

MARCH 2025



LIVING + GROWING + SERVING + PROCLAIMING  
**IN CHRIST**

在基督裏  
生活 + 成長 + 服事 + 宣揚

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# UPDATE PARISH COUNCIL



In November last year, St Toms was privileged to have Rod Morris run a Revisioning Workshop for our church.

At the workshop, we came up with the following vision as well as medium and short term goals and priorities.

## **Vision for St Toms**

In 5-10 years (2034), St Tom's will be a thriving and growing church, joyfully living together as a cross-cultural, intergenerational family under Christ.

Empowered by the Spirit, our people will be faithfully disciplined, trained in God's Word, and supported to grow as followers of Jesus, leading and serving each other, our local neighbourhoods, and our world in need.

We will be committed to deliberate local and global evangelism through relevant ministries.

## **Long-term strategic goals**

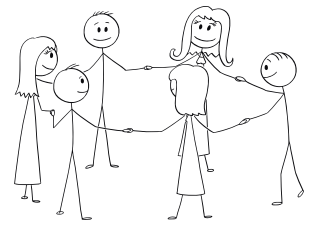
Over the next 3 years we will emphasise:

- Being a praying church
- Whole-of-life discipleship and effective small-group ministry, enabling people to use their gifts for mission, service, and outreach.
- Exceptional children's, youth & young adult's ministry.
- Effective integration, pastoral care and support of members, rejoicing in God's grace to us, and celebrating our common life as a multicultural church.

## **Short-term visionary goal**

In 2025, we will strengthen engagement and commitment in our community life with a focus on strengthening relationships and pastoral care, with progress assessed quarterly, a church retreat, four events to encourage community, and a 20% increase in participation in church life.





## IN THE NEXT 90 DAYS WE WILL STRIVE TO:

In the next 90 days [following the Revisioning Workshop] we will strive to:

- Articulate who we are, why we do what we do, and what our vision is (often).
- Do something to improve pastoral care by fixing the soundproofing and reducing noise levels.
- Promote small group participation in the lead-up to the new year.
- Introduce a prayer diary to encourage prayer for the church.

Parish Council met on Tuesday 25 February 2025, our first meeting for the calendar year.

We are delighted to report that each of the goals identified at the Revisioning Workshop for action within the 90 days following the Workshop have been completed.

Parish Council will meet again at an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday 11 March to identify the actions and priorities for the next 90 days, in achievement of our mission and refreshed vision for St Toms.

We are also pleased to report that there has been an increase in offertory giving over the last few months. Parish Council would like to thank everyone who has contributed financially to the work of St Toms and particularly appreciates those members who have increased their giving, or started giving for the first time.

Please feel free to contact [parishsecretary@sttoms.org](mailto:parishsecretary@sttoms.org) with any matters you would like to bring to Parish Council's attention.



**LIVING + GROWING + SERVING + PROCLAIMING IN CHRIST**

As you may be aware, the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne has entered a process of discernment of who might be called and elected to be the next Archbishop of Melbourne.

This follows the retirement of Dr. Philip Frier as our previous Archbishop on 9 February 2025 after 18 years of service in that role.

A Board of Nominators elected by Synod and chaired by Dr. Jenny George has been meeting since August 2024 to consider names of potential candidates to be brought to an Election Synod for voting by Synod members. The Board of Nominators has consulted widely across the Diocese and beyond for names of potential candidates.

It is proposed that the meeting of the Election Synod will be held on Friday 23 and Saturday 24 May 2025 at St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne. Our parish Synod representatives are Ruth Kernebone, Nai Cheong Mak and Nathan Ellis.

Please pray for the Board of Nominators as they undertake their important task; for our Synod representatives in preparing for and participating in the election; and above for the outcome of the election process – that our chief pastor of the Diocese will be someone of God's choosing, a leader of vision, a teacher of God's truth and a preacher of the good news of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and the Hope of the Nations.

Please go to the website [boardofnominators.org](https://boardofnominators.org) or use the QR code below for more information and useful bible readings and prayers to guide your own prayers for this important process.

*Michael Dowling*

## PRAYER POINT: ELECTION OF NEW ARCHBISHOP

Pray for:

- Wisdom for the Board of Nominators
- Those being interviewed
- Members of the Election Synod



[See here for more info](#)

Hi everyone,

I've taken over the role of meals coordinator for St Tom's from Lyndie (who did a fantastic job). My role is to liaise between people who need an extra hand and those who are able to provide a meal occasionally. We have a wonderful group of excellent cooks, who are ready and willing to help out when needed, so if you're sick, had a baby, moving house or in need in other ways & could do with meals support (or you know someone who is) please reach out & let me know, so I can get it organised for you! My number is 0411 099 887 if you'd like to call or message, or you can email [meals@sttoms.org](mailto:meals@sttoms.org). Also, if you'd like to join our awesome team, feel free to reach out as well! 😊

Janelle Rees


Are you reaching out for care? St Tom's has a [Pastoral Care Plan](#). There are several ways we show care to one another. If you are reaching out for care, please let one of the following people know:

One of the Ministry Team

John Carrick	0412 438 021
Joey Chan	0481 238 631
Tracy Chen	0430 656 456
Rachel Gijsbers	0413 158 010

Pastoral Care Coordinators

Coordinator	Name	Email	Mobile
Small Groups	Paula Adams & Susie Carrick	<a href="mailto:smallgroups@sttoms.org">smallgroups@sttoms.org</a>	Paula - 0438 899 630 Susie -0418 387 059
Meals	Janelle Rees	<a href="mailto:meals@sttoms.org">meals@sttoms.org</a>	0411 099 887
Handy Help	Peter Crandle	<a href="mailto:handyhelp@sttoms.org">handyhelp@sttoms.org</a>	
Pastoral Care - Visiting	Annette Ward	<a href="mailto:pastoralcare@sttoms.org">pastoralcare@sttoms.org</a>	0411 624 573
Prayer Circle (requests)		<a href="mailto:prayer@sttoms.org">prayer@sttoms.org</a>	
Women's Mentoring	Rachel Gijsbers Hayman	<a href="mailto:rachelgh@sttoms.org">rachelgh@sttoms.org</a>	0413 158 010



"My name is Abby and my family and have been coming to St Tom's for about four years. We moved here because our other church didn't have any peers for my sister and I, and we have loved how the St Tom's community has provided us with welcome and support."



Abby currently volunteers in welcoming, Tiny Toms (preschool-aged Sunday Club), and singing in the worship band. "I have been doing welcoming for about two years and Sunday club for about a year. I haven't done much singing yet, but I'm excited."



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ABBY

We caught up with Abby to hear about her favourite volunteering moments!

Abby's favourite moment is "seeing the kids connect with the bible stories and ask good questions. It says in **1 Timothy 4:12** '*Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.*' I have seen this through our young people and it is an honour to open God's word with them."

"Volunteering is such a rewarding experience. Not only are we called to serve each other as Jesus taught us, but it's just an awesome way to get to know others in our St Tom's community. It is so important to feel seen and known and feel like you belong. Taking part in volunteer roles gives you a sense of belonging and purpose. Before being on welcoming, I only knew a few people and wasn't confident to go up and chat with anyone. Now I have learnt most people's names and can have a conversation with people I didn't even know a year ago. As humans, we need community and we sometimes forget the gift of community Jesus gave us in establishing the church. We are so blessed to be able to lift each other up and share God's work freely. So let's make the best from what God has given us."

# Thinking about volunteering but haven't jumped in yet? Abby has some great encouragement for you!

"There are so many ways you can serve at St Tom's. I believe there is a role for everyone. We are all important parts of the body of Christ who all serve a purpose in God's kingdom and here on earth. Utilising these gifts to serve God and the community is so rewarding for our faith and encouraging for our community.



12pm, 6th of  
April



## Safe Ministry Training

Register Here!



"I know there are modules that need to be completed and serving creates more time out of your week to prepare for things, but it's so rewarding to see how each part working together creates a thriving church community. I will leave you with this verse from **1 Peter 4:10**: *'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.'* Pray about serving at St Tom's and listen for what God has to say. And who knows, maybe this church will be blessed with the unique gifts and talents God has given you."

Abby Helm

LIVING + GROWING + SERVING + PROCLAIMING IN CHRIST





**LIVING  
+  
GROWING  
+  
SERVING  
+  
PROCLAIMING**

**IN CHRIST**

**FEB 2025**



*Parish Lunch*



What a fantastic celebration we had at our Lunar New Year parish lunch! We were delighted to welcome an incredible turnout of 154 people, all coming together to share joy, friendship, and wonderful food.

Speaking of food, our tastebuds were truly spoiled! We enjoyed delicious dishes catered by a nearby kitchen, as well as mouth-watering homemade treats lovingly prepared by our Chinese congregation. A huge thank you to everyone involved for serving up such a scrumptious feast.





The entertainment was spectacular! We were treated to vibrant and colourful dance performances that filled the room with energy and excitement.

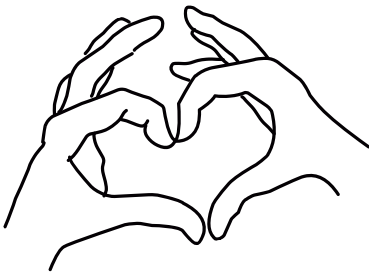


It was truly heartwarming to see our parish community come together in such a joyful way, embracing the spirit of parish lunch. A big thank you again to everyone who joined us, performed, cooked, organised, or helped in any way—you made this event a huge success!





**This special gathering was also our opportunity to farewell our dear Ros, who has worked tirelessly at St Tom's for almost three years. Ros has lovingly cared for the communities at St Ed's and the 8:15 service at St Tom's, bringing so much warmth, energy, and love to everything she does. Her kindness and enthusiasm have touched our hearts deeply, and we will truly miss her presence among us. We wish Ros every happiness and blessing as she moves forward.**



We pray that Ros will settle in well at St. Michael's and feel warmly welcomed by the community there. May God bless her ministry abundantly, granting her wisdom, strength, and joy as she serves Him faithfully. We ask that He guides her steps, fills her with His Spirit, and equips her with everything she needs to thrive in this new season. May her work bear much fruit, touching the lives of many and bringing glory to His name. We also pray for her personal well-being, that she may find support, encouragement, and peace as she embarks on this new chapter of her journey.



Commissioning Service of Rev. Ros Armstrong  
as  
the new Vicar of St. Michael's North Carlton.  
Tuesday, 8 April 2025 7PM  
14 McIlwraith Street, Princes Hill VIC 3054





# working bee spring 2025

What a wonderful day we had at the Working Bee at St Tom's this February! A huge thank you to our fantastic parish council and warden for organising such a brilliant event. Your careful planning and dedication made it possible for us all to come together and give our beautiful church some much-needed care.

We were absolutely thrilled to see so many smiling faces pitching in, helping to clean, polish, tidy, and refresh every corner of St Tom's. Thanks to everyone's hard work, the church is now looking spottless and welcoming once again!

A very special thank you to all the adults who gave their time and energy so generously. Your enthusiasm, teamwork, and willingness to tackle every task made the day so enjoyable and productive. We couldn't have done it without you!





An extra special shout-out to our amazing young helpers—the kids really stole the show!

They jumped in with enthusiasm, doing whatever they could to help, and brought so much joy and laughter to the day. They even took charge of serving lunch alongside Brenton, brightening everyone's spirits with their cheerful smiles and boundless energy.



Thank you again, everyone, for making this day such a joyful success. it's wonderful to see our community come together in this way, keeping St Tom's beautiful for all to enjoy!





# Pancake Tuesday

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10 NIV



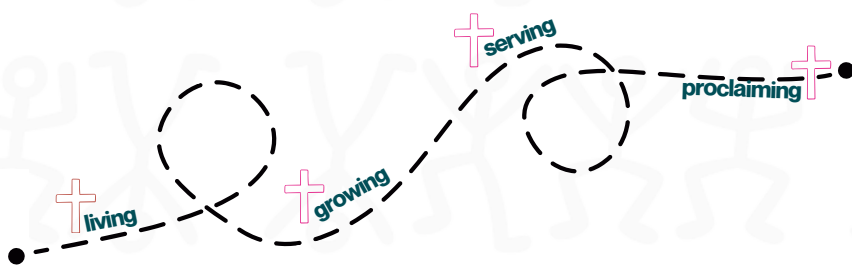
John happily approved



This year, with a huge help from the amazing adults at St. Tom's, our youth pulled off Pancake Tuesday for the very first time!

A massive thank you to those wonderful adults for their support and encouragement. They helped with everything from making the pancake mix to preparing savoury dishes and ensuring that nothing unimaginable ended up on the serving table.

It was such a fun milestone for our youth—not only did they organise a church-wide event, but many of them also got to experience cooking for the first time. They bravely stood by the stove, flipped pancakes, and served everyone with big smiles. We're so grateful to St. Tom's for being so supportive as our youth learn how to serve in Christ!



**ST TOM'S  
YOUTH**  
ISAIAH 64:6

**CLAMP**

**Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.**

**Roman 12:2**

## **LENT: REPENTANCE AND LIVING A NEW LIFE WITH GOD'S GRACE**

Lent is a quiet season in the church year, a time to pause and reflect on our lives. It directs us to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and prepares us for the joy of Easter. During this journey, the Anglican Book of Common Prayer offers a guiding confession: "For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us, and change us. By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you." This prayer reminds us that repentance is not merely an apology, but a response to Christ's love, stirring us to transformation.

Recently, during Mission Sunday, I preach about this theme of repentance, a cornerstone of our faith. True repentance (contrition) mirrors David's cry in Psalm 51, a deep sorrow for offending God's holy law, seeking cleansing and renewal. This differs from Saul's shallow regret (attrition), driven by fear of consequences rather than a changed heart. Lent teaches us that repentance is not a one-time act, but a way of living in Christ's forgiveness. We recall our past mistakes, not to dwell in guilt, but to guard against repeating them; we remember Jesus' sacrifice, not just with gratitude, but with a commitment to holiness, allowing the Holy Spirit to continually renew us.

Lent invites the church to embrace this journey of grace together. It is not an individual pursuit, but a communal call—to support and encourage one another, letting repentance shape our lives. As we release our self-focus and turn to Jesus who died for us, His grace shines through our weaknesses. May this season mark a renewal for our church, a heartfelt response to God's love, living out a heavenly calling with the Spirit's guidance, until the light of Easter dawns.

*Joey Chan*





St Tom's supports missionaries and partner organisations who teach the Bible and support the Church in gospel poor regions around the world. Our missionaries empower the local churches to grow and share the good news in their own context.

Full list of St. Tom's mission partners is available on Skanska with their newsletters. Please don't share information about our missionaries on social media without their consent as their privacy and security is paramount.



Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

- Pray for volunteers to serve in Children's ministry so that our youngest members may be impacted by God's story.
- Give thanks for the many children who worship at St. Tom's or attend our programs.
- Pray for Sunday Clubs that the children who attend may learn about God and that the teachers may be encouraged in their work.
- Pray for Tom's Crew, for Rachel, Tracy, Brenton, Noah and the others as they lead the children in games, craft and God time every Thursday afternoon. Give thanks for the amazing cooks and the food they prepare.
- Pray for Tuesday and Thursday morning playgroups. Give thanks for the volunteers and the others who, for the relationships and community of support. Pray that God's presence is felt here.

- PRAYER POINTS**
- Pray for full personnel or
  - Pray for full support local of
  - Pray for the 1st
  - Pray for the 2nd
  - Pray for the 3rd
  - Pray for the 4th
  - Pray for the 5th
  - Pray for the 6th
  - Pray for the 7th
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  - Pray for the 21st
  - Pray for the 22nd
  - Pray for the 23rd
  - Pray for the 24th
  - Pray for the 25th
  - Pray for the 26th
  - Pray for the 27th
  - Pray for the 28th
  - Pray for the 29th
  - Pray for the 30th
  - Pray for the 31st

## THE ST TOM'S 2025 PRAYER DIARY

A monthly guide to praying for the St. Tom's Community



## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

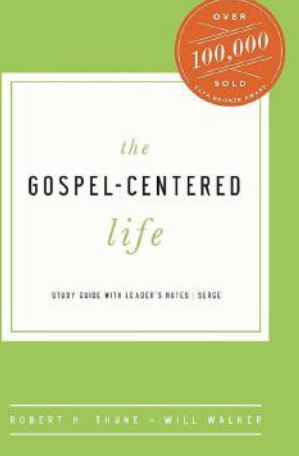
Through four diverse congregations, St. Tom's is one church of many ages, on mission together to share the good news of God's love, found in Jesus Christ, with those around us, in caring and practical ways. We, through teaching, daily word, encourage the full gospel, sharing the gospel with all, running outreach programs, in need. We pray that those who find a community that share around us.

Back about 1970, when the church was first started, the mission was to share the good news of God's love, found in Jesus Christ, with those around us, in caring and practical ways. We, through teaching, daily word, encourage the full gospel, sharing the gospel with all, running outreach programs, in need. We pray that those who find a community that share around us.



**PRAYER POINTS:**

- Pray that Living, Growing, Serving & Christ may be evident in all that is community.
- Pray that all members of St. Tom's and empowered to Live, Serve, Grow & Christ.
- Pray for a deep understanding with what Living, Growing, Serving and Proclaiming and how we seek to achieve it.



**WEDNESDAYS @ ST TOMS**

12TH MARCH - 21ST MAY 2025  
2:30-4PM OR 7:30-9PM

Register for the evening session

Register for the afternoon session

CONTACT ROD MORRIS ON 0403 765 210 OR ROD@CITYCITYAUSTRALIA FOR MORE INFORMATION.



## THE last supper

"Do this to remember me..."

30th March 2025, 10am



ST TOM'S

# Prayer & Praise

08.05.2025 | 07:30PM

ST THOMAS'  
44 STATION STREET  
BURWOOD

ST TOM'S

# Prayer Night

01.04.2025 | 07:30PM

HOSTED BY JOHN & CATHY ALT

## Support St Tom's Youth Camp



**CLAMP**

Journey to Jesus

OT to NT

Get to know Jesus from the very beginning

10-13 July 2025

QR code for Jesus Journey



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**We are one church with four diverse congregations  
that meet on Sundays and throughout the week.**

**Our congregations are made up of all ages.**

**We seek to share the good news of God's love, found in Jesus  
Christ, with those around us, in caring and practical ways.  
We'd love to welcome you into our community.**



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