

Minchinbury Anglican Church

MINISTRY REPORT 2017



From the Senior Minister

Rev. Mike Smith

“May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience, with joy giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints’ inheritance in the light. He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves.”

Colossians 1:11-13

I continue to give thanks to God who has enabled me to “share in the in the saints’ inheritance in the light” by rescuing me from the domain of darkness and transferring me into the kingdom of the Son he loves. It is indeed a blessing to not only be counted among God’s people but to also shepherd his people in this place. Please know this prayer from Paul in Colossians is my prayer for all who call Minchinbury Anglican home.

There are many ways that God has obviously been at work amongst us over the past year, from young people who are just beginning to set their life’s direction around following Christ, to frail elderly brothers and sisters whose example of perseverance in Christ is inspiring. One of the highlights of my week comes on Monday morning just after the staff team pray through the engage cards from Sunday. As we set up for the Fresh Food Van and Easy English Club, people from all over our community are gathering together inside and outside our building. Faithful volunteers from church are eager to welcome and engage people in conversation; information about our ministries, along with Bible’s and other materials are handed out. It is wonderful!

I regularly chat with people who are taking big steps in following Jesus and others who are struggling to move forward at all. All of this is part of the richness of being together in God’s church – growth, pain, joy and struggle. In everything we do we want to bring glory to God by **Loving Jesus and Showing Jesus’ Love** so that all people in multicultural western Sydney, and beyond, might find renewal.

Strategic Priorities for 2018

Among the many plans we have for the year ahead, here are some major priorities for us:

New Morning Service Times

We have been noticing for a while now a growing capacity issue at our 10am services. We currently have 3 congregations meeting together in the main building, before moving to 3 locations (family service, easy english service, and kids church). The average attendance towards the end of the year was around 170 people (including 50 kids), which equates to 90% of available space in the main building (80% is comfortable). Our kids spaces and easy english space is also at approximately 90% capacity.

To enable further growth we have decided to launch 2 new morning service from the **6th May**. The first service will be at **9am** and will be an all age service with kids ministry. The second service will be at **10.45am** and will be an all age service with kids ministry and also a live translation of the sermon into Mandarin. This second service will also have a regular question and/or discussion time following the sermon.

This is a gutsy move, but lets step out and up and see what God might do. It would be wonderful to see a new season of fruitful mission and ministry result from such a bold initiative. Please join me in praying and inviting, praying and inviting.

New Branding / Visual Identity

After much prayer and discussion at Parish Council in 2017, we have decided to roll out a new brand or visual identity for our church in 2018. We launched our new logo on Sunday March 11th and we look forward to it and our new branding enhancing our public communications going forward. Stay tuned for a new street sign very soon!



New Partnership with Mount Druitt Indigenous Church (MDIC)

The Mount Druitt Indigenous Church (MDIC) has been meeting in the old Tregear Anglican Church building since 2001 under a joint partnership with the Presbyterian and Anglican church denominations. In 2017, our parish council was approached by the Diocese of Sydney, with the good-will of the Presbyterian's and MDIC, with a proposal that MDIC become an **associated congregation** of Minchinbury Anglican. This has been agreed in principle by Parish Council and needs final approval by our AGM. I do pray that you will support this proposal. A memorandum of agreement will be put in place whereby MDIC will continue to maintain their own unique identity as an indigenous gathering and set their own mission and ministry objectives. However the Senior Minister of Minchinbury has ultimate oversight of MDIC. Property matters will be the responsibility of the Sydney Anglican Indigenous People's Ministry Committee (who are the custodians of the Tregear property). Financial and Risk matters (including safe ministry record keeping) will be the responsibility of the wardens of Minchinbury. This partnership is in line with our stated vision for western Sydney and our mission to multiply communities that love Jesus and show Jesus' love. I look forward to this being a fruitful partnership for both churches.

There is much more to report, as you'll see from the following pages. We thank God for the mercy he has shown in the past year. May he answer our prayers and bless our efforts to his glory as many more people turn to his love and show that same love to others.

Serving Christ Together,

Mike Smith

SUMMARY OF MINISTRY IN 2017

LOVING JESUS AND SHOWING JESUS' LOVE

Reach

- 6 Baptisms (3 adults, 3 children)
- 12 Easy english club average attendance
- 100's kids & youth reached through MiniMac's, kids club, youth & scripture
- CMS mission partners
- Hope & Faith Christian school Zambia



Engage

- 2 Newcomer lunches
- 65 Visitors or newcomers to church
- Countless coffee's and meals
- Many loved and cared for



Nurture

- 15 D-Groups
- 140 members in D-Groups (60%)
- 4 Womens ministry events
- 3 Mens ministry events
- 1 Youngadult film night



Equip

- 1 MTS Apprentice
- 1 Student Minister
- 20 D-Group Leaders
- 120 people serving in ministry areas
- Multiple ministry training events
- 1 Amazing international dinner



Worship

- 3 Sunday gatherings
- 216 average Sunday attendance
- 4 prayer nights
- 1 gospel melodies event
- 2 celebration services
- 1 thanks.... giving service



Our Vision

We long to see all people in multicultural western Sydney, and beyond, **renewed** through the love of Jesus Christ.

Our Mission

We seek to make disciples and multiply communities that **love Jesus and show Jesus' love.**

Our Strategy

In prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit, we seek to make this happen by giving priority to the following 5 core values and purposes of God's church. We call this our **RENEW** Pathway.

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Reach

We want to actively reach out to the different communities of Western Sydney, proclaiming the good news of the forgiveness of sins and eternal life through Jesus Christ alone.

Engage

We seek to engage people in the life and community of our church through loving welcome, hospitality, and practical care.

Nurture

We seek to nurture each person in their knowledge and love of Jesus through a commitment to the prayerful proclamation of God's word, individually and in community.

Equip

We value every Christian in our church community being trained and equipped to joyfully use the gifts God has given them for the benefit of the church and the mission of Jesus.

Worship

We want to be known as a church that honours Jesus, not just with our lips, but with our lives, so that Jesus is honoured wherever we are: at church, in our homes, and our places of work and leisure.

The Ministry Staff Team

Our church's mission was led by 3 full-time ministers in 2017, and was well supported by a team of key lay leaders in the church. Elizabeth Spencer was appointed as a volunteer leader to oversee the Engage purpose area, and Hannah Dixon was appointed as a volunteer to help oversee the administration of the church. Paul Hallam, graciously volunteered to co-lead the Worship purpose area with Mike, with a particular focus on directing our Music Ministry.

At the end of 2017, we said farewell to Trent McGrath and his family. Trent decided it was best to take a break from full-time pastoral ministry and the family returned to the Northern Beaches where Trent has taken up a part-time role with St Faith's Narrabeen. At the beginning of 2018 we welcomed Ed Frost and his family to the Ministry team in a paid part-time capacity, and look forward to Ed's leadership and oversight of our Kids & Family Ministry. We also employed Sandy Rigby and Dani Smith as Student Ministers as they study at Anglican Youthworks College.

The following table shows how the staff team are deployed as we move into 2018.

* Paid Part Time ^ Unpaid Volunteer			Renew Focus					Community Focus					
			Reach	Engage	Nurture	Equip	Worship	Church 9am	Church 10:45	Night Church	Kids & Families	Youth	Mount Druitt Indigenous Church
Ministry Team	Mike Smith	Senior Minister	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Matt Baines	Assoc. Minister			●	●			●		●		
	Paul Hallam ^	Music Director					●						
	Elizabeth Spencer ^	Lay Pastor		●				●					
	Edward Frost *	Families Minister								●			
	Sandy Rigby *	Student Minister									●		
	Dani Smith *	Student Minister								●			
	Kevin Vollmer ^	Easy English Pastor							●				
	TBA *	MDIC Minister										●	
	Tim Sladen ^	Year 13								●	●		
	Mikaela Dane ^	Year 13								●	●		
Admin Team	Hannah Dixon ^	Office Manager											●
	Anthony Bishop (EMB)	Accountant											●
	Malina Mumbi ^	Design & Communications											●
	Gary McNamara ^	Groundsman											●

Ministry Team

The responsibilities of the ministry team stretch across multiple dimensions. Generally speaking each of the full time Minister's are responsible for:

- a particular RENEW focus area that helps strengthen our mission to make disciples across all congregations and communities.
- a particular COMMUNITY focus as they seek to build up a group of people in a particular life stage or congregation as disciples of Christ.

In each of the areas our tasks are somewhat similar – as we engage in the ministry of the Word and prayer we look to build teams of church members to not only carry out the work that exists at present, but to make it possible to take the work further. A major role of each staff member therefore is to mobilise church members, recruit them, equip them, support them, setting up teams with leaders over them so more and more people can join in the work.

Please pray for our hard working ministry team as they lead us, teach us, and set an example in faith and godliness.

Admin Team (Support to Ministry)

The Admin team is concerned to develop and maintain the systems that support the Vision and Mission of the church. The Wardens and Parish Council are responsible for Property and Finances but week-to-week management is delegated to the team in the office. This involves:

- **Finances** — this involves overseeing the book-keeping, banking, payroll, and payments.
- **Grounds & Facilities Management** — making sure they are maintained, cleaned and that various weekly and occasional events are well coordinated.
- **Design & Communications** — Production of all manner of graphics and other communication in our church life, including e-news, Minchinbury news and events.

I am grateful for the wisdom and commitment of our Wardens and the members of the Parish Council. The energy, skill, and wisdom they bring is very much appreciated.

Each year I say this, but once again I want to pay tribute to our members who faithfully and regularly give to support the work of the Gospel (see further details in the Wardens and Financial Reports).

The R.E.N.E.W Pathway Reach

We want to actively reach out to the different communities of Western Sydney, proclaiming the good news of the forgiveness of sins and eternal life through Jesus Christ alone

Highlight of 2017

The Lord Jesus is risen and he deserves the honour of every person everywhere. And God promises salvation for everyone who turns to him as Saviour and Lord. For God's glory and for the sake of those who are lost to him, our vision is to go into the world and make disciples of Christ. We want every member of our church family engaged in mission locally, in our city and into all the world. In 2017, our priorities in this mission included:

Christianity Explored

We ran Christianity Explored in term 2, following Easter. This course continues to see people turn to Christ or be restored to Christ, and equip church members looking to get back to the basics of the Christian faith.

Easy English

Our ministry to people with English as a second language continued in 2017 with peaks and troughs in attendance. The passion and faithfulness of the volunteer teaching team for this ministry is wonderful to see. There continues to be a core group that meet after Easy English Club for Bible Study and discussion as well as join Easy English church on a Sunday. It was a real joy to see William, Dan, and Jennifer baptised in July 2017.

Kids & Youth

MiniMac's, Kids Club (Fuel), MAC Youth continued in 2017 with a competent and servanthearted volunteer leadership team. Praise God for our core church members who use these programs and ministries as a launching pad to reach out to their friends and connect them with our church.



Fiji Mission Partners

We thoroughly enjoyed partnering with brothers and sisters from the University of the South Pacific in a mission week in December 2017. Side by side we walked the streets of Minchinbury, Rooty Hill, and Mount Druitt and handed out many postcards advertising our Christmas services. We even had the joy of seeing a few new people come to one of our Christmas services as a result of this campaign.

Anglicare Food Van

Towards the end of 2017 we trialed partnership with Anglicare's Mobile Fresh Food Pantry. We saw the impact this ministry could have, and have started a fortnightly program in 2018 and we are already seeing fruit from this ministry with new people joining other ministries at church from this ministry (e.g. Have-a-Chat and MiniMacs).

CMS Mission

2017 also saw the end of our formal partnerships with the King's in France and the Wright's in Fiji. We were very encouraged by their final visits to Minchinbury and how God has used them, and our support of them, for the glory of Jesus. 2017 also saw Minchinbury take on new overseas mission partners in the Gorrie's in Kenya.

Challenges

Saying goodbye to Trent means that Mike will now take on the responsibility for the Reach focus area. Please pray for Mike as he balances this important ministry along with the many pastoral and administrative demands of leading the church. The social, economic, and spiritual needs of our parish and wider Mt Druitt are immense. Please pray to the Lord of the Harvest that he would raise up more workers to send into this significant harvest field.



Priorities in 2018 & Beyond

- Establishing the Anglicare Food Van partnership.
 - » Already we have seen 6 extra people flow into Have-a-Chat and 9 extra people (including 5 children) into Mini-Mac's.
- Build on our fantastic Kids and Youth Ministry outreach ministries.
 - » We have employed a specialist Kids Minister in Ed to lead us in this.
 - » We have already seen 7 extra students join the Kids Club in term 1.
- Re-branding of our church to enhance our visual presence in the community.
- Plant a new Morning Congregation at 10:45am to build on the ministry of Easy English Church and our current Family Service.
 - » Our prayer is that will provide further opportunity to expand our Sunday morning families ministry and the impact our church will have in our community.
- Enter into a formal partnership with Mt DrUITT Indigenous Church in Tregear, whereby they would become as associated congregation of Minchinbury Anglican. This is in line with our vision and mission to multiply communities across Western Sydney. And it will give us the opportunity to support and equip our indigenous brothers and sisters in their mission.
- Begin planning for a mission team to head to Zambia in 2019 to build on past mission trips to Hope & Faith Christian School.



Engage

We seek to engage people in the life and community of Minchinbury Anglican Church through loving welcome, hospitality, and practical care.

Highlights of 2017

The gospel saves us not just individually, but into the church, the body of Christ, the people of God. We want every member of our church family to joyfully understand themselves as necessary members of the body, whose privilege is to engage each other and to love one another deeply from the heart.

In 2017 with previous members moving onto new ministries elsewhere and new members joining us we were faced with the very real challenge of developing and growing our sense of community in Christ. In 2017 our priorities were:

Engage Pastor - Elizabeth Spencer

Given the importance of establishing this part of our renew pathway, it was a special blessing from God when Elizabeth Spencer agreed in the second half of 2017 to volunteer her leadership to help develop formal welcoming and integration systems into our Sunday services, and beyond.

Newcomer Lunches

Various newcomer lunches were hosted at the rectory and other locations throughout the year to help new members build relationships with each other and older members of church. If you came to one last year, we do hope you enjoyed it!

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care in any size church is a privilege but also challenging. This dynamic expands exponentially the larger the church gets. The ministry team devoted its weekly meetings to praying regularly for those in our church who were sick, suffering, and struggling in various ways. Homes and hospitals were visited, tears were shed, and love was shared. It can be hard for ministers to see everybody who is in need, and so the team is thankful for not only your grace and patience, but also your commitment to practically care for each other.



Church Social's

The members of Minchinbury love being together and it was so much fun sharing in camping trips, hot cross buns, easter egg hunts, tram fun days, soccer grand finals, church BBQ's, post night church haps at the rectory, and many more events.

Challenges

Working hard to ensure our property and buildings are welcoming, safe, and comfortable.

Ensuring our greeters and welcoming team on Sunday's are equipped to ensure our first impression to new people is the best it can be. Every church member seeing themselves as a welcomer.

An effective pastoral care system for a growing church.

Priorities in 2018 & Beyond

- Ongoing training in welcoming through Elizabeth's Engage Blog and special training days. We have just completed such a training day on Sunday March 4th.
- Equipping our Discipleship Groups to be first ports of call for pastoral care.
- Engaging the services of Anglicare and other professional providers when it comes to high level pastoral care.
- Strengthening marriages in our church.
- Supporting and Building relationships with the Mount Druitt Indigenous Church.



Nurture

We seek to nurture each person in their knowledge and love of Jesus through the prayerful proclamation of God's word.

Highlights of 2017

We want every member of our church family to be growing to maturity in Christ. In 2017, our priorities for nurture were:

Bible Teaching

In our Sunday services and mid-week discipleship groups we enjoyed teaching through the books of Mark, Genesis 37-50, Galatians, Jonah. We also looked at hot topics such as financial stewardship, and intimate relationships, as well as a Mission "recharge" series. Resources for Christian Growth Matt faithfully prepared bible study guides and devotions to compliment the Sunday teaching series'. We also moved our sermon recordings to the proclaim church presentation software, which has allowed the visual slides from each sermon to be recorded and uploaded to our website (visitmac.church).

Discipleship Groups

In 2017 we had 15 discipleship groups, totaling 140 people, from across our congregations meeting at various times and places during the week.

Development of D-Group Support Team

In term 4 we introduced a new Support Team, to encourage and help the Discipleship Group leaders as they carry out their role. Each member of the Support Team meets with between 2 to 5 sets of Discipleship Group leaders from time to time throughout the year. Thank you to Paul Hallam, Elizabeth Spencer and Matthew Phillips for serving in this way.

Kids Church

Our Sounds Kids Ministry was faithfully led by Dani and her team in 2017. On average across the 3 Sunday kids ministries; baby creche, pre school, and kids church we had around 55 children each week, and are so thankful to God for bringing new families to our church community this year. Highlights of 2017 for kids ministry were Easter, our Family Service and the Fiji mission team. We were also encouraged by meeting Blueberry this year and look forward to more discussions with her!

Women's Ministry

As usual, the womens ministry committee organised some epic events in 2017. Starting with Mocktails and discussion at the rectory, followed by the Equip Women's conference, and the Eat, Give, Love, Pizza and Anglicare support night. They finished the year with a well attended Ginger Bread Christmas event.

Men's Ministry

Our men enjoyed the MBM's men's conference and the Basecamp weekend away. The General Maintenance event at church was also very helpful as we discussed issues like communication, pornography, and anger management. Many of us are thankful for the demo's on changing tap washers, and patching walls. We may not ever be able to look at another chico roll again, but we could look at Mondo's biceps all day long :)

Young Adult Film Night

A highlight for 2017 was our inaugural "Film Night" for the young adult community. This evening provided a unique opportunity to gather together, watch a movie, and discuss its themes together and how the gospel of Jesus speaks a better story. Its such helped launch the God at the Movies Summer teaching series over December and January.

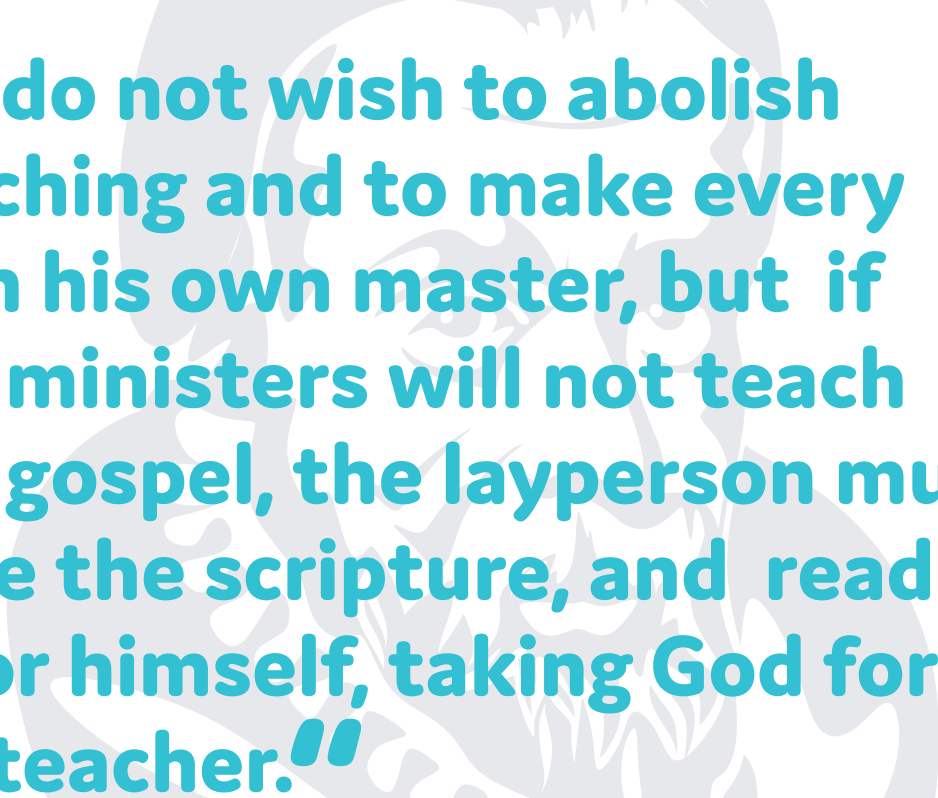
Challenges

- We continue to face the challenge of equipping and raising up Leaders each year.
- Ensuring bible teaching to members with English as a Second Language is accessible and engaging.
- Resourcing Kids Ministry, especially with a second morning congregation beginning in term 2.
- Building into our womens and mens ministry a focus on peer-peer discipleship in addition to the wonderful events being organised.



Priorities in 2018 & Beyond

- As always, it would be wonderful to see more members of our church family meeting regularly in D-Groups & being nurtured through personal Bible reading and prayer.
- Deepening and expanding our ministry to children through the appointment of a specialist Families Minister, in Ed Frost.
- Translating the new 10.45am morning service into Mandarin to make it more accessible to this growing group of church members.
- We will continue to provide reading and study material to coincide with the Sunday preaching program, but will also look to resource the groups in other ways as well.
- Womens and Men's Ministry to structure things a little differently this year to provide for new opportunities for deeper relationships and disciple making.
- The D-Group Challenge. We would like to challenge every D-Group to see at least one guest joining the Christianity Explored course in Term 3.



“We do not wish to abolish teaching and to make every man his own master, but if the ministers will not teach the gospel, the layperson must have the scripture, and read it for himself, taking God for his teacher.”

William Tyndale

William Tyndale

Equip

We seek to equip each person to joyfully use the gifts God has given them for the ministry of the church and the mission of Jesus.

Highlights of 2017

We want to see members of our church family increasingly grow to 'serve like Jesus': joyfully, sacrificially, dependently and in a manner that suits their gifts. In 2017, our priorities for this focus area were:

MTS - Ministry Training Strategy (Apprenticeship)

Sandy Rigby, completed her 2nd year as a ministry apprentice, with a particular focus on youth ministry. Sandy met with Mike regularly throughout the year for training and discussion on the joys and challenges of full time gospel ministry. Thank-you to those who prayerfully and financially supported Sandy throughout her Apprenticeship and we are thankful to God she has agreed to be one of our student ministers for 2018.

International Dinner

One of the highlights in 2017 was our International Dinner, where we enjoyed dressing up in clothing from different cultures, ate like Kings, and had a presentation on how to be "culturally courageous" as we seek to communicate the gospel to all people in western Sydney and beyond..

Discipleship Group Training

Every term Matt met with our DGroup leaders to train and equip them for the task of leadership and ministry. Pastoral Care, Group Dynamics, Creating Bible Study Materials, and Developing Application were some of the topics covered.

Reformation Reading Group

For those wanting to extend themselves theologically, we started a monthly reading group, to read some of the great works and thinkers of the Reformation era.



Music Workshops

Throughout the year, Paul ran some music workshops to help introduce new songs to the worship team, and these times certainly enhanced our Sunday corporate worship.

Developing Rector Program

As a new rector, Mike enrolled in a pilot diocesan program with The Centre for Ministry Development called the developing rectors program. They meet once a month for training on issues like the leadership pipeline, team management, strategy development and change management. Mike also met with an older minister every month for 1-1 coaching and feedback.

Challenges

- According to the NCLS 2016 report, only 25% of our members report being in a leadership or ministry role. This was up from 2011 (21%), but still below the diocese benchmark of 27%.
- Creating space for new ministry initiatives and new gifts to be expressed.
- Thinking how our children and youth can be disciple makers of younger children.

Priorities in 2018 & Beyond

- We want to invest in our kids and youth ministry well in 2018 and beyond. So we are excited to have Ed Frost join the team to lead us in this ministry. We are also pleased to have Sandy Rigby (youth) Dani Smith (kids) as student ministers this year as well.
- In 2018 we also welcome 2 new Year 13 students, Tim Sladen and Mikaela Dane. We look forward to equipping them to be disciples who make disciples.
- Begin an Annual Leadership Summit for all people involved or looking to be involved in leaderships at church. We just held our first summit on Saturday March 10.
- Shortly we will launch a new 'Introduction to Theology' course (in the style of the old MAC 4:16 course) starting on Thursday the 19th of April.
- We will also be launching regular preaching workshops to equip people in communicating God's word.
- Shortly we will announce details of a residential weekend marriage retreat where married couples can be refreshed and revitalised in their relationship.



Worship

We want to be people who worship Jesus, not just with our lips, but with our lives, so that Jesus is honoured wherever we are.

Highlights of 2017

We want to see members of our church family glorifying God in everything they do, from singing his praises when we gather together to serving him in all holiness in every sphere of life as a spiritual act of worship. In 2017 our priorities for this focus area were:

Sunday Services

During 2017 we had 3 main Sunday gathering, our 10am, Easy English (at 10am), and 6pm services. Once a month we held a more traditional service at Minchinbury Manor. According to elvanto, there were on average 216 individuals (including children and visitors) who attended our Sunday gatherings last year (up from 202 in 2016). Another 15-20 people gathered each month at Minchinbury Manor.

Prayer Nights

At the beginning of each term we gathered together to pray for our mission as a church, our overseas ministry partners, and those in need in our church. Matt also launched our term teaching series at these nights.

Gospel Melodies

In October we held a special worship event called "Gospel Melodies". It was a joyous time of singing older hymns and fellowshiping together. We may do something similar again this year.

Celebration Services

In the middle of the year we held celebration services for our Families Ministry and also our Youth and Young Adults Ministry. We enjoyed the kids sharing with us, good food, and games. The testimonies from some of our members at these services was particularly encouraging.



Challenges

- The 10am gatherings on a Sunday are growing and vibrant. This growth comes with the challenge of capacity with current meeting spaces.
- We gather as people across a range of ages, stages, and cultural backgrounds. This brings the challenge of providing services that are accessible, inspiring and caring for such a diverse group of people.
- Ensuring our church building is comfortable and welcoming for people as they gather to worship God. We have a particular challenge with our lighting and sound.
- The Sunday night service is attended by a faithful and social group of mainly younger men and women. It's challenge is to become a place that is particularly oriented towards youth and young adults, but also accessible to others who cannot make a Sunday morning service.

Priorities in 2018 & Beyond

- Launch 2 new morning services to recharge our Sunday morning gatherings and orient them for continued growth.
 - » 9am service - All Age service with Kids Program.
 - » 10:45am service - All Age service with Kids Program, Interactive Teaching, and Live Mandarin Translation .
- Funds and the Lord willing we would like to update the lighting in the church building, particularly to reduce the shadows on the stage area and make the services more visually comfortable.
- Enhancing worship outside the Sunday gatherings, by equipping families and individuals with devotional material and other aids.
- Partner with the Mount Druitt Indigenous Church to provide a worship service in our community for our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters to gather together and worship our Lord.



