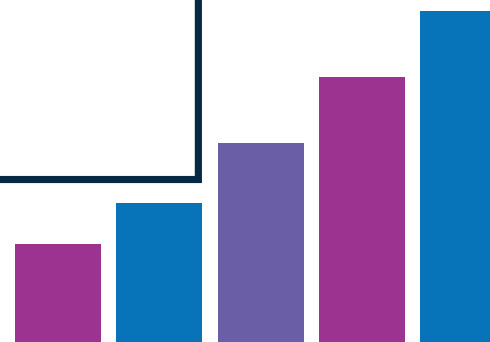




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Vision And Mission

Vision

Vision is what you believe God wants you to accomplish through the ministry of your church. It describes the results and posture of all our ministries and environments; the impact in the community around you. Vision paints a word picture of how things will be different in the future if God had his way through your church. Vision describes the destination rather than how we will get there.

The accepted vision of the Church is:

“Building creative environments to bring the hope of Jesus.”

Revealing - Embracing - Becoming

Revealing an abundant life in our community

In the Penrith area there are many people who are struggling have an impoverished experience of life. Jesus said, “He has come to give life and life in abundance” John 10:10. The love of Jesus compels us to share the hope in practical ways – assisting in the domains of practical needs, relationships, parenting and in other ways. Ultimately our heart is to help our community to follow Jesus, where abundant life resides.

Embracing relationships between all generations

Our culture is fractured, isolated and tribal. The Kingdom of God is a family that embraces all, nurtures all and learns from all. Part of our vision is to intentionally create environments where all the generations can love, support and learn from each other. We think this is a picture of the Kingdom of God that is counter-cultural.

Becoming devoted followers of Jesus

Jesus said the greatest commandment was to “love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength...” Luke 10:27. Our vision includes all of those who are followers of Jesus to become more like Jesus in love, maturity, generosity and service. These are the marks of Christian maturity that we are pursuing as a church.

Mission

The current statement is considered to capture the reason as to why the Church exists. This relational foundation is the corner stone on which our missional ministry to the world is built. It is simple, clear and concise:

Love God. Love Others. Love Self

We continually grow into this mission with the following Behavioural Values as a framework for building this culture

- Unified by God’s grace
- Growing to reflect Jesus
- Moving beyond ourselves for the Kingdom’s sake
 - Expectant and faithful prayer
- Actively building relationships within our community

Overview of 2024

From Adam



In 2024 we continued our season of preparing for what and where God is directing us as a church. We navigated several changes, noticing along the way that God is doing something greater than we can see, both within the church moving forward and also in each one of us individually.

We are still in the midst of the culture shift we embarked on approximately 5 years ago and this is not just within the church family here at Penrith but as Christians worldwide.

Throughout this year we have had things to celebrate, situations to navigate and invitations to accept. Seeing growth in individuals' spiritual journeys is always a joy for me as a Pastor, but know that when we as the wider church are willing for God to move, even though we don't always have the answers, it is exciting.

The environments that had been apart of the life of church here in Penrith, provide different opportunities to show and share the kingdom life. The life of our church is continually transforming and the leadership have been approaching each environment with a prayerful, Spirit-led and strategic manner.

The current state of our ministry environments are as follows-

- Children's Ministry (SuperKidz)
- Prayer Ministry (Both Prayer & healing and Prayer Gatherings)
- Care Ministry
- Creative Connections
- Worship Ministry
- DNA Groups
- Formational Journey Groups
- Networking
- Missions and Community (now known as M.O.E)
- Immersion Experience
- Hearts and Hands



From the Elders



Current Elders

- Judy MARTIN
- Perce MALLARD
- Stuart NOBLE
- Marry WARD

Newly Appointed

- Heather CALLAGHAN

Elders that stepped away

- David LEWIS

2024 was a year of waiting patiently for the completion of Coombs Drive building. We continued with Our Family Prayer Gatherings each month, via google and in person at Coombs Drive. These prayer gatherings continue to enable us to seek God and pray for our Church family, our local community and the world. Our theme for the year was “Invitation”,

it

encourages us to come to Jesus just as we are, whoever we are and wherever we are in life’s journey. There have been numerous opportunities and environments, which God has provided for us to show His love and hope to our Church family and people in our local community throughout the year. We have been blessed by God’s provision at the Cambridge Park Community Church for sharing their building as a place for us to meet together on Sunday’s and throughout the week. We also changed the time we meet from morning to afternoon at 4pm on Sundays in daylight saving and reverting to 3pm through the winter months.

We have been truly blessed in having serving as our Heather Callaghan join the elders team. David Lewis stepped down from eldership for personal reasons.

The elders took part in a retreat and also a retreat with COCNSW/ACT joining with other elders state wide.

Finally, we want to thank everyone in our Church family for the small and big ways you serve and love God and each other as we wait patiently to move into our new premises in Coombs Drive. We look forward to experience the wonders of our God in 2025.



From the Pastor



Through our journey in recent years, we have been able to form structure and start concentrating on our posture to what God is calling us into when it comes to our calling and position as part of the Body of Christ.

Our ministry structure continued with the following teams and leadership growing and finding form, which were the following-

-Ministry Operations-

Which embodies everything from finance to administration, to creative aspects of all ministries. This area of the leadership is work helps all other ministries be able to function.

-Community Engagement-

Which includes all ministries that reach out locally, nationally and internationally, and in some way connect through the prayer or action.

-Ministry Environments-

Which is all of our program-based environments where people who call Penrith home have the opportunity to be involved and grow through the intentional spaces.

-Ministry Formation-

This is a space that invites people to go deeper and journey what it means to be a true disciple supplied through intentional environments.

Its is also a space to equip people with relationship and knowledge. Inviting people to go deeper into their understanding of themselves and others.



From the Pastor -Cont.

Community Engagement

-Missions Outreach and Evangelism (M.O.E)

Gail NOBLE leads this team. Continually being prayerfully led into mission support/partnership and exploring opportunities that arise. Continuing and growing our partnerships with the following missional spaces-

International Missions Ministry (IMM)

Every Daughter Matters (EDM)

Youth With A Mission (YWAM)

Alison ROETH (WEC)

Josh and Yuling – Pioneering Ministries Heidi SHAM (OMF)

This team is very active and continually seeking God's direction in the bigger picture. They are discerning and Spirit-led when it comes to seeking where God has us placed as a light in the community we are called, aswell as overseas mission partnerships and new opportunities. Please refer to MOE's ministry report for more information.

-Creative Connections

Has continued under the leadership of Heather CALLAGHAN. Please refer to the Creative Connections Report.

-Feeding By Faith

Overseen by Michelle MILLER, we have had the opportunity to support several people within the Penrith community, as well as continuing our relationship through Michelle with Mama Lana. Feeding By Faith has also been pivotal in showing our church family love through food at hard times throughout the year. Please refer to the Feeding by Faith report.

-Networking

Overseen by Stuart NOBLE who is actively involved in the ONE Church space of Penrith. Please refer to the Networking Report.

From the Pastor -Cont.

Ministry Environments

-Care Ministry

Overseen by Dieter Matthaeus, we have a very active Pastoral Care team providing connection through visits, call, messages, cards and care packs (with help through feeding by Faith). We have several people that are not able to come to church that are visited on a regular bases.

-Prayer Ministry

Led by Pat DONNELLY, we have a very stable group of faithful prayers that meet each week on a Friday for prayer and healing, as well as a monthly family prayer gathering online. Our prayer team group are very active in joining people in prayer requests and praying for all aspects of the community, nation and world.

Please see the Prayer Team Ministry Report for more information.

-Children's ministry

Ellen JANMAN led this space for 2024. Ellen stepped back into this space and has done a great job, still growing into leading not only the children we have within the life of the church, but also gathering leaders to help her.

-Youth and Young adults

Even though we have minimal youth age group, both Dan and Ellen JANMAN, continue to be very active in this space for the Kingdom purposes. Both Dan and Ellen attended DRASTIC camp for churches of Christ NSW/ACT during the year as leaders.

As for the young adults. There is continually connection point that were explored during the year, which included, dinners, activities and also a Christmas pool party that had a large number of people attend.

-Connect

We had a great initiative started by Ann WHITE called Coffee Connections

From the Pastor -Cont.



Ministry Formation

-Formational Journey Groups

We continued this very powerful space with 4 different groups throughout the year. We have 3 men's groups for 2024, with a different range of ages. We also continued our women's group which is gaining momentum as we explore this space. The amazing thing in these groups is that they continue to grow personally, spiritually and vulnerably.

Please refer to the FJG report.

-DNA groups

We now have about 6 active groups in the life of church which are journeying together in the forms of Discipleship, Nurturing and Accountability.

-Discipleship Pathways

A space that is continually developing, with opportunities of invitation and growth.

- Immersion Experience

The third year of stepping into this space and this again was a very powerful invitational journey for the 5 people starting in March of 2024. Led by Rohan, Julie and myself, we met fortnightly throughout the year with 2 retreats and a few other environments during this time. I explain this environment as the most fruitful environment I have been involved in.

Please refer to the Immersion Report.



From the Pastor -Cont.



We had some big events throughout the year of 2024.

- Continuing the journey of the Coombes Drive building.
 - Last supper ,real during the Easter period.
- Combined Christmas Carols, this was an amazing opportunity to join Cambridge Park Community Church whilst we are utilizing their facilities.

We want to thank all of the guest speakers who blessed us throughout the year with some fantastic messages from God and they were as follows-

- Nathan MARSHALL
- Jonathan GEDDES
- John JANMAN
- The TOLHURST family
- Jason GOODHEART
- Daz FARRELL

I also want to thank those people within the family and shared with our throughout the year, whether it was a full message or part message, you were a blessing to us all, they were as follows-

- Perce MALLARD
- Rohan GEDDES
- Daniel JANMAN
- Matt EVENDEN
- Pat DONNELLY
- Janelle PAYNE
- Darren ELMS
- Tim COPELAND
- Ellen JANMAN

And a special mention for the Kids taking over 2 of our services throughout the year.



From the Pastor -Cont.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who make the Church-run through the week and the Sunday Services.

-Frances ELMS came onto the administrative Assistant role, and was a huge help for many within the life of the church.

Sunday Service would not be what they are if it wasn't for the servant hearts of the family to do the following-

-Communion & Offering- Talkers

-Set up and wash up communion.

-Meet and Greet

-TECH Team

-Morning Tea

-Worship Team

2024 was a year of growth and understanding. We continue to be out of our comfort zone with the way we do Church from what we were used to. We continue to way for the building at Coombes Drive, going through all the necessary procedures that allow us to operate our spaces from this location. Yes, we have hit a few road blocks but with massive thanks to John WHITE, as the point person, we are navigating it slowly.

The Church is more than a community, it is a family and all of this would not be possible if we didn't have willing people. I want to acknowledge and champion our amazing Ops team led by Cate EVENDEN.

I would also like to thank everyone who is involved in each ministry within the life of the Church. To have opportunities to share the Love of Christ is a privilege, and where we are able to show the life God has always promised us. So, thank you all for your servant hearts and for what you are doing in the Kingdom of God. As we explored the year theme "ReJesus", everything that we have been diving into is preparing us for more of what God has install for us as a church and as His children.

2025 is going to be a year of opportunities and potentially a lot of changes. "Building creative environments to Bring the HOPE of Jesus", is more than just our vision, it needs to be the life we live. Let's all go on this journey together and be attentive to what Gods will is for us moving forward.

Adam MILLER

From the Prayer Team



OUR MANDATE –

AS JESUS SAID, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS' MARK 11:17

We continue to see the urgency more than ever, the need for God's people to pray both individually and corporately. Jesus warns that in the last days sin will be rampant and the love of many will grow cold – Matthew 24:12

Is that not why we should be leaning into God more and more through prayer?

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER –

- Prayer chain via e-mail
- 2.30pm – 2.45pm. Prior to church service
- After church service – elders available to pray with you
- Friday 11- 12noon – Prayer and Healing Ministry Centre. This time is made up of a relevant look at scripture followed by prayer – personal, the church, the community, the nation and the world
- 3rd Tuesday night of the month meeting available for corporate church prayer

Anyone is welcome to come and join us in prayer!

It is disappointing to see so few at the monthly prayer time on 3rd Tuesday of the month.

A quote from R.A. Torrey – “Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God's infinite grace and power. All that God is, and all that God has, is at the disposal of prayer.”

Last word – God's Word – 2 Chronicles 7:14, 15

Pat Donnelly - Ministry Co-ordinator



From the Care Team



I took over as leader of the team in early 2024. We had an established team that was active since COVID 19 times. Back in those days it was very important to keep in contact over the phone or zoom meetings. Since then, the urgency has somewhat diminished, but there are still people in our church family that can't make it to church as they are physically unable or living in nursing homes.

Last year I endeavoured to get more people interested in this very important ministry with very little success.

Most of our church family are doing ministry already! However, a few need to be mentioned individually! Pat Donnelly, Marry Ward, June Bayliss (birthday cards) Gail Noble (get well cards) Heather Callaghan (elder responsible for this ministry).

Last December we had a morning tea at The Laughing Boy restaurant which was very well attended, and we are meeting again later on in June. Beside phonecalls, visitation at home, in hospital or in nursing homes we have also taken communion to some that can't come to church. This was very well received.

Matthew 25:35-36

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

My prayer is that we can continue this very vital ministry in our church family to look after those that are not present physically, but are by no means forgotten. May the Lord bless us abundantly!

Blessings

Dieter Matthaeus



From M.O.E



Team members are Fran Hall, Judy Martin, Heather Callaghan, Julie Geddes, Max Tolhurst, Stuart, and Gail Noble

Again, over the last 12 months, we have had the privilege and honour to join and partner with IMM and EDM -Ross Nancarrow and Janelle, Sydney Refuge Team -Alison Roeth, Pioneer Ministries- Josh and YuLing Saxby, OMF-Heidi, YWAM-Etienne and Tania Pieterse.

August last year was a wonderful celebration of the faithfulness of our God and being challenged to continue the support both prayerfully and financially by the verse in Psalms 105:1 "Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim His greatness. Let the whole earth know what He has done." We were incredibly blessed by our guest speakers-Jonathan and Rohan Geddes, John and Daniel Janman, Jason Goodhart and Max and his siblings.

As usual we introduced our "pledge giving" which enabled the team to agree to continue the financial support of 4 of our partners going into 2025. Thankyou to everyone that stepped out in faith and obedience to what they felt God was asking them to do.

As a church we also were able to give so generously to the Mama Lana Foundation by providing many many boxes of grocery items to help with the huge need of feeding the homeless in our area.

Throughout the year we were also able to give financial support to Taha, a gentleman in the Middle East and also \$4000.00 to Philoi Global to assist with the immigration application for a couple seeking refugee status in Australia-\$2000.00 of this was raised through a "love offering".

Again the generosity of our church family was amazing- thank you everyone.

We as a team value your support and prayers that we will be obedient and faithful to the responsibilities God has given us as the MOE team.



From Creative Connections



Creative Connections meets on Thursday mornings from 10 am to 12 noon at Cambridge Park Community Church.

People are encouraged to come along and share their love of making things, as well as, learning new skills.

Throughout 2024 our activities included:

- Bi-monthly morning tea at a café
- Special items for the Operation Christmas Child boxes (Paddle Pop Stick Jigsaws, Tic-Tac-Toe Games, Sewing Kits and Paper Spinners)
- Learning to knit beanies
 - Filling Teddy Bears
 - Chair Exercises
 - Card Making
 - Beading
 - Christmas Items



- Finishing the year with a Christmas Lunch in early December
- Part of the group's focus is to fill boxes for Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse) – during the year we filled 200 boxes which were delivered in October.

We had a group of thirteen ladies who attend the group on a regular basis. I would like to thank each and every one of them for their support of Creative Connections. During 2024 a few of the ladies who usually attended, were no longer able to come. This included Gloria, Karen, Robyn G, Marion and Janet who for various reasons could no longer be part of the group.

Thank you Marry, Judy, Lorna, Fran, Georgette, Robyn R and Robyn M for your continued support of this group.



From Networking



Once again what a privilege & a blessing to be involved each Wednesday morning 9.30 am to 10 am via Google meet in 2024 with Pastors & Leaders from a number of our Churches in Penrith, St Mary's & Greater West to prayer specifically for each other, our church's & our city leaders.

Known as One Church Penrith our desire is to see our churches & Christian Businesses working together to bring the hope of Jesus into our community though school Chaplaincy , Alpha Courses & marriage Enrichment courses run by different churches throughout the year. The year started off with a Prayer Retreat at Edward Rice Mulgoa from 12 pm Friday 21 st Feb concluding 12 pm Saturday 22nd February with a number of us from our church attending. It was really encouraging to share with other churches in praying for our City of Penrith, St Marys, & Mount Druitt & sharing with other churches how God is working . There was also was a number of lunches & breakfast's arranged throughout the year . Finishing of the year was One Church Penrith being involved in Colyton Christmas Carols.

If anyone would like to know more information or get involved don't hesitate to contact me.

Stuart NOBLE



From Hearts & Hands



Feeding by Faith

Aim is to reach out to the church family and community with meals showing love to others. There has been meals given out to the community for the last 6 months . There are 3 families that meals are given out to these families due to food insecurity , not managing with in the community with the rise of food rises. A family that can't cook due to sight problems .

A family that has lost her husband and just can't cook anymore.

I will continue to look for families that are struggling so that feeding y faith can make a difference to them .

Care And Share

aim is to provide a reasonable cost meal for our chur New initiative started with meals been purchased by our church family. Noted that some have difficulty in preparing food, some want a change from meals within our church family. Some have difficulty in preparing food, some want a change from meals on wheels, some just want a night off. Meals can be purchased for \$7 each or 3 for\$20 . Started in March 2024 with an average of \$50 a week this is banked into Care and Share Account. This has been well received particularly with the elderly in the winter months. This has been a very fruitful ministry for those that are unable to cook due to being unwell with in the church , this has not been so well received in the last 6 months and the team are looking at ways for us to improve this .

Cornerstone

Aim is for us to come together As a family connecting as Jesus would want us to do. Functions we can come together are important for us to connect , where food can join us together, where conversation.

Connection is about coming together where we come together as a family but also as a community .

Summary

I have very much enjoyed a role in, bringing a community together , the pleasure I have had in working with Mama Lansa s has been overwhelming Meeting community families has been a true healing process .

In being true to our aim when you do this for the least of these, Hearts and Hands will continue to love people, to reach out to the those that are struggling and lonely. Love God and Love people that's what we do.

From Kids Ministry



During this past term, Super Kids ministry did not operate under a formal or structured program. However, the season proved valuable and purposeful as we focused on integrating children into broader church life and fostering a sense of belonging and engagement.

Involvement in Worship and Services:

A key highlight has been encouraging children to participate in corporate worship. Rather than being separated into a distinct program each week, Super Kids spent time in the main service, learning through observation and involvement. This approach has helped the children become more comfortable with the rhythm of church life, praise, and worship.

Engagement and Participation:

Though there was no formal curriculum, efforts were made to engage the kids meaningfully each week. This included physical activities and games to build connection and teamwork, as well as informal discussions and simple teachings. These sessions were less about structure and more about relationship-building and encouraging personal faith development in a relaxed and interactive way.

Looking Ahead – Planning for Kids Takeover Services:

Looking to the coming terms and into the next year, we are excited to begin planning for "Kids Takeover" services. These will be special Sundays where the children will actively lead various parts of the service – including worship, prayers, readings, and even delivering short messages or skits. This will serve as both a discipleship opportunity and a way to celebrate and empower the younger generation within our church community.

Although this term lacked a set program, it was by no means lacking in purpose. The shift allowed for organic growth, deeper integration of children into the life of the church, and space for creativity in planning future opportunities for leadership and involvement. We are excited about what lies ahead for Super Kids and the role they will play in the spiritual life of the church in the coming seasons.

Ellen JANMAN

From Formational Journey Groups



Our Formational Journey Groups at Penrith Churches of Christ are a key space in which we can be held in our story, be seen and known by one another, and meet Jesus in our midst.

We seek to go beyond mere head knowledge, or right and wrong, to what lies beneath. In curiosity and honor, we hold each other and our stories without the need to correct or fix and invite Jesus to continue to do what only he can do in forming us into the people he first had in mind when he first thought of each of us before the foundation of the world.

In 2024 we saw the continuation of 3 men's groups and 1 women's group. All these spaces continue to foster an environment of growth for those from Penrith and beyond.

We would like to thank the leaders in this environment, who are Richard REEVE, Graham BLOK, Darren ELMS, Frances ELMS, Stuart NOBLE, Julie GEDDES, Adam MILLER and Rohan GEDDES.

Like Immersion, our heart is to grow these groups at a pace that can sustain the depth and heart that makes them so powerful.

Rohan Geddes



From Immersion



Immersion is a 9-month journey into our own story, close community, and our identity as Abba's Child. If everything in this life is only prologue to eternity, then we are all beginners, no matter how far along the journey of discipleship we are. With this posture of always beginning, and being apprenticed by Jesus, participants on Immersion are invited into spaces of looking at the ways in which they have been formed, and the way in which Jesus is inviting them into the next chapter of being formed by Him. Unlike the majority of discipleship programs, Immersion doesn't just focus on knowledge and information but dives into being seen and known in a group, identifying lies and agreements of the enemy, and stepping more fully into the truth of who we each are as His unique children.

Through the year we also go on two retreats where we have the opportunity to journey with some other beautiful facilitators who have committed to living wholeheartedly as apprentices of Jesus. In the second year of immersion, we saw another 6 people complete Immersion, each with a unique way Jesus met them through the 9 months. I would encourage you to ask any of these 15 people about the journey they have been and are still on since Immersion 2022.

In this space for 2024 were Marion, myself, Adam, and Julie as facilitators in this space.

While we would love everyone to be able to experience Immersion as soon as we can, our heart is to be faithful to building and developing this space in God's way and in his time. We continue to be lead by three words Jesus has directed us with: Slow. Few. Deep.

Rohan Geddes

