

## ANGLICAN PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH, ESSENDON DREAMING ABOUT THE IDEAL CHURCH

About 22 people gathered on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2010 to dream about the ideal church and to develop strategies to build our church.

### SECTION 1 OUR CHURCH

#### What are the good things about our church?

Made to feel welcomed \*  
Warm atmosphere  
Friendly, good fellowship \*\*\*  
Good pew sheets, Reach Out magazine \*  
Good to have laughter at services  
Music – great hymns  
Lenten study groups good  
Op shop \*  
Loyal faithful parishioners \*\*  
Church buildings \*\*  
Enthusiastic priest supported by family \*  
Preaching & teaching  
Visiting by priest  
Craft group  
Style of worship (anglo-catholic / 2 services) \*  
Choir \*  
New service booklets  
Prayerful  
Financial stability  
Pipe organ  
Red Cross in sanctuary  
Church open during day

#### What things chesee you off about our church?

When there is no 8am service  
More communication between parishioners  
Change is liturgy  
Red cross in sanctuary \*\*  
Negative attitudes and nit picking at times  
Lack of enthusiasm to do anything  
Biscuits after church  
Need more in choir \*  
Unproductive asset base  
Op Shop needs more volunteers  
Music sometimes not inclusive  
Forbidding church – inward looking  
Small numbers - older congregation  
Few young people \*  
3 Liturgical setting too many  
Sitting / standing at wrong times  
Bombers scarf on pulpit  
Some people not committed to come every week  
Bridge between 8am and 9.30am services – more combined services.  
Morning tea more inventive



## SECTION 2 THE IDEAL CHURCH

### 1. Church growth and attendances

Need to create positive atmosphere \*  
Need different styles of worship  
Advertising – outside board updated –  
newspaper – letter drops \*\*  
Written invitations  
Favourite hymns  
Bring a friend or family member Sunday \*\*  
Transport and pick up parishioners  
Social events – dinners / dances  
Interest other to come to church  
Set up activities to interest others  
Set up Sunday School  
Sign out the front with thought of the day  
Change church times  
Focus on 20 to 40 year old  
Target the Christmas and Easter only  
people  
Invite local Anglican Schools to come  
Visit people  
Grow faith – study groups (alpha) \*  
Good music  
Make our church a place of refuge  
Cultural afternoons  
Invite groups such as Vic Youth Orchestra  
Seminars for local people to come and  
explore  
Be involved more in community  
Sausage sizzle for those walking by  
Timing of services wrong for young people  
Attract young people through cafe church  
or other unstructured activity \*  
Appoint youth or family minister to care for  
young  
Church is open – use porch for advertising  
Sporting events



### 2. Worship & liturgy, spirituality

Sung blessing at end of service  
Keep service Anglican & structured \*  
Bible study groups \*  
Pram service – mid week  
Move 9.30am to 10am  
More kneeling during service  
In-service on “special” days  
Readings to be said enthusiastically  
Both readers to go up together and stand  
together.  
Breakfast after 8am service and before  
9.30am  
Christian lending library  
Understanding what and why we do things  
in worship (liturgy explained) \*  
Projector and screen for some things \*  
Too many sheets to manage on Sunday  
More incense  
Organised prayer teams  
Testimonies  
Have range of different services – evening  
service (evensong)  
Move communion rail closer  
Leave the 9.30am service as is  
Evening service - alternative music / no  
structure / contemplative  
Drama  
Visual – videos  
Do activities in the worship – write  
prayers, put things under the cross  
How do we involve non church goers  
More praise to God  
Need to be welcoming

### 3. Fundraising, finances, buildings, stewardship

Keep the main hall – do not demolish - refurbish \*

Fix up problems in kitchen - make safe to use

More functions in main hall

Communication to parishioners more about hall and tennis court

Spread out parish activities dates

Hire out hall if we must – but parishioners have first choice

People who hire hall must pack up after them so we can also use.

Use facilities more

Need young mums & baby centre – adopt grandparent etc

Use tennis court as car park when congregation grows

Use hall for sporting events

Put weigh watches in old kinder

Op shop important – provides significant income.

Lack of people means fundraising is difficult

Need to manage asset base to give sustainable long term security to parish

We need to resource people who have time and energy to do things

Need toilet in Op Shop

Communion rail move to steps

Choir to receive communion at altar

Wheel chair access notices needed

Auto opening doors for wheel chair

Donation / mission boxes

Target arrow when raising money

Incentive to work in Op Shop

Effective church heating needed

BBQ's, film nights, bus trips needed



### 4. Pastoral Care how can we care for each other?

Set up buddy system

Pray for our families

Wear name tags

Welcome new people who come – go up and talk to them – don't let them stand unattended

Guide new people 'through' the liturgy (especially at baptisms)

Appoint someone to follow up "missing" people

Fortnightly / monthly regional meetings of parishioners

Communicate better with each other

Pick up parishioners who cannot come to church

Keep in touch with those who can no longer come to church

List of people who can help others with shopping, meals, etc...

Phone each other

Birthday cards to baptism people

Appoint pastoral care co-ordinator

Prayer circle or chain \*\*

Prayer partners

Set up pastoral care team \*\*

Split church into groups and contact regularly

Hot soup lunch for needy monthly

Priest to visit hospital and homes

Need to create positive atmosphere

Group visit nursing home

New reach out group

Information about food bank

Keep record of lack of attendances – send cards of encouragement to them

Hampers for those in need

## SECTION 3 MISSION what would we like to do for..

### 1. Children & Youth

Start a Sunday school \*  
Sporting teams  
Youth groups  
Young adult / coffee group  
RE in schools  
Create mothers group  
Dances  
Rock / Jazz Mass  
Get unchurched young people using church building  
Internet lounge  
Coffee shop  
Pinball machines  
Need access to mini bus for outings  
Musical instruments  
Indoor bowls  
Create a space to hang and gather together – a place they want to come to  
Create a place where mothers can have a plunger coffee while children play  
Help children with homework (assisted by retired teachers)  
Support from local council or schools  
Games program for children after school  
Leadership is important  
Make worship relevant to children but not compromising with current worship \*  
Family service (grandchildren day etc) \*  
Film nights / videos  
Follow up baptismal families \*  
Pram mass week day  
Child care for Anglican families  
Services that attract young people – videos, interactive, contemporary music  
Youth group / youth bible studies  
Activities for pregnant women and their young children (educational sessions)  
[www.backyardbard.com.au](http://www.backyardbard.com.au) - check out

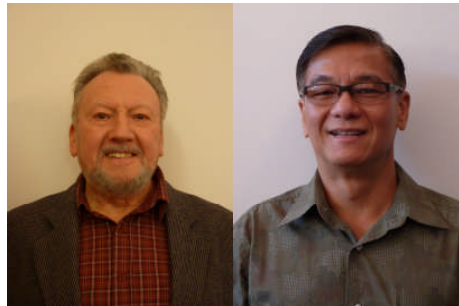
### 2. Elderly

Often need transportation – list of drivers – mini bus \*\*\*  
Transport not only to church but also to shops, afternoon tea etc  
Need visitation – make time for them \*\*  
Need telephone calls  
Make service easy for those with disabilities  
Pews with easy access  
Record Sunday service and deliver to people  
Encourage to come Wednesdays – might be more suitable for elderly  
Have co-ordinator for the elderly  
Card afternoons for elderly (bingo – prizes not money) \*  
Ramps & railings for wheelchairs  
Encourage them to be independent  
Christmas in July  
Have medical records for them  
Help with funeral planning & their relationship with God  
Take communion to the house bound  
Pray for the elderly



### 3. Families

Spiritual support as well as practical  
(Parenting skills, stress, nutrition  
etc)  
Services that include all ages  
Parish camp  
Alpha courses  
Fun activities  
Small group for mums – for dads – for  
mothers of pre-schoolers  
Video / film nights  
Speakers  
Target Easter and Christmas families  
Target baptismal families – cradle roll –  
teddy bears picnic – keep in touch  
with them \*\*  
Celebrate wedding anniversary dates  
Invite families to church  
Family days at church with lunch  
Follow up families  
Contact local schools – invite them to  
church  
Bring family members to church  
Crèche  
Provide materials for children to use  
during church – have 'show and  
tell' at end of service  
Family events to help get to know



### 4. Community of Essendon

Reach out is section "Our church  
community is praying for you and  
your health" – parishioners deliver  
or post to neighbours  
Crisis bank for families (casseroles)  
Link with other local welfare agencies  
Handouts advertising the church –  
parishioners to hand out to friends /  
neighbours etc \*\*\*  
Soup kitchen  
Blessing of pets  
Have table at Moonee Valley Fest  
Have voting in church hall  
Rock mass  
Family day in woodland park  
Advertise in local newspaper \*  
Join with other churches for events  
Door knock \*  
Mail out info  
Hand out for baptism / funerals to invite  
them  
Be involved in community groups  
Make facilities available for community  
Men's dinner or group  
Open church to visit  
Visit from archbishop or bishop  
Make church a place to come for spiritual  
matters  
Fete (lot of work)  
Target Easter & Christmas people  
Op shop important link



## 5. Other issues & concerns

Need to reach out also to mentally ill,  
homeless, borderline poverty etc  
Personal evangelism - growing faith  
Not become a priest centred parish – lay  
people need to be involved  
Need to not be reliant on the same people  
– share the responsibilities  
Welcome and encourage new people  
Share information - not keep it as 'ours'  
Attendances  
Temperature of church  
Have celebrity preachers  
Different themed services  
Drama people to come  
ANZAC day – invite service men and  
women  
Have outsider come and talk  
Men's group  
Women's group  
Have another committee to look at issues  
not covered by vestry  
Room in tower needs to be done up –  
could be used for meetings  
Social walks – can include dogs, stop for  
prayers  
Evensong monthly (5pm winter / 7pm  
summer)  
Maintain 8am service  
Bible studies only at lent and advent  
Continue to be an open church available  
for people to call in and pray

## SECTION 4 PRIORITIES & GOALS FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS

1. Increase attendances at services \*\*  
(follow up lapsed etc..)
2. Family and children ministry (&  
baptismal families)
3. Increase giving (not reliant on Op  
Shop & rentals)
4. Communication within the parish
5. Visible community service to  
Essendon and district
6. Care for the aged in our community

Other.....

Willingness to try new things  
Have a positive attitude and a willingness  
to change—Not be nit pickers or negative





