GO TELL IT TO THE MOUNTAINS

VISION SUNDAY 2026



LOWER mountains ANGLICAN Church

Welcome to Vision Sunday

Giving thanks for so much, under God

"Continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."
(2 Timothy 3:14-17)

Ken Noakes



I love the way the Apostle Paul describes the work of the church family in these verses. He encourages his friend Timothy to keep going in faith - for it is good, not only for him, but for those around him (including those whom he leads). Clearly there is a history of teaching and care where the scriptures have been brought to bear on Timothy's life - and thanks to those who have taught him, including those in his family (his grandmother and mother), he has the scriptures at hand which has made him 'wise for salvation' and 'equipped for every good work in Christ Jesus'.

Friends we can pray that we experience the same kind of intentional discipleship at Lower Mountains Anglican and in our own families - for we have the scriptures at hand and what we do in all of our many endeavours should always aim to open the word of God before people to help many become wise for salvation and ready and able to do the good works which have been prepared in advance for us to do.

Each week the Ministry team meet to read the scriptures together and then share about some of the 'wins' that have been encouraging from the week prior - there has been so much to give thanks for! God has worked in wonderful and glorious ways in and around our LMAP family over this past year.

To name a few: people have become Christians and joined in at church, baptism and confirmations have happened, invitation and welcomes have been offered to those who have come to our gatherings, many have stepped up to serve, Seek LIFE has been run twice, GriefSHARE has been established, we have largely completed the renovation of LMAP Mt Riv, Holiday Club reached kids and families whom we have not previously had contact, we have had an Evening Church Retreat, Youth Camp, LMAP Women's Retreat and Square One is about to happen, we have served at Kelso and run a mission team to Bingarra, so many have given financially to support what we do together, more Growth Groups have started with more people joined Growth Groups including the new Thursday Men (a collection of guys groups meeting at the same location), LMAP Blaxland 4.30pm Church has become more established, Mission Prayer Nights and Combined Growth Groups have prayed intentionally for our partners in mission, and there are members of our church family whom we have sent to serve in other places or who have been promoted to glory. And more. Praise God.

It is **Vision Sunday 2027** - a good opportunity to remind ourselves of what we are doing and where we are headed, under God.

In what follows, without going into a lot of detail, we have tried to give you a snap shot of some of what we are planning for 2027. Much of this reflects (and updates) what we have set out in our five year strategic plan (2025-30). May this help us collectively work as a church to see people come to Christ and join him in eternity - to the Glory of God.

So, go tell it to the mountains!

Your Pastor



Our Prayer for 2027

An invitation to prayfully seek to grow our fellowship

In the presidential address the Sydney Synod this year (the parliament of the Sydney Diocese) the Archbishop issued this invitation:

"[I] invite all parts of the diocesan fellowship to join in a special five-year focus to prayerfully seek to grow our attendance in churches by five percent for each of the next five years, through conversion of the lost through faith in Jesus."

(Archbishop Kanishka Raffel - Presidential Address Sydney Synod 14th Sept 2026)

Kanishka stressed this was an invitation not instruction and recognised the various and numerous different ways this will be applied in churches across the Diocese.

Lower Mountains Anglican is in the business of helping people be saved in the name of Jesus. This is God's work, enabled by his Spirit, through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We proclaim Christ and do that as we serve in mission and ministry for the glory of God.

So as we look toward what God might do through us in the coming year let us start with this prayer:

Lord and Father,

We pray that in 2027 you would grow us in Christ-like maturity, evident by our love for your word and one another.

Strengthen us to be bold in witness as we proclaim and guard the gospel. We ask this so that, by your Spirit, we might show the neighbourhoods of the Lower Mountains your glory in Jesus through our words, lives and endeavours.

Add to our number daily those who are being saved. We humbly ask for the great joy of seeing at least 25 new believers in Christ this year.

In his name,

Amen





Key Cultural Markers

Growing in mission and ministry together

As part of our **WAS-NOW-NEXT Vision 2025-2030 Strategic Plan** we set ourselves some key cultural markers to grow and develop in as a church. Markers we prayed would help us as a church family grow in mission and ministry together.

Those markers continue to give us focus. As such, and as we think all things Vision 2027 we should remind ourselves of what we are on about:

Key: We Gather to Proclaim Christ

- For we are a church
- 'we gather'' means we do this together which is one of the fundamental markers of a Christian community - we are not doing this alone, we do what we do together.
- 'to Proclaim Christ' is what makes us distinctively Christian - for we are first and foremost about declaring Jesus so that our lives (and the lives of those around us) are shaped to look more and more like him.
- To avoid meeting together or to fail to keep Jesus front and centre means that we as a church lose our mojo and as a result we lose both our vision and purpose.
- Friends we must keep the main thing the main thing - and the main thing is Jesus!

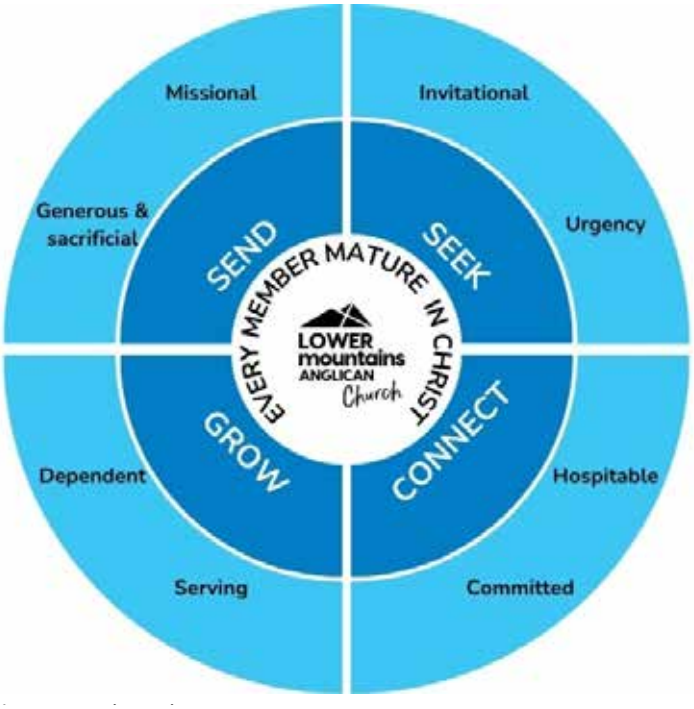
Our Desire: To see every member growing in maturity in Christ (Col 1:28).

- Over the coming year we have plans which will help us individually and collectively grow in Christ-like maturity.

Intention: That each day and each LMAP location in some form the Bible is being opened before people to reach or teach many.











Our Focus:

1. Seek

(Helping people answer the question: 'Is Jesus for me?'). 'Invitational Urgency'

Here our efforts are focused on **engaging** those who don't yet know Jesus - friends, neighbours, work colleagues, school or study mates, community connections and more.

We should want to build a culture which invites people into a relationship with Jesus and recognizes the **urgent** opportunity to see many enter into a new relationship with Jesus.

Let us pray that more that 25 people ask Jesus to be their Lord and Saviour in the year ahead.

2. Connect

(Helping people answer the question: 'Is this LMAP Church family the church for me?) 'Committed, Involved and Hospitable'

Here our efforts are focused on **embracing** those who have come to know Jesus and now want to get more involved in his church family at LMAP.

This highlights the importance of turning up and giving a high priority to what we do as a church family. There is something infectiously wonderful about being **committed** to one another and living out what it means to be brothers and sisters in Christ - let's face to others and make this a mark of each of our fellowships.

On Sundays and in our mid-week activities, always look first for the person you know least - embrace them first. 'A welcoming church family is only as welcoming as its least welcoming member' (KDN)

3. Grow

(Helping our church family to serve and grow in Jesus: 'I want to serve Jesus and help others to know him'). 'Dependant Servants.'

Here our efforts are focused on what we do to **edify** and **disciple** one another as we grow in love and knowledge and faith.

There are so many different ways to serve Jesus as expressed in the endeavours that we do as a church family - we are in this together. Whilst we should love travelling together, we move most fruitful under God when **everyone plays a part.** Yet the best bit, is that in everything we do, as small or large as that contribution might be, we are **dependent** on what God is doing through us.

4. Send

(Helping our church family to be disciple makers: 'I long for others to serve Jesus and help others to serve him.') 'Missional, Generous and Sacrificial'

Here our efforts are focused on what we do to **equip and multiply** one another so that we are increasingly ready and able to be fruitful in mission and ministry - both in our church and beyond.

Time and energy matter, especially in a world which happens 24/7. Let's be a church family who recognize the many competing demands, yet give priority (at intentional points) to being **trained and ready** to serve Jesus and his people.

Our Ministry Team

The shape of our staffing for 2027

Introducing Ben and Claire Gibson



Ben and Claire will be joining us at LMAP in early 2027. We look forward to getting to know them and serving with them as we proclaim Jesus to the Lower Mountains. Among other things, Ben will be primarily focusing on Grow ministries to men and Young Adults.

Please pray for them as they finish college and serving at St Andrew's Cathedral.



Ken Noakes

Primary Focus: Church at large
Leadership Responsibility: Preaching/ Teaching, Preaching Program, Mission and Ministry Calendar.
Oversight Responsibility: Ministry LAB.



Nick Lindeback

Primary Focus: Sunday Gatherings, Youth.
Leadership Responsibility: Preaching/ Teaching, Sunday Gathering Organisation.
Oversight Responsibility: Youth, Connect Lunches.



Rachael Connor

Primary Focus: Kids Ministry, SRE.
Leadership Responsibility: Teaching, Kids Church, SRE, Holiday Club.
Oversight Responsibility: Friday Kids



Paul Hallam

Primary Focus: Seek.
Leadership Responsibility: Preaching/ Teaching, Seek Life, Explore Life, Christmas, Easter, Outreach.
Oversight Responsibility: Playgroup, Let's Go!, Griefshare.



Julie Haddon

Primary Focus: Grow (Women), Send.
Leadership Responsibility: Preaching/ Teaching, Connect Women, Women's Growth Groups.
Oversight Responsibility: School of Ministry, Ministry LAB.



Ben Gibson

Primary Focus: Grow (Men), Young Adults.
Leadership Responsibility: Preaching/ Teaching, Men's Growth Groups, Young Adults Hub, Men's Ministry Events,
Oversight Responsibility: School of Ministry, Welcome Arvo Teas.



Josh Schroder

Primary Focus: Music and AV.
Leadership Responsibility: Music Leadership, AV Leadership, Brekky Club.



Gail Oakey

Primary Focus: Kids Spots, a-GAPe Challenge.
Leadership Responsibility: Teaching, Blaze.
Oversight Responsibility: Holiday Activity Packs.



Neil Atwood

Primary Focus: Mission Partnerships.
Leadership Responsibility: Preaching/ Teaching, Mission Partnerships.
Oversight Responsibility: Mission Prayer Nights.



Trevor Oakley

Primary Focus: Seniors Pastoral Care, Funerals.
Leadership Responsibility: Preaching/ Teaching, Pastoral Care Visiting, Funerals.

Administry Team



Nick Laurence-Rogers

Primary Focus: Overseeing Administration for the parish, including the office and digital communication.



Jerome Gardiner

Primary Focus: Data entry and management.

Ministry Trainee Updates



Olivia Bush

Liv is finishing her two year term as a Minister in Training at LMAP and is starting work as a Mental Health Resources Officer for Anglican Deaconess Ministries (while completing her final year of a Master of Divinity at Sydney Missionary & Bible College. Liv will remain at LMAP. Pray for ongoing fruitful learning as Liv is shaped in her gifts for mission and ministry.



Jake Evans

Jake is moving into his second year in his Master of Divinity at Sydney Missionary Bible College (SMBC) and continuing as a Ministry Trainee at LMAP. Pray for ongoing fruitful learning as Jake is shaped in his gifts for mission and ministry.

Missionary Updates

We continue to partner specifically with **James and Charly Boardman, Anthony and Trudi Elyard, David and Cathy Sandifer, and Michael and Rani Grivas Allison.**

Our church supports Kelso by providing preaching relief, music teams and kids talks, helping to strengthen the church's regular ministry.

We also have five people from our church meeting one-to-one with members of Kelso for Bible reading. This is a wonderful example of disciples growing disciples as we encourage one another in God's Word and grow together in our love and knowledge of Jesus. There are opportunities for more people to get involved in this ministry.

In addition, Neil Atwood and David Thompson coordinate encouragement visits to support and encourage the Kelso church community. We thank God for this partnership and the opportunity to work together in the gospel, supporting the ministry at Kelso and seeing people grow as followers of Jesus.

In 2027 we commence a new partnership with **Trace and Maddie Akankunda** - going with CMS to Uganda. Trace Akankunda is currently the Assistant Minister at Narrabri Anglican - having previously been a Minister in Training with us at LMAP.



See more at cms.org.au/missionaries/trace-and-maddie-akankunda/

Financial Partnership
Budget 2027

We can and should be so thankful to God for the generous ways in which so many have helped to fund mission and ministry in 2026. Our giving has increased, and whilst it does not look like we are going to hit what we budgeted we are so thankful for those who have given generously in a climate of high cost of living pressure.

Numbers matter - **so here is the snap shot:**

Congregational Giving Budget 2026:	Congregational Giving Expected 2026:	Congregational Giving Budget 2027:
$1,140,000	**$1,090,000** *(missing budget by $50,000)*	**$1,145,000**

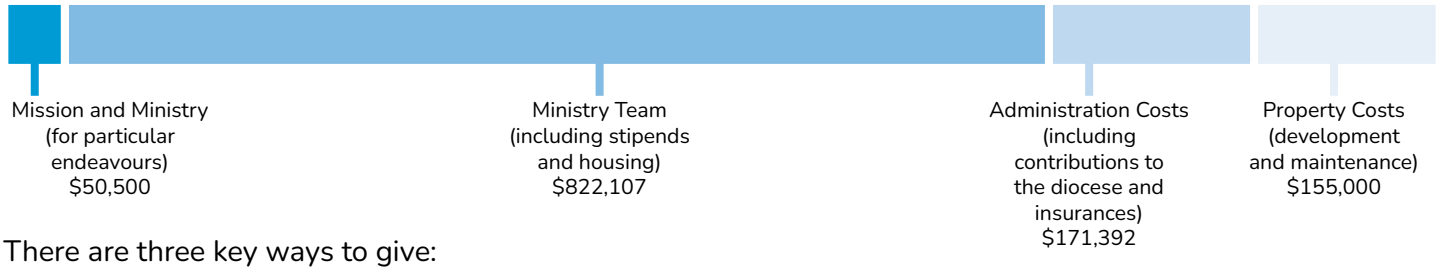
This means that Parish Council have set a 2027 budget that is **0.44%** over that which we set last year (so very close to last year) - and that means a **5.05% increase** over our current giving level. Friends, we hope you can see this is very conservative and recognizes the financial pressures under which we live at present.

In dollar terms - **we are looking for new givers or increased giving totalling $1,058 per week** ($55,000 for the year). For example: if 25 people started giving $42 a week or if 50 people started giving $21 a week - we would cover this increase.

This budget includes giving 7% to our mission partners (aiming to give $80,150).

The have other sources of income which help to cover costs including: **particular donations** for items like housing, property development and maintenance, Youth/Childrens ministry, Brekky Club, Playgroup, hospitality as well as **fees** for Wedding/Funerals and use of buildings, **income** from book sales, Holiday Club Regos, **interest earned** from Growth Fund deposits, **funds** received from successful grant applications.

To offer a breakdown on **expected expenses:**



There are three key ways to give:



This is a main pool of funds to cover our operating expenses.



This helps enable the growth in staffing to soften and enable the employment of staff as we grow.



This helps to improve and maintain or facilities.

You can find details for how to give at lmap.org.au/give For full transparency, the detailed budget can be requested from our Financial Officer. Email: howard.whitehouse@lmap.org.au).

Songs Worth Singing

Celebrating and proclaiming Jesus this Christmas



Our Theme

Christmas is a season of celebration, and singing has always been an important part of it. Over the Christmas period, we will explore some of history's most famous Christmas songs. We will uncover their biblical themes and the precious truths they proclaim—truths that make these songs that are worth singing. Christmas provides us an opportunity to connect with our neighbours and to proclaim Jesus.







Our Events

Reflective Christmas
6:30pm Sat 5th Dec Blaxland

Women's Christmas Event
2pm & 7pm Sat 12th Dec Glenbrook

Families Christmas
5pm Sat 19th Dec Mt Riv

Community Carols
4:30pm Sun 20th Dec Blaxland

Carols Extravaganza
Tues 22nd Dec Glenbrook
4:30pm Kids Christmas
6pm & 8pm Carols

Christmas Eve
11pm Glenbrook

Christmas Day
9am Blaxland, Glenbrook & Mt Riv
10:30am Glenbrook

Christmas Day Lunch
12noon Glenbrook

Our Prayer

Heavenly Father, We praise you for giving us songs worth singing at Christmas—songs about Jesus and his saving rule.

Please help us to connect with our neighbours this Christmas and proclaim Jesus to them so that they might join us in singing your praises. Amen.

New and Coming for 2027

New initiatives for mission and ministry

Lent Bible Reading Plan

In 2027, our church will journey through a shared Lent Bible Reading Plan, encouraging families and our wider church to grow together in God's Word as we prepare for Easter.

Seek Life

In 2027, Seek Life will become embedded in Connect Women, Growth Groups and Young Adults Hub, creating more opportunities for everyone to invite others to hear the gospel.

Ministry LAB

Launching in 2027, Ministry LAB will equip our leaders through practical learning and exploration of how we can better understand and teach God's people. It will replace our existing Leader Days.

Each Ministry LAB will have a focus on 'Understanding God's People' and 'Teaching God's People'. Covering topics such as Interrupting Anxious Behaviours, Team Dynamics, Communicating Across Generations, Applying the Bible, Helping People Pray, Writing Bible Studies.

Baptism and Confirmation

We look forward to celebrating those publicly declaring their faith in Jesus and committing to follow him.

- Confirmation Sunday: 30th May 2027
- Baptism Sunday: 12th Sept 2027

Holiday Club

Holiday Club brings our church together to proclaim Jesus to hundreds of children and families. We hope to expand in 2027!

Can you take leave and serve for the week?

- Holiday Club: 12th-16th July 2027
- Holiday Club Sunday: 18th July 2027

Big Day Together

We are planning our second Big Day Together in 2027. An opportunity to bring all the congregations of LMAP together around the Word of God, recognize the unity and diversity that is expressed across our fellowship. Mark the Date: Sunday 31st October 2027.





Would it be possible for 2027?

Steering Group to plant a new gathering in 2028

We long to see more people come to know Jesus. Could you join our steering group in 2027 to pray, explore God's Word, and plan for a new gathering in 2028? Together, we'll seek to proclaim Christ and grow a community centred on God's Word.

Playgroup at Mt Riv

We see a great opportunity to welcome local families into our new Mt Riv Playgroup. We hope to provide a place where families can come to faith and we pray God will use these relationships to share the gospel and help more families know Jesus. Can you be part of this?

Single or Single Again Seminars

We want to be a church where everyone feels loved, valued and included, whatever their marital status. In 2027, we hope to develop ministries for single and single-again people, complementing Compagnie, offering friendship, support and opportunities to grow as disciples of Jesus.

Marriage Enrichment

In 2027, we hope to offer a Marriage Enrichment Course to help couples from within our church and our local community to strengthen their relationships, grow in commitment, and build marriages that honour Jesus.

Parenting Course

We hope to run a parenting course that equips families, builds relationships with our wider community, and creates opportunities for parents to explore faith and come to know Jesus.



Lord and Father,

We pray that in 2027 you would grow us in Christ-like maturity, evident by our love for your word and one another.

Strengthen us to be bold in witness as we proclaim and guard the gospel. We ask this so that, by your Spirit, we might show the neighbourhoods of the Lower Mountains your glory in Jesus through our words, lives and endeavours.

Add to our number daily those who are being saved. We humbly ask for the great joy of seeing at least 25 new believers in Christ this year.

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Gathering to Proclaim Christ
Serving in Mission & Ministry

www.LMAP.org.au