

St Aidan's Presbyterian Church, South Wagga Wagga

Congregational Profile, April 2018

Purpose

This profile has been prepared to help prospective ministers understand our church and determine God's will in relation to their possible service here.

The profile:

- Identifies the congregation seeking an appointee
- Identifies the ministry location (with appropriate maps)
- Lists congregational aspirations in ministry and expectations of a graduating student
- Provides other information that might interest a prospective minister.

Attachments to the profile include:

- Extract minutes of the congregation and the Presbytery endorsing the application
- A copy of the financial return from the previous year
- A copy of Terms of Call/Appointment approved by the Ministry and Mission Committee and the Presbytery within the last twelve months.

Answers to questions not addressed here should be directed to the Session Clerk or the Moderator whose contact details appear at the end of the document.

Brief summary of our church's history and hopes

St Aidan's Presbyterian Church commenced in December 1948 as a church plant in South Wagga from St Andrews Presbyterian Wagga Wagga. It began originally as a Sunday School hall, it was declared a Home Mission in in 1955 and became a parish in January 1961.

St Aidan's is now a healthy evangelical church in the growing regional centre of Wagga Wagga. Our mission statement is 'Knowing, living, sharing the grace of God in Jesus Christ', we are gospel centered with a broad range of ministries for all ages. A long and faithful ministry (24 years) by Sandy and Karen McMillan (now at Drummoyne PC) has set the gospel focussed culture at St Aidan's.

Our hope is to continue to grow disciples and see our city reached with the gospel through employing a second pastor to work alongside the elders and the existing staff team of Jon Blyth (minister), Carin Cumberlege (part time children's assistant), and administrative staff.

Overview of Wagga Wagga

Location: Wagga Wagga is 461 kilometres from Sydney (5 hrs) by firstly the Hume highway; then the Sturt highway. The Southern line links Sydney to Melbourne.

Population: The population is expected to reach 65,410 by June of 2018.

Age-range: All ages are represented across our three Sunday services. Our 9 o'clock service is a more traditional style and is mainly older people. Ten30church is our largest gathering with many young families & children, but also older people as well. The church@5 service is a mixture, with some young adults, families with older kids, as

well as retired people.

Industries: Mixed farming in the South-West Slopes region are dominant, while health care, education and training, construction and retail dominate employment. There is also an Army base (Kapooka), RAAF base, and Charles Sturt University.

Education: Eight Public Primary Schools; Five Catholic Primary schools; and a Lutheran Primary School. Three Public High Schools; three Catholic High Schools; the Wagga Wagga Christian College (K-12) and the Riverina Anglican College (TRAC).

Other educational institutions include Charles Sturt University, TAFE Riverina, UNSW Rural Health, RAAF, Kapooka Army Recruit Training Centre, Riverina Conservatorium of Music, and the Riverina Community College.

Recreation: Wagga is known as the 'home of good sports' and includes AFL, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Soccer, Cricket, Netball, Baseball, and everything else.

A swimming complex includes a 25m indoor pool and 50m outdoor pool. Lake Albert provides boating, fishing and picnic places; but other recreational features include , a scenic miniature railway, walking tracks, museum and botanic garden.

Socio-econ.: There are two or three suburbs with a reputation for more crime, unemployment, and abuse. Overall the majority of residents are comfortably well off, a substantial amount of people moving to Wagga for employment and lifestyle choice, and the ability to own or build their own home.

Social assets: The Wagga Wagga Regional Rural Referral Hospital (built in 2016), and Calvary Riverina Private hospital, Riverina Surgicentre, Drug and Alcohol Centre, Maternity and Women's Health Services, specialist palliative care for acute patients.

The Murrumbidgee health District provide mental health and drug & Services; there are services available for children, youth and families, chronic care, rehabilitation and aged care and oral health services. 300K people come to wagga per year for medical services

Social challenges: Wagga has had refugees settled here, recently Fifteen Yazidi families. There are small numbers of various ethnic groups. Substance abuse is a problem with nine drug and alcohol treatment counselling services in Wagga. Homelessness is an issue for some in the region, with local shelters such as Edel Quinn almost always operating at full capacity. Unemployment for young people, though Wagga is not one of the twenty youth unemployment hot-spots

Churches: Wagga Wagga is considered predominantly 'Christian', with the major religious denominations being Catholic (33.9%) and Anglican (23.9%). 15% of the population professed no religion.

St Andrew's is the other Presbyterian church. South Wagga Anglican Church (SWAC) and St John's are the most active of the Anglican churches. There are seven Pentecostal churches, Inspire and Generosity being the largest. Wagga Baptist is a large evangelical church, as is Wagga Evangelical (FIEC church). Others of note include The Church of Christ, Living Water Fellowship (Independent), and the Lutheran Church.

Our church

Vision and Mission

Our Mission is: Knowing, living, sharing the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

Our Vision is to be:

1. a **prayerful** church acknowledging who God is in prayer and prayerfully depending on Him,
2. an **obedient** church seeking God's direction through His Word,
3. a **discipling** church sharing God's grace, using our gifts, delighting in Jesus, and proclaiming the Gospel,
4. a **caring** church where all visitors feel genuinely welcomed and where everyone is nurtured and knows that they belong,
5. an **actively involved** church doing good in the wider Wagga community,
6. an **evangelistic** church, holding out the light of the Gospel to people of all backgrounds and cultures.
7. an **involving** church using specialized ministries to grow members in love of Christ and each other,
8. a **diverse but united** church made up of multiple inter-dependent congregations who each foster their own fellowship while caring about and supporting the other congregations.

Governance

The Session consists of nine elders, Rob Scriven (Session Clerk), Bruce Armstrong, Ruth Lennon, Chris Gorman, Chris Scott, Dave Ellis, Michael Whitelaw, John Van Every, and Keith Lord. Ages range from 42 and above... and the Moderator Jon Blyth (age 34).

The Session has oversight of all the church's affairs, and elder has the pastoral care responsibility of a number individuals and families. Elders are assisted in this by bible study groups, and a pastoral care team which visits the more elderly of the congregation. Various elders represent Session and the various committees and working groups. Some, but not all, elders preach. Session has tried to alternate between 'whole session meetings,' and meetings for elders of the three congregations where more time can be given to pastoral care matters

Administration of the church's affairs is undertaken by the Committee of Management in conformity with policies determined by the Session. There are 12 members of the Committee, and the whole committee stands down annually so that there might be a fresh election. There are sub-committees for Finance, and Property development.

Membership

At the end of 2017 there were 142 communicant members and 74 adherent members on the roll. On an average Sunday there would be approximately 150 adults present across the three services, plus approximately 50 children.

Organised ministries currently operating within the church include the following: Sunday children's

ministry (ten30 Kids Church and Club 5), Mid-week Small Groups (10 groups), Kids Club (Yr 3-6), Youth Group (Yr 7-12), Women's & Men's Ministries, PWA, Pastoral Care, Prayer events and prayer chains, Playtime (St Aidan's play group), Link Missionaries support, Annual Street Fair, Meals Ministry.

Expectations of pastor-teacher

We believe that God gifts each person uniquely to serve him and his church, for this reason it is difficult to provide a job description before we have met. However the following will give some indication of expectations:

- **Preaching and teaching:** Work with the Minister in developing and delivering the preaching program. Lead a Small Group Bible study. There would also be opportunity to oversee the teaching program for Youth Group or Kids Club and to teach SRE in local primary school.
- **Leading and Managing:** Oversee one (or more) of the Sunday services. Oversee youth ministry, or small group ministry.
- **Discipleship, mentoring, training, and equipping:** Assist Minister in mentoring ministry leaders (as required) equip other members for their works of service. Opportunity to meet with non-Christians or new Christians for discipleship.
- **Accountability:** holding himself and others accountable for their adherence to the word of God and pursuit of the church's mission, regularly report to Session.
- **Mission:** Modelling mission and helping our church maintain an evangelistic edge and reach the community with the good news of the gospel.

The New Testament places character as the highest priority for those who would serve him. We expect that the pastor teacher will give attention to his own walk with God and life of godliness. He is to take regular days off and if he has a family he is to serve them well. We expect that the primary attitude will be to love, serve, and shepherd God's people so that Jesus' name is exalted.

We expect the pastor-teacher to work alongside the current staff team to assist and expand the ministry. We expect that he will be willing to serve where needed, but also to bring his own unique gifts and talents to bear.

Worship

We have three services on a Sunday, each with their own style of worship:

At 9 o'clock the service is a traditional style with Hymns and Organ. It is an older and ageing congregation, with normally 30-45 attending. At ten30church the service is contemporary in style with modern music and a full band. The service is more tailored to families with children, and includes a Kids talk and large Kids Church. Church@5 is similar to ten30church, but with smaller numbers, normally 30-40 adults.

One of our values is that we are one church family meeting in three inter-dependent congregations. The same sermon is preached at all three services, which gives a unity to the teaching program, and the service runs similarly at each with prayers, Bible readings etc, the main difference is in the style of music.

Existing tensions

There has been an ongoing discussion (over the last 20 years) about the need for property development. The building at St Aidan's seats approx. 120, and our ten30 congregation has now outgrown it and moved to a new venue, the Seventh Day Adventist Church on the same street. This has provided extra space for ten30 which has been positive, however it has also created a tension in that we no longer feel as much like one church family.

There are plans for redevelopment in progress, these are preliminary, and lots of work needs to be done before that will be a reality. But, hopefully, it could be achieved in the next 3-5 years.

There may be a tension regarding complementarian theology, this arises from time to time among a few people who are egalitarian in their theology. It will potentially become a larger issue as our denomination moves more toward male only eldership.

We are also struggling with the issue of providing adequate pastoral care for a growing congregation. A different model is needed so that no one falls through the cracks. The elders are currently working on this.

Finances

The congregation is financially stable, as evidenced by the accompanying financial statements for 2017, and the extract minute regarding the budget for graduating student. Employing a second full-time pastor will mean a deficit in our budget of \$20,000. However, we have more than adequate savings to make up for any shortfall, and we expect giving to increase once the person begins.

Ministerial recognition

The congregation recognises that those who labour in the gospel have the right to be supported by the gospel. Its provision for a future pastor-teacher are set out in the terms of appointment for a pastoral assistant which has been approved by the congregation, the Presbytery and the Ministry and Mission Committee.

St Aidan's owns a manse, but it is occupied by the Minister, therefore a manse allowance will be part of the package provided.

More information

Check out our web page: staidanswagga.org.au

You can also find us on Facebook.

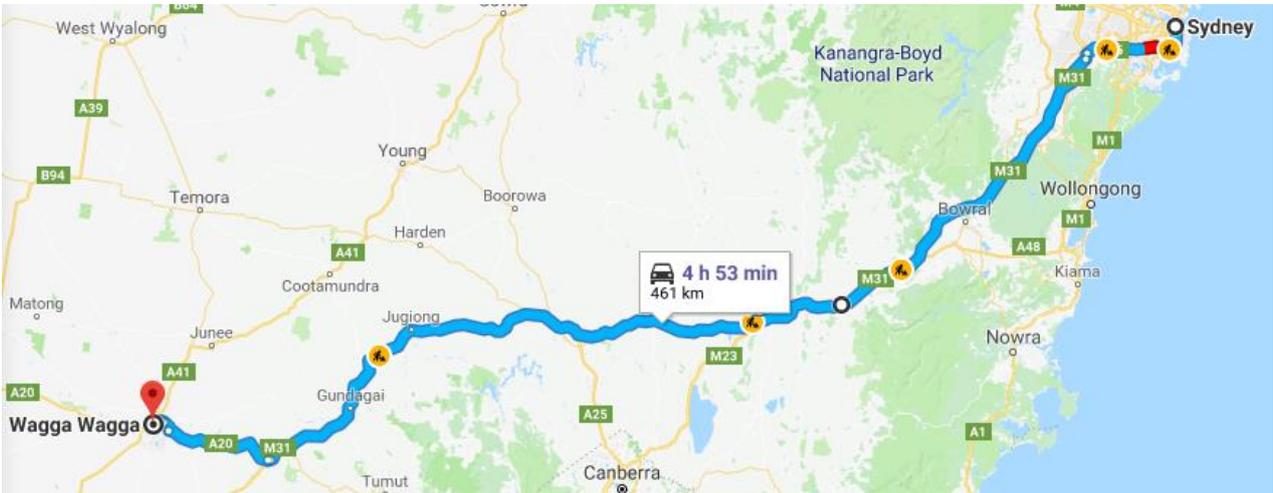
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Maps:

Sydney to Wagga



St Aidan's is located in the south of Wagga, but is still very much in the centre of the city

