth to Jesus.

Explorer Camp was up next, with over 50 kids and their leaders heading to the Royal National Park campsite to dig into Romans 8 and enjoy an action-packed weekend.

The July holidays also saw 68 Junior High youth head to the Shoalhaven, and 60 Senior High youth head to the Blue Mountains, for Winter Camps. Jamie Woods and Pete Oates unpacked Romans 8 and the assurance Jesus brings.

The Year 12 School Leavers Trip shifted to a new location, with 27 School Leavers heading up the coast to Scott's Head, thinking from the book of Deuteronomy about what it looks like to follow Jesus as an adult.

We are thankful to Parish Council for seeking to work out some solutions to ease the burden of rising cost of camps on families.



Key Focus for 2024

The CYF Team has spent some time thinking about how we might be able to work with families more closely as they navigate the faith life of their children and young people. Our hope is to plan and deliver workshops, information nights and courses that intersect with key moments in the developing faith life of children and youth here at Christ Church St Ives.

CYF Leadership Team

The CYF Leadership Team is quite new for 2024 which is exciting! Our new Youth and Families Minister, Jesse Baker will be leading 4 new team leaders who will lead 30 team members who will in turn be actively discipling our youth. Britt Beattie has embarked on an MTS apprenticeship for 2024, and a key part of this role will be helping youth at Christ Church be mature in Christ, paying particular attention to equipping them to be spending time in the Bible for themselves.

Our Kids team continues to be led by Pete Oates, with 10 team leaders leading 77 team members as they disciple children across Fridays and Sundays. Phil Claridge has also joined as an MTS apprentice and will be operating as an area leader working with Pete to mentor, care for and equip our team leaders.

We sadly farewelled several of our CYF team leaders at the end of 2023 as they took on different roles within our broader church. We are thankful for the way they have led us in godliness and logistics, as they worked through our leaders to build wholehearted disciples of Jesus.

We're thankful to God for Josh who after 6 faithful years as our Youth and Families Minister, is heading back to bible college to do further study so that he is equipped for a lifetime of ministry. Josh will be missed by many, but we are all looking forward to seeing how God uses him in his future ministries.

We are also thankful for the work of Sarah Ng in the CYF Admin space for the majority of 2023. Sarah's patience and graciousness was deeply appreciated by the team as she worked hard in the background to make our weekly and one-off events happen seamlessly!



Member Story

As far as I can remember, I have always been a Christian, trusting God and praying to Him in good and bad times. When I was 16, I was baptised at Christ Church and from that point onwards, I have felt refreshed in my faith. In saying this, I have loved coming to Youth and Senior High, singing praises wholeheartedly, spending time with God's people, learning more about Him and being supported by a wonderful community. I am especially grateful for my Youth leaders, who in Year 12, organised HSC dinners for us. We ate delicious food, opened the Bible to a Psalm and prayed together. Although I still considered myself a Christian during Year 12, I was definitely more occupied with worldly distractions. However, simply having my Youth friends and leaders surround and support me meant so much and this kept my faith strong. Most recently, my faith journey has led me to read the Bible daily by myself and bi-weekly with friends. I've been able to keep myself accountable and grow as a Christian, whilst also helping others do the same.

Serena Welikala



Support & Administration

Anna Richardson

A church like ours needs effective administrative and practical support for the many ministry activities occurring each year. The administration and support team aims to facilitate great ministry. We want the organisational engine room to run smoothly so that

- Ministers can do more ministry and less admin;
- We keep big picture strategy in sight even while working on immediate priorities;
- Who we are and what we do here is clearly communicated in multiple, appropriate ways to a diverse community;
- The staff and the bills get paid;
- Our property is safe, welcoming and fit for ministry;
- We wisely steward the gifts and resources God provides;
- We manage risk so that people are well cared for, and the name of Jesus is not dishonoured; and
- We meet our varied obligations as an Anglican Church in the Sydney Diocese, as a registered charity, and as a small business.

Our team includes staff and volunteers working in administration, accounting, communications, property maintenance, HR, IT, risk and project management.

2023 was a year of major change.

After an astonishing 38 years of service in the church office, Jan Smith finished mid-year in her role as Administrative Assistant. We were glad to be able to honour and celebrate her exceptional service, expressing great thankfulness for God's provision of this role for Jan, and of Jan in this role for Christ Church. Jan's joy in her work, her desire to help and her perpetual prayerfulness driven by her deep love for Jesus and his people have characterised her time on the staff team. She's not gone from church though, and continues volunteering to serve, lead and love people wholeheartedly in this new season.

Fiona Bywaters (Administrative Assistant) and Sarah Ng (CYF Administrator) also finished their roles on the team during 2023 with thanks for their time, skill and energy. As we rearranged the spread of admin responsibilities and considered again the evolving needs of ministry support, it was a pleasure to welcome Katrina Pearson (Accounts Assistant), Jacob Eriau (Ministry Support Administrator), and Tim Ball (CYF & Events Administrator) over the course of the

year. These are the fresh faces and voices on the phone you will encounter when contacting the office, and they are building beautifully on the heritage of office teams who are friendly, competent, keen to assist and expert task jugglers.

We sent off Georgia Condie (Communications Director) with our prayers and congratulations as she began a 12 month maternity leave period in April. Rohan Blandford joined the team as Communications Coordinator, picking up much of the 'doing', and Lyn Saunders stretched to take on some of the Comms oversight responsibilities before she too began maternity leave in December. We had temporary but valuable casual assistance in specialised areas from Ella Carter and Athena Kam.

Wilson Teh (Accounts Manager) and Stephen Day (Property Manager) faithfully continued executing their roles, keeping the wheels turning quietly and diligently while the team changed rapidly around them.

Every time team personnel changes there is a period of adjustment and resetting for everyone. 2023 was a lot of adjusting! I am so thankful to God for his sustaining grace through such a year, and for the continuing opportunity to serve him and his people with this team.

As another new year begins all the behind-the-scenes work is ramping up again. So far this year the administration and support team have already been confirming bus bookings and detailed dietary requirements for Summer Camp and Big Day Out, working through our annual external financial audit, setting up all the 2024 growth groups in our church database, verifying that all our kids and youth leaders have the required training and checks for Safe Ministry compliance, booking spaces on site for all sorts of meetings and activities, replacing one dead office air conditioning unit, planning bathroom renovations, inducting new team members, updating payroll, making sure there's enough paper on hand to print lots of launch, training, term 1 materials for all sorts of ministries, creating a new way to track support of mission partners, and supporting each other with lots of laughter and prayer.

There is always more to do, but we labour on in God's strength, and with thanks for his faithful provision.

Safe Ministry

Ros Lloyd

What is Safe Ministry?

As a church we strive to ensure everything we do is safe for all who participate; we actively develop a culture of care and protection for all.

Why is it important?

God loves us with an everlasting love. We are called to imitate Christ. And so we demonstrate our love for others by seeking to protect them from harm or abuse; with particular attention given to protection of the vulnerable including children and youth, those with a disability, the elderly and sick.

We want to model Christ's love by ensuring all those involved in our ministries at Christ Church are kept safe from harm. This is our responsibility.

What is Christ Church St Ives doing?

We have committed to making safe ministry a priority.

We are careful about the ministry leaders we select; we undertake background checks and conduct ministry suitability assessments.

We train and provide ongoing support to our ministry leaders.

We have robust child safe policies and procedures which guide our ministries.

We regularly discuss our practices and make improvements.

We listen to the views and opinions of all children and youth.

We encourage children and youth to speak up about safety concerns.

We invite parents and carers to be involved in supporting safe ministry.

We take safety concerns seriously and respond appropriately.

What can I do?

Get trained in Safe Ministry – we encourage everyone to complete Safe Ministry training which will help to build the culture we are striving for; one that prioritises the safety of children, youth and other vulnerable people. Safe Ministry training is available at www.safeministry.training.

Notice and report any concerns – if you have concerns about safety, please speak to either the Senior Minister, a member of the ministry staff or the Safe Ministry Representative. Find details at christchurch.com.au/safeministry.

Remember

Safe ministry is a shared responsibility at all levels of the church.

We are all responsible for ensuring our church is a safe place for everyone.

Wardens Report

Ross Bowden, James Clifton & William Hood

Introduction

The mission statement for Christ Church St Ives is "Under God, and for his glory, to build wholehearted disciples of Jesus" To facilitate this, there are appropriate governance structures to ensure that Christ Church is well run, and meets government and diocesan requirements. The Parish Council and the Wardens are elected or appointed as required by the diocese to carry out proper administrative processes. The Parish Council has responsibility to create policy regarding the finances and property of the church, to approve remuneration of all staff and to confer with the Senior Minister and make recommendations on matters of ministry. The Wardens are responsible for managing the finances and property of the church in accordance with the policies of the Parish Council, as well as ensuring compliance with government requirements in the areas of employment relations, work health and safety, child protection and taxation.

Parish Council

During 2023, the Parish Council consisted of the Senior Minister (chair) and the Wardens, together with Sarah Abraham, Susan Beattie, Euan Campbell, Peter Chitty, Rani Warren-Gash, Roz Hinchliffe, Michael Hung and Lachlan Mitchell. Parish Council met monthly to receive the Senior Minister's report, to hear reports from other senior staff in their areas of responsibility (Mission, Maturity, Membership, Magnification, Ministry, Children's, Youth and Families Ministry). They also monitored the finances of the church with a monthly financial update from the Treasurer. Parish Council received and discussed the annual report from our Parish Safe Ministry Representative, Ros Lloyd who has now stepped down from this role. We would like to thank Ros for undertaking this important role since 2018. Again this year, the Parish Council went off-site for a half day workshop with senior staff at Manly. In small groups, Parish Council members met with each of the senior staff in turn to discuss challenges and opportunities in their area of ministry. The Parish Council approved two new missionaries to partner with us to take the gospel to the ends of the earth – Gavin & Megan Rosser who are serving in the expat church in Amman, Jordan and Antony & Trudi Elyard who will be teaching at a theological college in Ethiopia.

Property Maintenance and Improvements

The Wardens would like to thank the many members of our congregations who gave their time to working bees, as well as those who prepare the church grounds for our Sunday and mid-week gatherings. We particularly recognise the significant contribution that Stephen Day has made in maintaining our church properties and managing several significant projects.

In 2023, the wardens committed funding to a number of projects across the portfolio of properties owned by Christ Church. These included:

- Air-conditioning of the Church Upper Hall, Mezzanine and Broadcast Studio/Translation Booth.
- Repairs to and painting of fascia boards on the Mona Vale Road facade.
- Painting of all hand-rails on the Cowan Rd site.
- Replacement of all Fluorescent lights with energy saving LED's (resulting in \$4k PA energy saving)
- Consulting services to develop a strategy to extend the service life of the main auditorium roof and potential for solar power
- Installation of 'Smart Key' access control system to main church building and office

For 2024, and in line with our Asset Management Plan, the Wardens have committed to and budgeted for a number of major projects including:

- Renovation of 41 Gould Ave including bathrooms, painting, pool repairs and general maintenance
- Installation of Solar Panels (subject to grant approval) to gain a potential \$10k in energy savings PA
- Installation of CCTV & security system to Cowan Rd site (subject to grant approval)
- Extend Auditorium Sound System to Mezzanine area
- Installation of projectors and screen in Upper Hall and integrate with sound system
- Replace Freezer in upstairs kitchen

Strategic Planning and Property Development

The year 2000 saw not only the Olympic Games in Sydney, but the opening of the halls and expanded auditorium that we use today. These facilities have served us well, but we are now at the stage where we are outgrowing them. On a Sunday, we are very tight

for space, and the office is inadequate for the number of staff that we have. The Parish Council has begun the process of strategic planning to determine our ministry requirements in the coming years, and how to develop our property to meet these needs.

Staffing

We have been blessed with the staff that are employed by the church in both ministry and administrative roles. Led by our Senior Minister Nigel Fortescue, the staff are responsible for teaching us, mobilising congregation members for service, training and carrying out the administrative roles that are too big to expect volunteers to do. During the course of 2023, a total of 18 ministry staff (including trainees) and 15 administrative staff worked at the church (equivalent to 17.5 full time, full year positions, approx 12.5 ministry and 5 admin). The following staff finished their roles during 2023: Jan Smith, Fiona Bywaters, Sarah Ng, Jamie Woods, Rosie Wicks, Courtney Morris and Yi Alan Cai. Both Georgia Condie and Lyn Saunders left for periods of maternity leave in 2023. Significantly, Jan Smith, who has been the face of Christ Church for over 30 years, finished in her paid role in the church office mid-year. A fitting tribute was held to mark this event, and to thank Jan for all her years of dedicated service. In December, we farewelled James Macbeth and his family after 9 years of ministry among us as he moved to a new role at Naremburn Cammeray Anglican Church. We also celebrated and thanked Josh Hayward for 6 years of leading the Youth and Families ministry as he moves into a Student Minister role in 2024. The following people joined our staff team in 2023: Tom Pattison (Ministry Director and Nights), Andrew McPherson (Magnification Director), Joanna Adams (nee Swadling, MTS), Rohan Blandford (Communications Coordinator), Katrina Pearson (Accounts Assistant), Jacob Eriean (Ministry Support Administrator), and Tim Ball (CYF & Events Administrator). From the start of 2024 we have warmly welcomed into the team: Jesse Baker (Youth and Families Minister), Brittany Beattie and Philippa Claridge (MTS Trainees), Aaron Abraham and Michael Ee (Honorary Associates).

Finance

Please see the 2023 Financial Update for a full report on church finances. You can access this via the AGM page on christchurch.com.au, or from the Church Office.

Risk Management

The Wardens and Parish Council have continued to take steps to ensure that Christ Church remains a safe place for staff, members of our congregations and

visitors to our site. The Workplace Health and Safety committee met monthly through the year, and made a number of recommendations including the installation of smoke alarms in the upper and lower halls, better child-proofing of cupboards in the halls, and improved food safety at church events. Trial evacuations were carried out during the year for the Nights congregation and Mornings children's and youth programs, following training of the respective leaders.

Thanks

Our church exists because Jesus came to earth as a man, took the penalty for our sins on the cross, rose again victorious over death, and since then has been building His church by calling people everywhere to repent, turn back to God, and form a community of believers. We thank God for calling people to Himself in St Ives and surrounds, and that they have become members of Christ Church St Ives. We thank God for raising up godly and gifted leaders to lead us, and in particular, our Senior Minister Nigel Fortescue. He continues to teach us from the Bible, challenge us, and lead the staff team. We also thank God for the staff team he has raised to serve us with the skills, gifts and passions that he has given them.

The Wardens would also like to thank all those who have contributed financially to the operations of the church. We have virtually no other income apart from the generous donations of our members and we want to thank all who have given so that the work can be financed.

Finally, our church could not function with the staff alone, but relies on hundreds of members of the congregation to serve in a whole variety of roles, some of which are very public, and others quietly behind the scenes. From Growth Group Leaders, to Kids Ministry leaders, musicians, caterers, camera operators, and the list goes on. Thanks to all who have given of their time and energy to serve us during this year.

Looking Ahead

One of the highlights in the life of our church over the last 12 months was Celebration Sunday where many people were baptised, confirmed or publicly declared their faith in Jesus at services across the day. During the year ahead, we pray that many more would hear the call of Jesus to repent, and to publicly declare their faith in Him. Our desire for the future is that the church will continue to be well run with strong governance structures in place, and that we will be faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to us as our ministries grow, reaching more and more people with the Good News of the Gospel.



Christ Church St Ives