



Penrith
Church of Christ

Love God. Love Others. Love Self.



2025 ***Annual*** ***Ministry*** ***Report***

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ELDERS

Firstly, we want to thank everyone in our Church family who continued to wait patiently for our new premises in Coombes Drive to pass through Council. We continued to answer Council's questions regarding the parking situation at Coombes Drive. John White continues as point person for this season.

We had our Family Prayer Gatherings each month. 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 encouraged us to be whoever 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.

The Elders took part in a church retreat, as well as a retreat with CCNSWACT joining with other elders from throughout the state. In October 2025 Judy stepped down from the Chair of Elders position due to ill health. Marry was appointed by the Elders as the new Chair. We had Frances and Darren Elms with us for a short time to help with Administration and Services.

The Elders focused on prayer during this year. In November, Perce stood down from Eldership as his 6-year tender on EldersHIP had completed. The church had a lunch for him in October to thank him and celebrate his service on elders. Matt Evenden was appointed as Safe Spaces Coordinator and in December we had a 'Safe Spaces' Day and encouraged people to come to do the course to get their certificate so they would be compliant and be able to serve within the church.

CCNSWACT held Collective in November some Elders attended. CCNSWACT had a Regional Discussion where elders from the region met at Blaxland. Two Elders attended.

The Leadership looked at different ways we could bring the Sunday message for the 2026 year. It was agreed that the Elders would bring the Benediction at the end of the service each Sunday. The Elders continued to discuss how their communication to the congregation could increase.

The Elders invited Matt Evenden to join the Eldership as a trainee on the Trainee Program. He accepted. The Elders thank Heather for doing such a fantastic job as Treasurer. They also thank Cate for her continued hard work as Church Secretary.

In December Adam resigned as our Pastor and we endorsed him as a Religious Celebrant. We had a church Celebration for Adam, Holly, Oliver and Ivy as they leave us to follow God's leading.

Our church family joined Cambridge Community Church for Christmas Carols.

At end of the year, we shared an update on Coombes Drive saying we had sent several replies to council addressing their concerns.

Finally, we want to thank everyone for their continued support during the year. We thank you and appreciate you and pray God's blessings on you.

Chair of the Elders

Judy Martin (January to September) Marry Ward (October to December)

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PASTOR

This marks my final Ministry Report as Senior Pastor of Penrith Church of Christ. While that carries weight for me personally, what has stood out most is the privilege of witnessing what God continues to do—both within our church community and in the lives of individuals. It has truly been a phenomenal year of seeing God at work.

A Year of Holding and Change

In 2025, we entered a season marked by both 'holding' and 'change'. This has been evident across many areas of church life: the ongoing Coombes Drive building project, staffing and leadership transitions, evolving ministry directions, and our continued commitment to being led by the Holy Spirit. Throughout it all, we have been invited to notice that God is doing something far greater than what we can immediately see—both corporately and personally.

We also remain in the midst of a broader culture shift that began approximately six years ago. This shift is not unique to Penrith, but reflects a wider movement among Christians globally. This year brought much to celebrate, many situations to navigate, and countless invitations to trust God more deeply. As a pastor, one of my greatest joys has been seeing individuals grow in their spiritual journeys. As a church, our willingness to allow God to move—even when we don't have all the answers—has been both courageous and exciting.

Ministry Environments

The environments that form the life of our church have continued to provide meaningful opportunities to express and share the Kingdom of God. Our leadership has approached each environment with a prayerful, Spirit-led posture as our church life continues to transform.

Our current ministry environments include:

- * Children's Ministry (Sunday Kids Church)
- * Prayer Ministry (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)

Through recent years, I sense God calling us into a deeper exploration of our calling and identity as part of the Body of Christ.

Ministry Structure

Our ministry structure continued to grow and take shape through the following teams:

Ministry Operations

Encompassing finance, administration, and the creative support of all ministries.

Community Engagement

Ministries that intentionally connect with and serve the wider community.

Ministry Environments

Program-based spaces where those who call Penrith home can belong and grow.

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Ministry Formation

Intentional environments that invite people to go deeper in discipleship, equipping them through relationship and teaching.

Community Engagement

Missions Outreach and Evangelism (M.O.E)

Led by Gail Noble, this team has continued to be prayerfully led in supporting mission partnerships and exploring new opportunities. We have grown and strengthened our connections with:

- * International Missions Ministry (IMM)
- * Every Daughter Matters (EDM)
- * Alison Roeth (WEC)
- * Josh and Yuling – Pioneering Ministries
- * Heidi Sham (OMF)

This team remains active, discerning, and Spirit-led as they seek where God is positioning us as a light—both locally and globally. (Please refer to the M.O.E Ministry Report.)

Creative Connections

Continued under the faithful leadership of Heather Callaghan. (See Creative Connections Report.)

Hearts and Hands

Overseen by Michelle Miller, this ministry supported many within the Penrith community and continued its partnership with Mama Lana. Hearts and Hands have also been instrumental in caring for our church family through food during difficult seasons.

Networking

Overseen by Stuart Noble, who continues to actively engage in the ONE Church Penrith space. (See Networking Report.)

Ministry Environments

Care Ministry

Overseen by Dieter, this highly active pastoral care team provided connection through visits, phone calls, messages, cards, and care packs, with support from Hearts and Hands. (See Care Team Ministry Report.)

Prayer Ministry

Led by Pat Donnelly, this faithful group meets weekly for prayer and healing on Fridays and hosts a monthly online family prayer gathering. (See Prayer Team Ministry Report.)

Children's Ministry

Led throughout the year by Ellen Janman, this space was filled with creativity, learning, and joy. Ellen was supported by Cate Evenden, Julie Geddes, Dave Payne, Holly Miller, Jenny Lewis, and others—including some very special grandparents who joined along the way. The children regularly shared what they were learning with the wider church, enriching us all. (See Kids Ministry Report)

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Ministry Formation

Formational Journey Groups

This powerful space continued with four groups throughout the year: three men's groups spanning various ages, and a women's group gaining strong momentum. These groups continue to grow in depth, vulnerability, and spiritual maturity. (See FJG Report.)

DNA Groups

Approximately three active groups continue to journey together through discipleship, nurturing, and accountability.

Discipleship Pathways

We were able to run an Emotionally Healthy Spirituality course, with 11 participants completing the journey. This proved to be a deeply formative and impactful experience.

Gratitude and Acknowledgments

We are deeply thankful for the guest speakers who brought timely and powerful messages throughout the year:

- * Darren Elms
- * Richard Reeve
- * Andrew McInness
- * Ross Nancarrow
- * Jude Simons
- * Rick George
- * Josh Saxby
- * Nathan Marshall

I also want to acknowledge those within our church family who courageously and obediently shared messages—whether full or partial—blessing us all:

- * Perce Mallard
- * Cate Evenden
- * Rohan Geddes
- * Dan Janman
- * Matt Evenden
- * Pat Donnelly
- * Ellen Janman

Thank you to everyone who faithfully serves throughout the week and on Sundays:

- * Frances Elms – Office and administration
- * Cate Evenden – Behind the scenes support and Ops Manager
- * Tim Copeland – Service coordination

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Our Sunday services are only possible because of the servant hearts involved in:

- * Communion and offering
- * Set up and pack down
- * Meet and greet
- * Tech team
- * Morning tea

Leadership and Eldership

I want to particularly honor our Eldership team—Marry Ward, Heather Callaghan, Perce Mallard, Judy Martin, and Stuart Noble—for their dedication and hard work throughout 2025. A special thank you to Cate Evenden, whose tireless service as Church Secretary and Operations Manager often goes unseen but is deeply appreciated.

Looking Ahead

2025 was truly a year of holding and change—a year that reshaped how we do church, moving us toward a more invitational way of being. The church is more than a community; it is a family. None of this would be possible without willing, faithful people who continue to say “yes” to God.

This year also marked the season in which I discerned that my time as Senior Pastor of Penrith Church of Christ was coming to an end. It was not an easy decision, but one I felt led into over much of the year.

As we step into 2026, I believe it will be a year of opportunity—and likely further change. “Building creative environments to bring the hope of Jesus” is more than a vision statement; it is a way of life. My prayer is that we would continue this journey together, attentive to God’s voice and open to His leading. Thank you for the privilege of walking this path with you. May we keep trusting, listening, and stepping forward into all that God has prepared for us.

With gratitude and hope,
Shalom and Love
Adam Miller
Pastor – Penrith Church of Christ



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PRAAYER 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 to pray 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
- Sunday - 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.

Anyone is welcome to come and join us in prayer!

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

We recognise that a lot of people work on Friday at our designated prayer time. However, for those who don't, we would encourage you to come and join us. It is only an hour out of your week.

Pat Donnelly
Ministry Coordinator



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PASTORAL CARE

Members of the Pastoral Care Team:

1. Dieter Matthaeus (Team Leader)
2. Heather Callaghan (elder responsible for the team)
3. Bruce Day
4. Gail Noble (Get well and bereavement cards)
5. Georgette Shenouda
6. Marry Ward
7. Stuart Noble
8. June Bayliss (birthday cards)

As the year before, everyone in the team went about their mission with hearts and hands, and desire to let these people know that they are not forgotten. We all feel that this is our Christian duty to visit people that are either sick, live in nursing homes or are otherwise unable to attend. Every visit is because God has given us the love for our fellow church family members.

Our motto is from Matthew 25:35-38:

“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 cloth and you clothed me,
I was sick and you looked after me,
I was in prison and you visited me.”

We also take communion to people like Harry Warren, Joan Albert and Greg Gillard. Last December we had a coffee at the Laughing Boy restaurant at the river, which was very well received.

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 all abundantly!

Blessings
Dieter Matthaeus



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MOE

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

We as a team value your support and prayers that we will be obedient and faithful to God as we explore and act on what He says in the areas of Mission, Outreach and Evangelism.

Over the last 12 months, through the faithful giving of our yearly pledge we have had the privilege and honour to join and partner with IMM and EDM - Ross Nancarrow and Janelle Payne, Sydney Refuge Team WEC - Alison Roeth, Pioneer Ministries - Josh and YuLing Saxby, OMF-Heidi. We also were able to collect and donate 118kgs of rice and 39 litres of oil to support SRT. At the year-end again the generosity of our church family shone as we collected Christmas gifts for underprivileged kids at the school where Ellen works as chaplain. Through the money collected through "Cans for Kids" we were able to donate \$1,000.00 to SRT to go towards Christmas gifts for the children at their refugee families Christmas Party.

August 2025 we were blessed to have our speakers share their hearts around the Scripture verse from John 13:34 "I am giving you a new commandment to love each other just as I have loved you, you should love each other". We were privileged to hear from Ross from IMM, Jude Simeon from Philo Global, Alison Roeth from Sydney Refugee Team(SYT), Rick George from Samaritans Purse and Josh Saxby from Pioneer Ministry. We were also blessed with a video from Heidi.

At our October meeting the team agree to change how we celebrate MOE in 2026. Instead of having a complete month we decided that we would try having 4 MOE Sundays throughout the year. These special Sundays would be in February, May, August and November.

Unfortunately, we say goodbye and thank you to Julie as her family moves from our church. Thank you Julie for being part of our team.

Gail Noble



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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 2025 our activities included:

- Bi-monthly morning tea at a café. This included a High Tea graciously hosted by Michelle Miller.
- Special items for the Operation Christmas Child boxes (Paddle Pop Stick Jigsaws, Tic-Tac-Toe Games)
- 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 ten 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.

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

Heather Callaghan



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KIDS MINISTRY

Children's ministry attendance fluctuated throughout the year, anywhere between 1-8 children each week. The year began with a strong team of helpers and a children's program running on a fortnightly basis; however, both volunteer availability and attendance numbers gradually declined for a variety of reasons. A key ongoing challenge has been our afternoon service time, as many children arrive feeling tired after a full day, which has impacted engagement and consistency. Despite these challenges, the ministry continued to provide a welcoming and caring environment for the children who attended.

We're grateful for each child who comes along, and we encourage the church to continue praying intentionally for our kids and the next generation we're nurturing.

Psalm 127:3 Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him.

Blessings,
Cate Evenden



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NETWORKING

Once again what a privilege and a blessing to be involved each Wednesday afternoon 2.00pm to 2.30pm via Google meet in 2025, with Pastors & Leaders from a number of our Churches in Penrith, St Mary's & Greater West to pray specifically for each other, our churches and our city leaders.

Known as One Church Penrith our desire is to see our churches and Christian Businesses working together to bring the hope of Jesus into our community through school Chaplaincy, Alpha and Marriage Enrichment courses and SRE in schools, run by different churches throughout the year.

The year started off with a Prayer Retreat at Edward Rice Mulgoa from 12 pm Friday 21st February concluding at 12pm 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 and Mount Druitt and sharing with other churches how God is working.

There was also a number of lunches and breakfasts arranged throughout the year, finishing off the year with 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



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FORMATIONAL JOURNEY GROUPS

We had 4 groups in the Formational Journey Group environment for Penrith Church of Christ in 2025. 3 Men's groups and 1 women's group.

This is a space that provides a deep dive into our own personal journey, navigating through certain elements in our lives that can be strongholds.

In this space, we share a meal and then dive deep into different topics that tend to be led by the Spirit, holding each other's story and allowing all involved to be met by Jesus. It is facilitated by people that are also on the journey with Father, that allows a deeper ministry into the lives of those involved.

Adam Miller



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