



CHURCH of the GOOD SHEPHERD
Loving God. Loving life.

We believe that God lovingly calls us into life in all its fullness in Jesus Christ.

'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.' (John 10:10)

We are seeking to become a community which celebrates the joy of this promise.

It's all about

Loving God and Loving Life!

Our Mission

is to

Immerse ourselves ever deeper in the life and love of God; and

To share the life and love of God generously with others

This is another way of expressing our commitment to The Two Great Commandments and the Great Commission which Jesus gave his followers.

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind soul and strength, and love your neighbour as yourself.' (Matthew 22:37-40)

'Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' (Matthew 28:19-20)

Our COGS Values

Explaining what is important in **the way** we share our life together

As a Church we seek to be:

Christ-like

Open and Obedient to God

Growing

Serving

Our Values explained in greater depth:

Christ-like in behaviour

'Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ.' (Philippians 2:5)

We seek to be 'like Jesus' in our attitudes and behaviour displaying in our lives the fruit of the Holy Spirit: love, joy peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. (Galatians 5:22)

We aspire to become a life giving community of grace which demonstrates an attractive holiness: joyful, expectant and adventurous.

As a community we seek to be

- **welcoming and loving** to all, valuing each other in our diversity
- **caring and compassionate**, helping one another through times of trouble and loss
- **humble and honest** with each other, willing to repent and forgive

Open and Obedient to God

Above all things and in all things we know we are dependent upon our living, loving God.

'If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit, apart from me you can do nothing.' (John 15:5)

It is our first desire to be open to the Holy Spirit and to be obedient to God's will for us. Our life together is therefore shaped around worship.

'Glory in his holy name, let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.' (1 Chronicles 16:10)

We are obedient to the command of Jesus to share bread and wine together in remembrance of him, celebrating his risen presence among us. (Luke 22: 19)

As a community we seek to be

- **alive** to God's Spirit in our worship, always offering our best as a gift towards God
- **attentive** to God's voice in prayer, seeking his vision for our life together
- **aligned** with God's wisdom and revelation of himself through public reading and teaching of the Bible

Growing in the life of faith

The life of faith in Jesus Christ is one of continual growth in the knowledge and love of God.

We believe that God is calling us towards wholeness as disciples of Jesus and that each of us is on a journey of learning and transformation. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

We seek to be

- a **learning community** which teaches the Bible and encourages all to grow towards maturity in Christ
- a **healing community** where we encounter Christ the Healer who leads us towards wholeness physically, emotionally and spiritually
- an **equipping community**, enabling each other to discover, develop and offer our God given gifts

Serving

attitude towards others

'The Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.' (Mark 10:45)

'When he saw the crowds he had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.' (Matthew 9:36)

As the Church of the Good Shepherd we want to follow the example of Jesus the Good Shepherd in our attitude towards others, serving, caring and bringing good news to those who are without hope.

We set a high value on the gift of generosity because we have experienced God's overwhelming generosity towards us (John 3:16).

In response we desire to make sacrifices in order that others may receive the good news.

'Freely you have received, freely give.' (Matthew 10:8)

As a community we are committed to

- **sharing** our faith in Christ with those in our parish and enabling people to make their own journey of faith
- **serving** our local community generously: actively supporting positive local initiatives; speaking up on issues of justice; providing relief and practical support to those in need
- **supporting** missionary organisations and relief and development projects throughout the world