

# VICAR'S REPORT

St Peter's Eastern Hill

Annual General Meeting

25<sup>th</sup> November 2012



# GROWING IN GOD'S LOVE

“God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them . . . .

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear . . . .

Those who say, ‘I love God,’ and hate their brothers and sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.”

**1 John 4:16b, 18a, 20-21**

# GROWING IN GOD'S LOVE

“We must love them both: those whose opinions we share and those we reject. For both have labored in the search for truth and both have helped us in the finding of it”

(St Thomas Aquinas)

“So I was taught that love is our Lord's meaning”

(Julian of Norwich)

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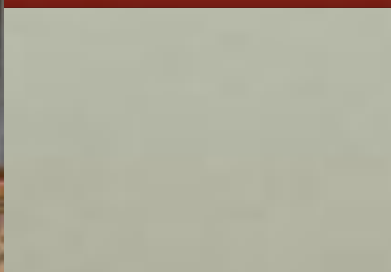


# GROWING IN GOD'S LOVE



**TRINITY COLLEGE**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

# GROWING IN GOD'S LOVE



# GROWING IN GOD'S LOVE





# MISSION ACTION PLAN

“What is your vision for the parish Fr Hugh?”

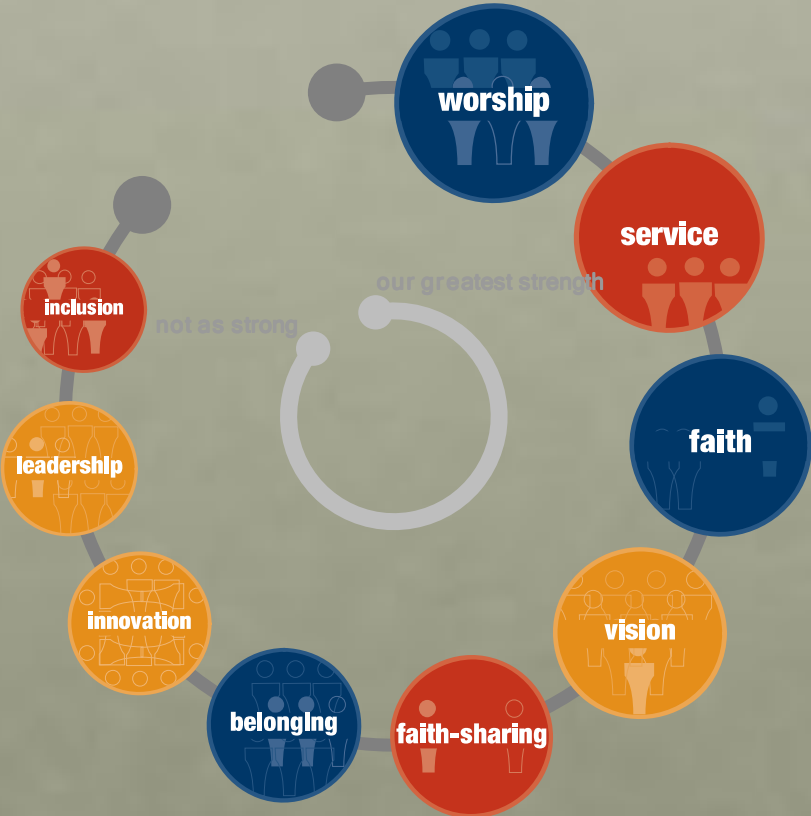
“Where are you going to take us?”



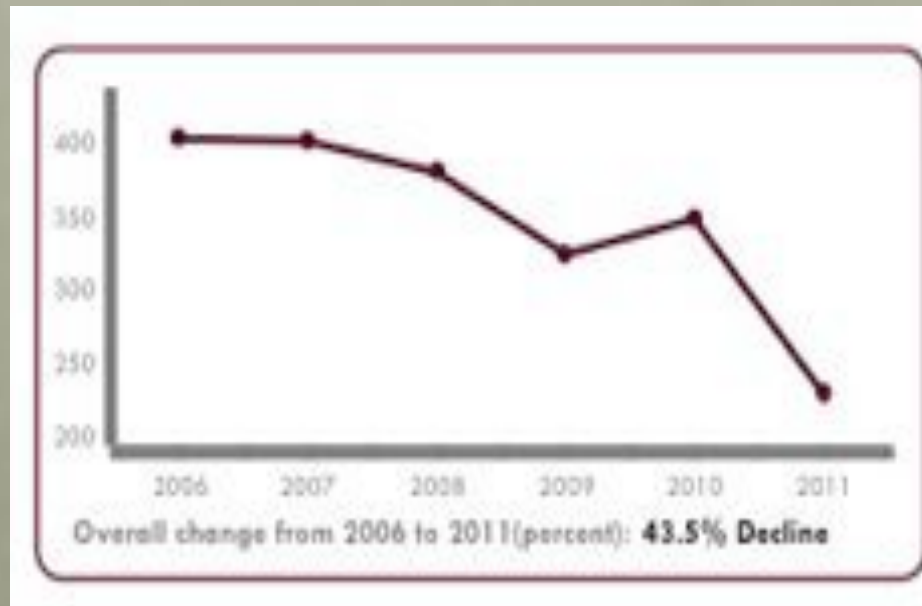
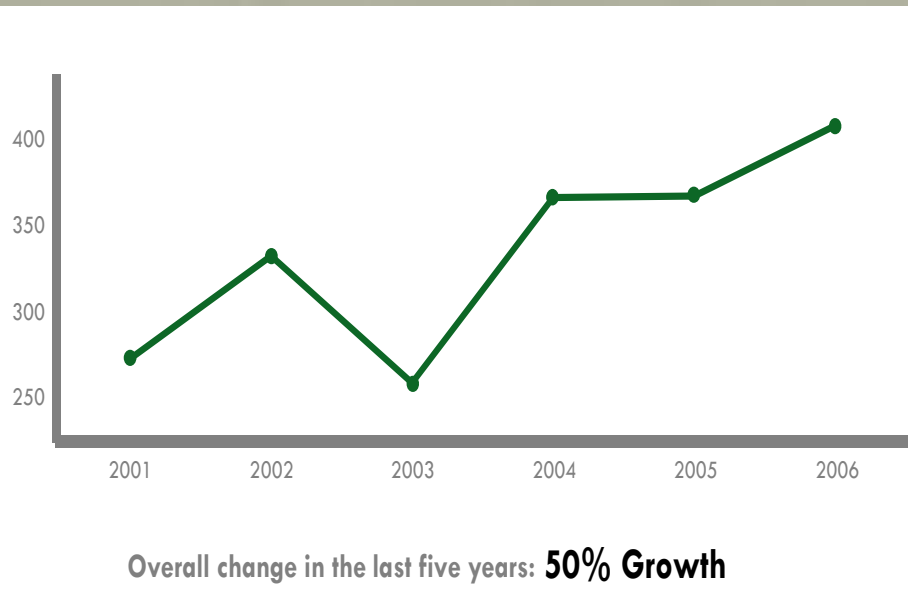
# OVERALL GOAL: GROWTH

## Church Life Profile

St Peters Anglican Church



# OVERALL GOAL: GROWTH



# OVERALL GOAL: GROWTH

SUMMARY  
REVIEW

## What You Hope for and Value

St Peters Anglican Church, Melbourne East

### Aspects most hoped for by adult attenders

Your church attenders prioritised aspects of church life they would most like to see given greater attention in the next 12 months. Most often selected was **A larger congregation**.

A larger congregation	1
Clear vision	2
Strong community	3
Including new people	4

Aspects of church most hoped for	You in 2011 (%)	You in 2006 (%)	Region in 2011 (%)
Spiritual growth (eg spiritual direction, prayer groups)*	24	-	28
Worship services that are nurturing to people's faith	17	28	27
Building a strong sense of community within the congregation	32	34	30
Creating a clear vision for the congregation's future	33	23	20
Encouraging the people here to discover/use their gifts here	24	35	32
Encouraging new approaches to ministry and mission	9	10	12
Supporting social action and aid to people in need	23	26	17
Encouraging the people here to share their faith or invite others	8	7	20
Ensuring new people are included well in church life	30	33	30
Ministry to children and youth	14	28	22
Growing into a larger congregation	40	23	23

# “GROWING IN GOD’S LOVE”

## **Strategic Areas for Growth:**

Worship

Incorporation & Pastoral Care

Christian Education & Spiritual Growth

Services to the Disadvantaged & Mission Outreach

Stewardship of Time and Money

Electronic Communications & Links to City of Melbourne

# MISSION ACTION PLAN

## FIRST DRAFT-AUGUST 2012

Over all goal: Growing in God's Love

Objective 1: To grow the worship services spiritually and numerically

Actions	Who	Expected Outputs	Timelines	Data collection
Consult parishioners and report on results	Vicar, Vestry, Ree Boddé	60% surveyed; report	Sept-Nov 2012	Questionnaire
Call a meeting to plan for growth of evensong attendance	Vicar, Fr Philip B., Rhys Arvidson, Guy Churchman ...	Generate ideas for Evensong services	Sept 2012	Worship attendance records
Call a Sunday School planning Meeting	Vicar, +Graeme, Katherine Barnett, David Spriggs ...	Generate ideas for Sunday School	Oct 2012	
Call a meeting to plan for growth of High Mass attendance	Vicar & Priests, Peter Bryce, Adam Blackmore, Andrew Raiskums, Sue Skillington ...	Generate ideas for High Mass	Nov 2012	
Implement new ideas that emerge from the meetings across the Sunday services	... all the above and more ...	50% growth in total Sunday attendance by 2015 across the Sunday services (at least 60 new parishioners regularly attending worship)	Nov 2015	

# PARISH SURVEY

## St Peter's Eastern Hill Parish Survey



Dear friends,

In the recently published *Church Life Survey* (CLS) 36% of St Peter's parishioners (sample of 111 people; for full report [www.stpeters.org.au](http://www.stpeters.org.au)) wanted the parish leadership to **'pay more attention to growing into a larger congregation.'** This imperative directly correlates with what I have heard many parishioners say during my initial period of intensive pastoral visiting as your new Vicar. My own analysis of the 2010-2011 parish attendance records also supports the *CLS* findings, indicating a 27% decline in people attending Sunday services over that period. The **good news** is that the preliminary 2012 figures show an arrest of this decline and a tentative 3% growth across the five Sunday services. With your support I am confident that this growth will continue.

To help Vestry in developing a realistic strategic plan for congregational growth we are encouraging you to complete this questionnaire. It should take about 15 minutes of your time. We are asking you for your feedback and comment because parish growth clearly is not just a task for the Vicar and Vestry. It is the responsibility of every member of the congregation. **The fact is our wonderful parish will not grow spiritually *or* numerically without your**

# PARISH SURVEY

## 1) WORSHIP

- ❖ 90% **agree** that sermons are directly related to scripture & lived experience
- ❖ 90% **agree** that servers are well trained and effective
- ❖ 86% **agree** that quality liturgical music is used
- ❖ 75% **disagree** that parish makes sufficient effort to involve youth and young adults



# PARISH SURVEY

## 2) INCORPORATION & PASTORAL CARE

- ❖ 66% **disagree** that newcomers are welcomed
- ❖ 87% **disagree** that sufficient efforts are made to reach non-practicing Anglicans and non-Christians
- ❖ 89% **agree** that it is important to offer pastoral care to the local hospitals

# PARISH SURVEY

## 3) CHRISTIAN ED. & SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- ❖ 76% **disagree** that we provide sufficient faith formation for children & young adults
- ❖ 69% **disagree** that there are enough retreats and teaching about prayer in the parish

## 4) DISADVANTAGED SERVICES & MISSION OUTREACH

- ❖ 69% **disagree** that we influence wider community through outreach & social comment
- ❖ 76% **disagree** the parish fosters global solidarity & outreach through overseas mission initiatives

# PARISH SURVEY

## 5) STEWARDSHIP

- ❖ 76% **agree** that there is a high level of commitment to St Peter's
- ❖ 68% **disagree** that the parish provides good stewardship of financial and other resources given by parishioners

## 6) ELECTRONIC COMMS & LINKS TO THE CITY

- ❖ 76% **agree** that electronic communications are central to parish outreach
- ❖ 86% **disagree** that parish makes good use of business contacts
- ❖ 92% **disagree** that parish is effective in reaching apartment dwellers

# MISSION ACTION PLAN 2012-15

St Peter's Eastern Hill  
“Growing in God’s Love”



# GROWING IN GOD'S LOVE



Father James Choong, Silver Jubilee, St Peter's Church, Eastern Hill, Dec 1931