



Prayer Diary 2026



**Introducing all people to Jesus and
helping them home to heaven**

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Perseverance in Prayer

How is your prayer life travelling?

I recently read a helpful metaphor by Tim Keller that compares our souls to a boat. He asks: Are you sailing, or are you rowing? "Sailing" is when the spiritual wind is at your back; God feels close, and prayer is a joy. "Rowing," however, is when prayer feels more like a duty than a delight; God may seem distant, yet you refuse to give up.

If I am honest, while I enjoy seasons of sailing, a lot of the time I am rowing. If you feel the same, take heart—you are in good company. In Luke 18, Jesus told his disciples the parable of the persistent widow specifically "to show them that they should always pray and not give up."

Jesus knows that prayer requires perseverance. Unlike the unjust judge in the parable, who only answered the widow to stop her nagging, our God is a just and compassionate Father. He loves us, He hears us, and He has both the power and the inclination to answer the prayers of His chosen ones.

Ultimately, prayer is a concrete expression of our faith. As Jesus asks at the end of the parable, "When the Son of Man comes will he find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:8).

My wife Jenni and I use the Diocesan Prayer Diary each morning to help us persevere. Whether you are currently sailing or rowing, I encourage you to use this Diary to entrust gospel ministries all over our Diocese to God. Let us keep praying, knowing that He is faithful to His promises and acts consistently according to His word.

With love in Christ,

Rod

Rod Chiswell

Bishop of Armidale



Dean: Chris Brennan & Samantha (Patrick, Natalie, Andrew)

Associate: John Cooper & Sarah (Anna, Grace, Peter)

Curate: Chris Tompkins & Naomi

Women's Trainer & Discipler: Sharon Kirk & Brian

Dean's Secretary: Erinn Simpkins & Adam (Emelia, Ethan, Darcie)

Office Secretary: Miriam Newall

We thank God for:

- The new people who have joined us over the past twelve months.
- Our ongoing partnership with St Mark's, and we pray that together we would effectively reach the city of Armidale with the gospel.
- Our wonderful volunteers and their faithful service.
- For 150 years of faithful ministry in our community, and pray for continued faithfulness in the years ahead.

Pray:

- That we would have many opportunities to share the good news of the gospel with all who come through our doors.
- That God would grant us strength and perseverance to remain faithful to Jesus through times of hardship and heartache.
- For a deepening culture of discipleship, and that believers would grow in maturity and be equipped to follow and serve Christ faithfully.

L-R: Sharon,
Chris T, Chris B,
Erinn, John



Bush Church Aid

Queensland with Northern NSW

1

Regional Director: Mike Uptin & Sandra

Admin Assistant: Sarah McKinnon

BCA Staff serving in our Diocese:

George & Carmel Ferguson (Walgett)

Kurt & Bec Langmead (Lightning Ridge)

Samuel & Grace Ogg (Lightning Ridge)

Tim Stevens (BCA Ontrack)



BCA Connect 2026
15-16 August,
Armidale

Give thanks:

- For 99 years of gospel partnership between BCA and the Armidale Diocese.
- That God continues to provide the human, financial and other resources to support BCA Field Staff.
- For good relationships between the leadership of BCA and CMS in our region.

Pray that:

- God will call three new Field Staff to the Northern NSW and Queensland region in 2026.
- At least one of these will be an Indigenous brother/sister based at South Tamworth.
- God will provide safety in travel as we visit supporters across Queensland and Northern NSW.



L-R: Sarah, Mike, Sandra



Praise God:

- That people from across the generations are coming to faith in Jesus in Armidale!
- For the joy of getting to share fellowship and partnership with like-minded Christians across Armidale and the region, and work together to see more people find and follow Jesus.
- For the privilege of getting to be part of raising up the next generation of gospel workers, and for our continuing Apprentices (Elly, Luke and Petra) being joined by Ari this year.

Pray:

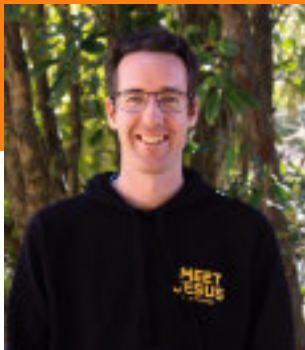
- That the new evangelistic Friday Kids Club beginning in Term 1 at St Mark's would be something that God uses to grow his kingdom.
- For our new Assistant Pastor, Fiona Thomson, as she settles back into Armidale and takes a lead in ministry to university students and international community members.
- For a smooth passage through Armidale Council for our Development Application, so that our new building might get constructed this year.



Student Ministers: Callum Dowling and Michael Stuart



Tom Melbourne
Senior Pastor



Matt Sheridan
Senior Assistant Pastor



Nathan Tuckwell
Assistant Pastor



Julie Cook
Assistant Pastor



Fiona Thomson
Assistant Pastor



Peter Yock
Campus Staff Leader



Katherine Yock
Campus Staff



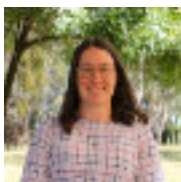
Georgia Burke
Admin & Mini Kids



Guy Davidson
Pastoral Care



Nigel Flett
Strategic Support



MTS: Ari McMaster, Elly Lukins, Luke Mephram and Petra Franklin.

Incumbent: vacant

Give thanks for the:

- Continued support that the Diocese and visiting clergy have given us.
- Wonderful encouragement, teaching and assistance given by David and Alison Calderwood who have been serving among us as locums.
- Faithful people who continue to participate in weekly services and school scripture.

Pray that:

- God will continue to grow our church family in number and wisdom.
- The youth of our community would have their hearts opened to God's word and be protected from all harm.
- God will continue to raise up leaders who are prepared to live and work in smaller communities.

Sunrise at Baradine



Principal: Mark Lewis & Leigh

Head Chaplain: Mark Rundle & Ruth (Bethany)

Assistant Chaplain: Hayley Boag

Junior School Chaplain: Leonie Collins

Chaplaincy Team: Dianne Cameron, Hugh Howey, Julia Boland, Maria Buster, Sam Anderson



Mark & Leigh



Hayley

Rundle family

Give thanks for:

- The Chaplaincy Team and their passion to make Christ known, both in word and action, in their teaching and pastoral care of our school community.
- God's continued provision of daily opportunities to declare the gospel of Christ, God's power to bring salvation to all who believe.
- The many Christian students, staff and families in the Calrossy community - and the impact of their faithful witness to all those around them.
- Opportunities to partner with other churches and organisations such as Anglicare.



Pray for:

- Our new School Principal, Mr Mark Lewis and his wife Leigh, as they begin life in Tamworth, and Mark commences his leadership of Calrossy. Ask God to provide abundantly His wisdom, strength and grace to Mark, equipping him with all he needs for his service as our Principal.
- All members of the school community to work together in love and service of one another during our 'Year Of Service' in 2026, following our example of servant leadership - Jesus Christ.
- Growth in our weekly student lunchtime groups across the school, encouraging Christian students in their faith and introducing other students to Christ, our Light and Life.

Incumbent: Matt Hearne & Chloe (Elise, Kate, Andy)

Praise God for:

- His goodness and faithfulness through all situations.
- Evangelistic opportunities and people's boldness to invite friends.
- Continued growth in our youth group.

Pray:

- That we would continue to be a church centred around the gospel and that we would grow together in love and knowledge of God.
- That new families will come along to church and join us.
- For the raising up of ministry leaders, particularly in our youth ministry.



Chaplain: Simon Waller (Liverpool Plains District)

Praise God for the:

- Disaster recovery network of chaplains being activated across the State.
- RFS volunteers and staff who work so hard to keep our communities safe from fires.

Pray that:

- Simon is able to balance his professional pastoral role with volunteer and chaplaincy responsibilities.
- Opportunities would arise for gospel conversations with members of the RFS and those impacted by bushfires, and ask that God will use those chats to bring people into relationship with Him and eternal safety.



Incumbent: Matt Stones & Dee (Poppy, Boaz, Knox)

Give thanks to God:

- As we see people exploring the gospel and committing their lives to Jesus for the first time.
- For new ministries reaching children, youth, families, and the wider community, and for the growth of our church, including regular children in our Sunday programs.
- As church members step out to serve in new ways, invite friends to church, and grow together through Bible study groups.

Pray that:

- We would be passionate and intentional witnesses for Jesus, living as salt and light in our small community.
- We would faithfully pass on the gospel to the next generation in Bingara, fostering a deep love for Jesus among our children and youth.
- God would continue growing the saints here, deepening our love and knowledge of Him as we gladly submit to Jesus as our Lord.



Incumbent: vacant

Give thanks for:

- Opportunities to share the good news in different contexts.
- So many who faithfully serve.
- God's provision in many ways.

Pray for:

- Continued momentum through a year without a full-time minister.
- A faithful partnership between locums and congregation.
- Growth in faith and for others to come to know Jesus.



Incumbent: Tory Cayzer & Jo
(Jacob, Annika)



Give thanks:

- For God's unfailing love and that his goodness and love follow us all our days (Psalm 23).
- For our faithful leaders and volunteers who serve every week in many ways.
- To God for answering your prayers for young families and new life last year.

Ask that we:

- All persevere in following and witnessing to Jesus by the power of the Spirit to the very end.
- Can start an outward-looking men's ministry that matures boys and men as disciples of Jesus.
- Persist in prayer for the lost of our Valley and look for opportunities to speak about Jesus today.



Diocesan Deacon for Women: Julie Cook & Jim

Praise God:

- That he is clearly at work, growing disciples of Christ among our women.
- For the increasing number of women serving in various ministry positions around the Diocese, both paid and voluntary.
- For many opportunities Julie has had to connect with and support women in ministry positions in schools and parishes.

Pray for:

- Women arriving in our Diocese in 2026, both new clergy wives, and those beginning new ministry positions. May they be welcomed and supported well as they adjust to being part of our 'Diocesan team'.
- Opportunities for ministry women to get together for networking and mutual support, both online and face to face.
- More women to take up training opportunities to be equipped to serve God's people through resources such as the Diploma of Biblical Theology, Preaching Conferences, and other appropriate training methods.



Emmaville

Deepwater, Torrington



L-R: Emmaville, Torrington, Deepwater

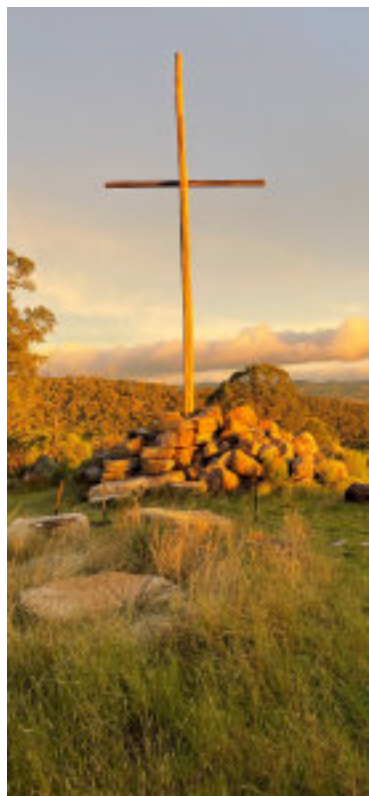
Incumbent: vacant

Praise God for:

- The ongoing support from St Augustine's Inverell as we continue in vacancy.
- His blessing over our Church family in keeping us caring, loving and unified.
- The opportunities he is providing for us to share the gospel in our local community.

Pray for:

- Strong personal growth, both in our relationship with Christ and in our desire to share the gospel with those around us.
- Our weekly Tiny Tots Group and other outreach ministries planned for the year ahead.
- Love, faithfulness and single-minded devotion to Jesus for each one of us.



Highfields Cross

Bishop: Onesimus Asiimwe & Maama Florence

Partnership Committee: Tom Melbourne (Chair), Simon Carter, David & Anita Thomas, Lou Davies, Nathan & Maria Craven, Trace Akankunda.

Thank God for:

- The continuing love and gospel partnership between Armidale Diocese and North Kigezi Diocese (NKD).
- The many supporters of the partnership, who invest both time and money into seeing this ministry continue to thrive.
- Andrew and Margie Newman, on-the-ground in NKD and serving so fruitfully and sacrificially at the Bible College.

Pray that:

- The 'Next Gen' training conferences would have both a wider reach to more people, and a deeper impact on those who participate. May a new generation be shaped to serve Jesus in a gospel-shaped way and taught how to handle God's word rightly.
- Bishop Onesimus and Maama Florence would remain full of energy and enthusiasm for the important task of leading North Kigezi Diocese. May the Lord give them many reliable fellow workers with whom they can share the load.

2025 North Kigezi Clergy Conference



Incumbent: David Robinson & Jenna (Jacob, Naomi, Sam)

Assistant: Daniel Hayes & Erin (Jonathan, Jessica)

Ministry Trainee: Harry Lynn

Give thanks for:

- The growth in our youth and young adults ministries during the past 12 months.
- Our growing partnership with Anglicare and the fruit this is starting to bear.
- A godly and keen Parish Council.

Pray that:

- God would use the many connections we have in town to bring people to Jesus.
- Our people would continue to grow in godliness.
- God would continue to provide for the material needs that support the work of the parish.



Harry

Robinson Family

Hayes Family



Indigenous Ministry Committee: Brian Kirk (Interim Chair), Rod Chiswell, Dixie Skuthorpe, Paul Foster, George Ferguson

Praise God for:

- His faithfulness and love to the Aboriginal community.
- Growing acceptance and support for Indigenous Ministry in the Diocese.
- The success of the 2025 'Yarning about Indigenous Ministry Day' in Narrabri.
- The many works and outreach to local Aboriginal communities in places such as Coledale, Uralla, Walgett, Lightning Ridge and Armidale.

Pray for:

- God's guidance for the Indigenous Sub-committee and its work to raise the profile of Indigenous Ministry within the Diocese.
- The Indigenous Sub-committee as it develops a strategic plan for Indigenous Ministry within the Diocese.
- The continuing resourcing of the ministry within the Diocese.
- Outreach into Aboriginal communities and the identification and development of Indigenous leaders.

2025 Yarning About Indigenous Ministry Day, Narrabri



Incumbent: Simon Waller & Jenny

Curate: Cody Bros & Bek (Calvin, Susie, Jonathan)

Families and Children: Tineke Dekkers

Office: Helen Etherington & Andrew

Praise God for:

- The consistent growth in young families.
- A busy but fruitful 2025.
- A cohesive and united staff team.

Pray for:

- Our new approach to Rosters in 2026 – teams.
- Guidance in how to encourage people to make disciples, and to be salt and light in the world in the 60% (really 97% but 33% of that time is sleeping) of the time they are not at church.
- Wisdom in how to grow, manage and apply the gifts of newcomers.

L-R: Tineke, Simon, Cody, Helen



Principal: Liz van Genderen

Chaplain: Louise Davies



Give thanks for:

- Answered prayer for Lou to become full time at NEGS!
- Ari McMaster doing MTS with St Marks, including 1 day per week at NEGS!
- Increased enrolments resulting in more kids in Armidale hearing the news of Jesus!

Pray:

- That enrolments will continue to increase so that kids can keep hearing the news of Jesus. Most students are from non-Christian families, so Chaplaincy provides many opportunities to connect with them and their families.
- For the Board and the Executive of the school - that they would be wise in the decisions they're making, and that some Christians might be willing to join the NEGS board.
- For Lou as the sole Chaplain, that she can manage her time well and continue to find joy as she serves Jesus at NEGS.

Incumbent: Tim Stevens & Kirsten (Will, Ed)

Anglicare Community Chaplain: Daniel Hayes

Praise:

- Give thanks for the clear and faithful teaching we receive each week at church and in Bible Study. Pray that spiritual and numerical growth will flow from God's word going out.
- Praise God for the connections and trust that exist between our church and the Guyra community. Pray that these connections lead to gospel opportunities.
- Praise God for Scripture in the school, which is in its third year in 2026. Pray that God will raise up teachers into the future.

Pray for:

- Our Parish Council, that we will have wisdom as we navigate the realities of ministry in Guyra, where there are limited people and financial resources to keep trying new things in reaching our town with the good news of Jesus.
- Our Minister Tim, as he navigates the complexity of his two roles in the parish and with BCA.
- Our church, as we entrust ourselves to God's plans for our church into the future.



Chaplain: Brett Brown (Glen Innes)

Give thanks:

- To God that he hears our prayers.
- For the men and women who volunteer to be members of the NSW State Emergency Service.
- For all those who support SES members so that they can go about their duties.

Pray:

- For guidance, protection, alertness and courage for SES members as they perform their duties. Ask that God will sustain them in their work.
- That in his role as an SES Chaplain, Brett will be welcomed by members of the SES and wider community and have many opportunities to talk to people about Christ.
- That as the SES works to protect and save people from natural disasters, the SES members will turn to Christ and be saved.



Incumbent: Adam Draycott & Tanya (Sophie, Thomas)

Assistant Minister: Cameron Maxwell & Carole (Alexander)

Honorary Assistant: David Thomas & Anita

Praise for:

- The way our church family have been growing in response to the teaching of God's word.
- New families and individuals who have joined us and are now serving at church.

Pray:

- That we would all continue to grow a heart for reaching the lost in our community and to prayerfully have a go.
- That as we focus on discipleship, bible study leaders would be equipped and encouraged, and bible study groups would thrive.
- For growth in commitment to church family life and attendance.
- That new Christians moving into the area would find and connect with us, be grown as followers of Jesus, and be given opportunities to serve and encourage the body.



Top to bottom:
Draycott family,
Maxwell family,
David & Anita

Chaplain: Chuck Shave & Mary

Praise:

- Give thanks for the rare privilege to share hope and redemption with inmates and staff, witnessing seeds of faith take root and impact families and communities.
- Give thanks for the cooperation of correctional staff and the availability of essential resources like Bibles and study materials that foster spiritual growth.
- Praise God for his faithfulness in providing safety, personal breakthroughs, and powerful moments of reconciliation within the facility.

Pray for:

- Clarity in decision-making and divine guidance in every conversation and interaction within the facility.
- The physical, emotional, and spiritual endurance needed to serve faithfully and maintain personal renewal in a challenging environment.
- A heart that reflects Christ's love toward both inmates and staff, opening doors to share the message of hope and redemption. And that we will see many come to Jesus while inside and then continue to grow outside.



Incumbent: Kurt Langmead & Bec (June, Arthur, Lydia, Jeremiah, Timothy)

Curate/ BCA Trainee Minister: Samuel Ogg & Grace (Tommy, Josie)

Children's Worker: Heather Robinson

Give thanks for the:

- Privilege of being a 'beautiful messy' church extending Christ's welcome into our broken community.
- Growth in the number of children (including several young high-schoolers) now attending our church.
- Generous support of our Diocese and Bush Church Aid (BCA) in funding Samuel's new full-time, two-year position in the Ridge.

Pray for:

- The Oggs to settle in well to their new home and church family, and to engage effectively with the wider community.
- Our special 2026 Barwon District Regional Mission (22-29 March) supported by BCA, Moore College and NorthLight Anglican Church - for team unity and gospel fruit across all centres.
- Our local school at a time of leadership transition (we have a new principal in 2026) and increasing enrolments for primary and high school scripture (SRE) - pray that students, staff and parents would have opportunities to hear the gospel and be saved.

L-R: Ogg family, Langmead family, Heather



Chaplain: David Freeman & Briony (Declan)

Praise God for the:

- Many opportunities that have enabled the gospel to be shared.
- Provision of a volunteer to assist with the hospital chaplaincy.
- Encouraging number of people from the hospital who attended the Christmas service in the Hospital Chapel.

Pray for:

- God's love and wisdom when meeting with people.
- The volunteer chaplaincy team to grow in number.
- The ongoing growth of relationships with facility staff.



Incumbent: Dave Fisher & Steph (Claire, Eleanor, Luke, Benaiah)

Give thanks to God:

- For the forgiveness of sin in Jesus Christ.
- That he continues to graciously provide for our needs as he grows his Church.
- For the youth and children who are part of our church family. Pray that God would keep them in Christ and add to their number.

Pray:

- For protection, wisdom, loving unity and gifting of God's people that we may glorify God by growing in our love for him, and by growing in Christian maturity, godly living, loving service, faithful gospel proclamation, and brotherly love.
- That God would grant repentance and faith in Jesus Christ to those we live amongst.
- That God would continue to raise up people to serve where needed and for wisdom and gifting for Dave and the lay leaders as they continue to seek to nurture and equip the parish in ministry and mission.



Executive Director: Mark Fairhurst

Missionaries from our diocese:

Andrew & Margie Newman - Rukungiri, Uganda

Gillian Law - Rome, Italy

Simon & Jess Cowell - Bari, Italy

J&S - Central Asia

Matt & Lisa Pearson - Gunbalanya, North Australia



Mark

Pray:

- That the Lord of the harvest will raise up new workers in increasing number, who are ready and willing to be set apart and sent as long term missionaries.
- For good governance by the Board and for branch staff, committees and volunteers to serve with humility, joy and wisdom.
- That CMS events and church partnerships will foster genuine relationships with missionaries and deep engagement in cross-cultural mission.

*A world
that knows
Jesus*

CMS Mission Encounter 2026:
7-8 August, Tamworth

CMS Summer School 2027:
1-6 January, Mount Tambourine

Incumbent: Geoff Hearne & Catherine

Assistant Minister: Reuben Birchley & Kim (Eliana)

Praise God for:

- His mercy and grace in calling us to serve him and be a witness to our community.
- The many faithful people who continue to serve, share in ministry, and are generous within the parish.
- The new people whom he has brought into our church fellowship.

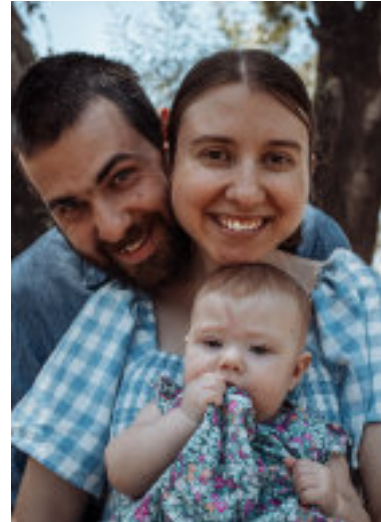
Pray:

- That we will be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.
- That we will always keep our eyes and hearts on the harvest fields full of the lost in town, rather than be content and comfortable with the numbers of people inside our building.
- For continued opportunities to engage in Indigenous outreach and ministry.

Geoff & Catherine



Birchley family



Commission Members: Kurt Langmead (Chair), Reuben Birchley, Neil Hunt, Penny McCowen, Emily Speed, Katherine Wood

Give thanks for:

- The expertise and energy of our new and continuing CED team members.
- The ongoing support that the CED has been able to provide to lay preachers and Bible teachers across our diocese.
- A good start for the new, locally-delivered Diploma of Biblical Theology (DBT), with further subjects, students and support coming on board for 2026.

Pray for:

- Ongoing encouragement of lay preachers and teachers, as well as consideration for helpful ways to support lay leaders - especially in smaller, less-resourced locations.
- Our championing role with respect to the DBT, including helping ministry leaders to identify and recruit potential participants in their own parishes.
- Continued clarity, creativity and commitment to our vision of 'supporting local churches in growing devoted disciples of Jesus Christ'.



2025 team meeting

Incumbent: vacant

Regular locums: Pat Kennedy, Ian Campbell, Warren Richards

Praise God:

- That we continue to worship Him in church each Sunday.
- For our favorable season and pray that it will continue.

Pray:

- That we will continue to have Christians and Ministers to lead us each week.
- For guidance and blessings for the leaders of our congregation, and for the goodwill and fellowship we enjoy to continue.



Patrick and Jenny Kennedy first began serving in the Armidale diocese after Bishop Rick Lawers, who had been their vicar at Engadine Anglican church, asked them to undertake lay ministry in Bundarra.

They later became involved in volunteer ministry at St James Anglican church in Mungindi and once the parish could no longer afford to support a vicar, offered to serve at St James for a couple of months each year.

Patrick and Jenny Kennedy, Warren and Jan Richards and Ian and Elizabeth Campbell volunteer each year at Mungindi Anglican Church.

Chaplain: Nick Stone & Caroline (Lachlan, Henry, Annabelle)

Chaplain - Christian Development Education: Jo Benham & Matt (Emily, Angus, Edward)

Give thanks for:

- Two full-time chaplains after 3 years.
- Support and encouragement from leadership to preach and teach the gospel.
- The many opportunities for staff and students to grow in their understanding of Jesus.

Pray that:

- The Bible would be taught in a clear, faithful and engaging way.
- Christian staff and students would find the support and encouragement they need to grow in their faith.
- Many would be captivated by Jesus.

Benham family

Stone family



Incumbent: Bernard Gabbott & Anita (Seth, Baxter, Elsa, Sage)

Assistant: Trace Akankunda & Maddie

Women's Worker: Ally Thomson & Dave

Secretary: Jess McFetridge & Ryan (Mia, Archie, Sophie)

Treasurer: Lyn Firth & Phil

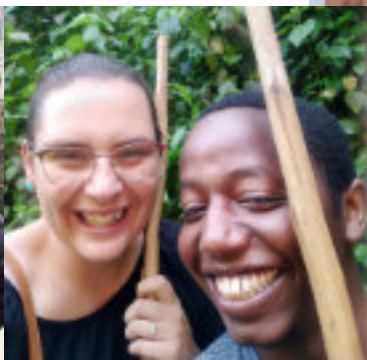
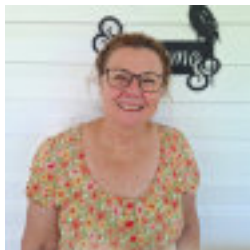
Give thanks that:

- Our God is more magnificent than we can imagine, and he is our Father who has shown us mercy through salvation in Jesus and the guarantee of the Holy Spirit.
- We have good news for everyone, that Jesus is Lord and Saviour and that this changes everything, for everyone.
- God's mob, gathered and living in a town, are a delight and a blessing - and this is who God has placed here for his work.

Pray for:

- Opportunities to proclaim and practice Jesus, publicly, long-term, that God uses to save people.
- A continued heart to serve God by using our gifts to build up his mob to maturity.
- Our evangelism course in third term.

Clockwise from top left: Lyn,
McFetridge family, Gabbott family,
Trace & Maddie, Ally & Dave



Chaplain: Wendy Smith

Praise for:

- The wonderful paramedics who serve our region.
- Deepening relationships with local paramedics.
- Opportunities to show God's love to paramedics and families in their darkest hours.

Pray:

- For Wendy as she joins the leadership team as Team Leader for the Central-West. May she have wisdom and compassion as she cares for chaplains in the region.
- That when called to 'scene', Wendy will be a calm and loving presence as she supports people.
- For deepening relationships which lead to gospel conversations.
- That the NSW Ambulance Service will continue to value their staff and chaplains.



Incumbent: Scott Dunlop & Joanne

Children's Worker: Kelly Hitchcock & Steve

Ministry Trainee: Dave Matthews & Charlotte (Jed)

Praise:

- Praise that Jesus strengthens, enables, and builds His church.
- Praise for a great ministry team partnering together in serving Jesus.
- Give thanks that we are able to meet in great facilities and for a Ministry Agreement now in place between our church and Calrossy Anglican School. Pray the partnership in the gospel together would bear good fruit.

Pray:

- Give thanks for new young families and our growing strength in children's ministry. Pray we effectively reach more families in the school community this year.
- Pray that Jesus' light shines out from us in North Tamworth and that God would continue to draw people to connect with our church and ultimately Jesus.
- Pray for a fruitful year growing up and out in Christ and for more mature leaders to be raised up to serve in various ministries.

Scott & Jo

Kelly & Steve

Dave, Charlotte & Jed



Incumbent: vacant

Praise God for:

- The adult baptism in December. Give thanks for Bishop Rod who took the service and for the 37 people who came. Thank God for the encouragement and excitement this has brought to our fellowship.
- The growth in the Kids Bible Study and for the children's enthusiasm and excitement in coming. Give thanks for the way the children are learning and growing in their understanding of Jesus and the great news he brings and for the way they are being transformed.
- Nick and Joy Speyers and their preaching, teaching, encouragement, support and wisdom as they serve amongst us as locums in Term 1. Pray for their ongoing good health and strength.

Pray:

- That families will be interested in hearing the good news of Jesus and want to follow him. Pray for wisdom to know the best way to connect with these families and energy for the outreach activities.
- For a Minister and Shepherd for our Parish - someone who loves the Lord, loves his Word and is called to Shepherd in Nundle with love, energy and enthusiasm.
- For the children at school who want to attend Scripture, that their parents would take the necessary steps to allow this to happen. Pray that the children at Kids Club and Scripture would really hear "with their head and their heart" the truth of the gospel and come to know, love and serve Jesus. Pray that their families will also come to know and follow Jesus. Pray for energy, ideas and clarity in teaching for Children's Ministry leaders.

Incumbent: Simon Carter & Erin (Joshua, Nathan, Cody)

Tamworth Gardens Chaplain: Jeremy Lin & Jade (Sam, Elijah)

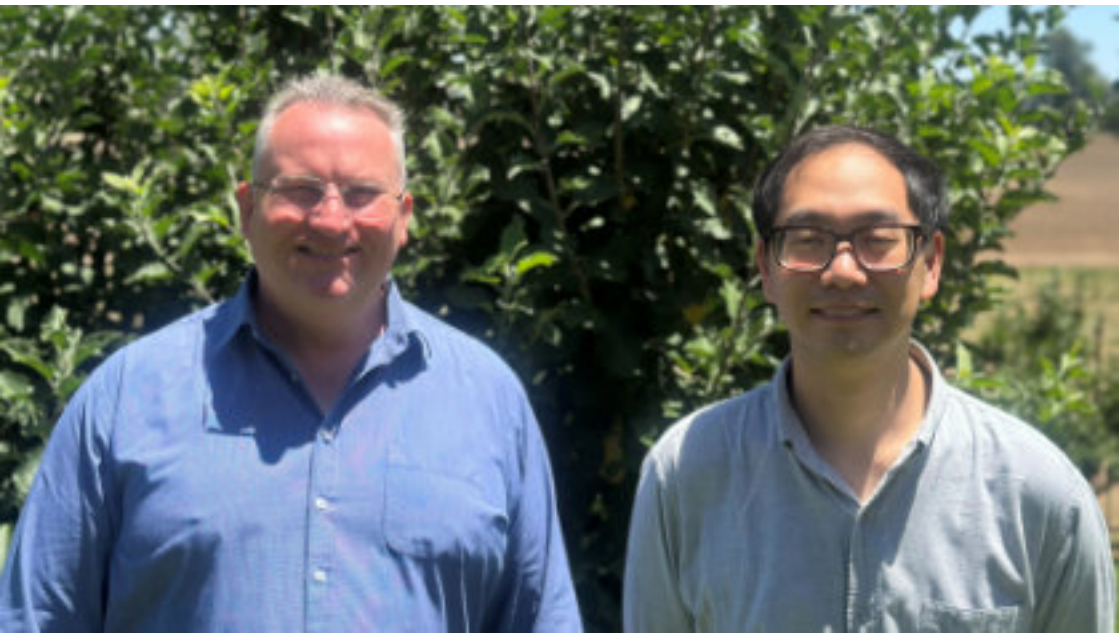
Give thanks:

- That the Aged Care Chaplaincy program is growing in strength and opportunities to proclaim Christ.
- For new families in our congregations.
- That we are a church that is united under Christ and desire for others to know him.

Pray:

- For deep connections within our church family, especially for those who are new to our church family.
- For an evangelistic heart and fresh enthusiasm in proclaiming Christ, that we yearn for those around us to know Christ.
- That we continue to grapple with and grasp the wondrous news of our salvation in Christ.

L-R: Simon, Jeremy



Academic Student Support: Steve Etherington

Administrative Student Support: Olivia Martin

Lecturers for 2026: David Robinson and Kurt Langmead

Praise for:

- Several new students enrolled to start in 2026.
- A new location for intensives at Moonbi Anglican Church.
- Refreshed vision and momentum for building the program with support from both Moore College and the Diocese.

Pray for:

- More lay people in the Diocese to sign up to study this course that they may be better equipped to serve wherever God puts them.
- Encouragement and enthusiasm for the current cohort as they begin Semester 1 to work and grow together, learning under God's word.
- David Robinson (Semester 1) and Kurt Langmead (Semester 2) as they prepare material and run intensives, that they might teach the students faithfully and practically from God's word.



Incumbent: Paul Foster & Michelle (Meg, Annika, Xanthe, Louis, Florence)

Praise God for:

- Those who have done the evangelism training and bible studies within our parish over the last 6 months.
- The fellowship that continues to grow and spur one another on over our morning teas.
- His grace and mercy to a mob like us.

Pray:

- That we would stay intentional and prayerful in our evangelism.
- For our parents as they seek to wisely disciple their children in a distracting world.
- For our growing play group and that God would continue to raise up saints to serve.



Commission Members: Matt Sheridan (Chair), Dave Tankard, Dean Blomfield, Matt Hearne, Matt Stones, Angus Martin

Praise God for the:

- Previous CEM led by Scott Dunlop for the last 18 years and for the work the commission did to encourage us all to continue in Mission and Evangelism.
- Formation of a new CEM at the last sitting of Synod and for approval of the new Commissions' Ordinance.
- Clarity in our diocesan mission statement that we're seeking to 'Introduce all people to Jesus and helping them home to heaven'.

Please pray that:

- The newly formed CEM will be effective servants in encouraging the diocese in Mission and Evangelism.
- The sharing of mission and evangelism experiences across the diocese will spur on new initiatives that help introduce people to Jesus.
- God would use the churches, ministries and people of this diocese to bring him glory by proclaiming the gospel, and that God would work in people by his Spirit to bring many into his kingdom this year.



Incumbent: Xavier Lukins

Assistant Minister: Andy Bryan

Assistant Minister: Angus Martin

Assistant Minister: Adrian Cheung

Youth Worker: Emily Bowman

Children's Worker: Libby Frazer

Coledale Ministry Leader: Jimmy Alley

Coledale Community Chaplain: Martin Margery

SRE Coordinator: Libby Lukins

Pastoral Care: Robert Love

Office: Amanda Smith

Ministry Apprentice: Oliver Hyland

Year 13: Abigail Braun

Praise God:

- For the number of people investigating the Christian faith with us.
- For those deciding to be trained in gospel ministry Abi Braun (year 13), Oliver Hyland (MTS).
- That he is growing us numerically as a Church family.

Pray that:

- We would grow in evangelism and be prepared to invite people to our 'Discover' evangelistic series we are holding twice this year. Pray that people will call on the name of the Lord and be saved. Pray that we would follow-up people well and see them reading through a gospel together with us.
- We would be able to expand our building as we are running out of space.
- Since we have announced that we are doing a Church plant to the south of Tamworth, that the Lord would give us wisdom in preparing to do that.



Xavier



Andy



Angus



Adrian



Emily



Libby F



Jimmy



Martin



Libby L



Robert



Amanda



Oliver

Incumbent: vacant

Give thanks:

- For the small growth in our parish last year - an answer to prayer!
- That the sale of the Tambar Springs Church went smoothly and most of the furniture has found a home.

Please pray:

- For continued growth in our parish.
- That we may be outward focussed – on reaching our community rather than just maintaining church on Sundays.
- For scripture teaching in the district, that we may be Christ-centred and winsome.
- That we are wise in our choices such as which church to livestream services from, future direction of our church, and how we use our resources.



Diocesan Youth Encourager: Nathan Tuckwell

Give thanks:

- That Youth Muster at the end of 2025 went well and everyone had a great time.
- That young people all over our Diocese want to live for Jesus.
- That more than 25 youth attended the Leaders in Training Conference this January (run by Scripture Union).
- For the Youth Committee members and how well they work together.

Pray for:

- Wisdom in planning how to invest in leaders.
- The Barraba Bash coming up in March and for Rod and Bernard as they prepare to speak.
- The new committee members, that they can be onboarded well and find ways to use their gifts to serve the youth and churches of the Diocese.

Youth Muster 2025



Incumbent: Joshua Bovis & Melanie

Give thanks for:

- The Lord Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he conquered death; for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of God's kingdom.
- Those whom God has called and sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel throughout our diocese, our nation, and the world.

Pray for:

- A spirit of prayer - that our Heavenly Father will pour out on us the spirit of supplication: that we will draw near to our Heavenly Father constantly in prayer.
- Kindled affections - that God will deliver us from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship God in spirit and in truth.
- Continual faithfulness to Christ - that God's Word may be truly preached and truly heard, the sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received; that the Holy Spirit will shape our lives according to the example of the risen Christ, and that we may declare the gospel to all we live amongst.



Incumbent: Jared Lidgerwood & Erin (Abigail, Maggie, Jack)

Parish Secretary: Natalie Watt & Chris (Courtney, Toby, Charlie)

Praise God:

- For faithfully sustaining our church between vicars.
- For our people being generous with their time and money.
- That our people love to hear God's word read and taught.

Pray that:

- As Tenterfield grows, more people would hear the gospel and be saved.
- We would grow in love and maturity, and that we would use our different gifts to glorify God and serve his people.
- We would value holiness over comfort.



Natalie & Chris



Lidgerwood family

Incumbent: vacant

Lay Ministry Leaders: Margaret Parker and Richard Young

Praise God:

- For the way he orchestrates our service as his people.
- For his continuing grace and love for us.
- In all circumstances and at all times!

Please pray:

- That God will bless our community with the Holy Spirit's presence and power.
- That the people who have newly arrived in our village are warmly received by all residents, and especially our church.
- For God-given motivation to be true servants in the likeness of Jesus our Saviour and Lord.



Offices in Moree, Inverell, Tenterfield, Armidale, Tamworth and Narrabri

Head of NENW Region: Claire Dunlop & Scott (Michelle, Sam)

Give thanks for:

- The growing number of programs and staff, meaning we can provide services to all parts of the community.
- The faithful Christian managers and staff serving our communities through Anglicare.
- Wisdom given to Claire and the management team as they lead highly complex programs.

Pray:

- Anglicare has the intention to open two more community pantries in conjunction with the Diocese this year. Pray for God's favour on these pantries as they provide opportunities for Churches to minister into communities.
- For the Aged Care Teams as we adapt to the new Aged Care reforms, which are significant, and necessary.
- For God to continue to provide funds for Anglicare enabling us to do work serving vulnerable people.



Incumbent: Matt Borg & Molly (Lola, Wendy, Olive, Josie, Louis)

Praise God for the:

- Growing number of people serving faithfully across our various ministries.
- Growth of Kids Club over the past year, and for the children and families being reached through it.
- Baptisms and confirmations happening in February, and for those who desire to publicly declare their faith in Christ.

Ask God:

- To be with us as we continue to reach out to the teenagers in our community and faithfully share the gospel with them.
- For growth - both spiritual growth among those already attending, and growth in numbers as more people come to know and love Jesus.
- To give us wisdom this year to be good stewards of what he has provided, using all things for his glory.



Chaplain: Gus Batley & Deb

Praise God for:

- Ongoing, fruitful connections with long-term contacts.
- The occasions when God's work is clearly discerned in people's lives and situations.
- Our volunteers, their faithfulness, diligence and care for patients.

Pray:

- For a growing and fruitful work relationship with the new hospital executive.
- For energy and vision to maintain the work under God's hand.
- To see patients come to know and accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.



Incumbent: Neil Hunt & Steph

Student Minister: Callum Dowling & Monique (Manny)

Praise God:

- For a growing sense of our dependence on the Lord expressed in prayer.
- That Jesus said, "Everyone the Father gives me will come to me." and that our church has a great desire to see that happen here and in the wider world for his glory.
- For the wonderful unity in Christ lived out within our church community and with our Presbyterian brothers and sisters in Walcha.

Ask God:

- That our desire to see people saved would mean greater boldness as Jesus' witnesses and a willingness to be fools for him.
- That in 2026, our "Year of Bible Reading", the Holy Spirit would give each of us a very real sense of our need to feed on God's word daily.
- That the Lord would raise up the next generation of spiritual leaders within our church.

Dowling family



Neil & Steph



Chaplains: Adam Draycott (Inverell), George Ferguson (Walgett), Kurt Langmead (Lightning Ridge)

Give thanks:

- For the privilege and opportunity Police Chaplains have, serving amongst the members of the NSW Police Force with care and dedication.
- That the role of Police Chaplains is recognised and valued.

Pray:

- For wisdom, compassion, and love to guide our Chaplains as they minister to the spiritual and emotional needs of officers facing immense pressure and trauma. Ask God to grant them strength and resilience to walk alongside Officers in their darkest moments, protecting them from cynicism and hardening of the heart. By word and action, may they be channels of God's peace, hope, and healing.
- That as relationships are established, meaningful gospel conversations would occur.
- That more members of the NSW Police Force would turn up to church and find a warm welcome, and above all else, faith in Christ.



Incumbent: George Ferguson & Carmel

Thank God for the:

- Church families in the Barwon District Parish and for the keen Christians who have moved to Walgett and got involved in the church this year.
- Young man who came to Christ last year and continues to grow in his faith.

Pray:

- For the upcoming Moore College Mission this year in partnership with the Lightning Ridge Parish (23-28th March), that many may hear the good news of Jesus and respond to him as Saviour and Lord. Pray particularly for an openness by the school leadership at Walgett for ministry to happen there that week.
- For an outreach weekend in Collarenebri on the King's Birthday long weekend (5-7th June) to come together in partnership with a supporting Sydney parish.
- That God will continue to give George and Carmel wisdom, love and strength to serve faithfully in the gospel work at Walgett and Collarenebri.



Commission Members: Phil Firth (Chair), Daniel Assef, Tom Faithfull, Dave Fisher, Christopher Pears, Robin Wark, Natalie Watt

Give thanks for:

- A clear direction from Synod and the ordinance that has been very helpful in establishing direction and actions for the commission.
- A successful first meeting of this new commission with a spirit of unity and purpose uniting the members.
- Each member of the commission who come from parishes across the diocese.

Pray that:

- Our initial enthusiasm and energy for the work we have been entrusted with would not wane.
- The commission would identify real problems and obstacles that are hampering parish ministry.
- We would be wise in our deliberations so that our actions as a commission make a real difference for parish ministry across the diocese and so that ministry in all parishes is supported and strengthened.



Incumbent: vacant

Give thanks for:

- Those who have renewed their faith, and/or come back to church.
- The ongoing involvement and positive engagement our parish has with the local community.
- God's great generosity to us in giving us everything we need, and more.

Pray for:

- The Parish during the interim period between vicars, that they would keep their eyes on Jesus, and work diligently to build one another up.
- More lay involvement with Parish Council and key ministry areas.
- Scripture teachers in our local schools.



Associate Director, Camps & Missions:
Dave Tankard & Jude



Sharing the Good News *of Jesus*

Praise God for:

- His gospel that draws his people home to him, and strengthens on the way.
- Volunteers who serve God with excellence and joy to make Jesus known, and help his people to grow.
- Families who send their children and teens to be part of Camps, Missions and School Lunch Groups.

Ask:

- Our Heavenly Father to help his people everywhere to meet God daily through reading the bible and prayer.
- The Lord of the Harvest to raise workers to join, and head up Camp, Mission and School ministry teams - including brand new ones to take the gospel where it must be heard.
- God to make his people generous to support the work of SU NSW.



Scripture Union NSW

Schools • Camps • Missions

Incumbent: Caleb Torrance & Kirsty (Lucy, Sally)

Thank God:

- For our partnership with the local Presbyterian Church and that the leadership of the two churches are working well together.
- That the members of both churches care for, encourage and serve one another.
- That many from the community of Wee Waa have been coming to church-run events and hearing the gospel.

Pray:

- That our church would be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that we may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.
- That our church would grow in number as the members of this church proclaim and live out the gospel amongst the community of Wee Waa.
- For continued unity and wisdom for the leadership of the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches as we continue to figure out what this partnership looks like.



Chaplain: Wendy Smith



Give thanks:

- That the government sees the value of chaplaincy and we are an integral part of the disaster response plan.
- For the many chaplains who serve in this capacity across the State.

Pray that:

- More chaplains will be able to be appointed - especially in rural and remote areas.
- When called upon, Wendy will be available, ready to go and have opportunity to speak of God's love.
- In times of uncertainty and trauma our chaplains will be people who bring a sense of peace and calm.



Incumbent: Ben France & Ruth (Fletcher, Hudson, Lincoln)

Assistant Minister: Isaac Shumack

Curate: Timothy Chan & Susannah (Merridy, Finnegan, Dorothy)

Thank God for:

- His sustaining of us as a church family and ministry team through 2025.
- Tim Chan joining the staff team at the West Tamworth Parish along with his family.
- The increasing desire amongst our church family to reach out with the good news of Jesus and to be growing in their faith.

Pray for:

- Tim Chan to settle into his new role well and for strong staff relationships to help us to continue to heal and grow as a church family.
- The planning for a Sydney Missionary and Bible College Mission Team coming to the parish in the lead up to Easter and that God would use our labours to produce fruit for his kingdom.
- Increasing numbers of parishioners to join bible study groups in 2026.

L-R: Ben, Isaac, Tim



2026 Diocesan Events

Ordinations

February 21

Armidale

Men@Glen

February 27-28

Glen Innes

Barraba Bash

March 21

Barraba

Next Phase
Conference

May 15-16

Armidale

Indigenous
Ministry Day

May 23

Narrabri

Lay Preaching
Day

May 30

Barraba

New Life
Conference

September 12

Tamworth

Synod

September 25-27

Tamworth

Youth Muster

November 13-15

Tamworth

Bishop: Rod Chiswell & Jenni

Registrar: Christopher Pears & Karen

Bishop's Assistant: Ian Millican & Melinda

Diocesan Deacon for Women: Julie Cook & Jim

Diocesan Trainer: Dave Freeman & Briony

Bishop's Secretary: Emily Speed

Diocesan Accountant: Caleb Dobos & Hannah

Accounts Assistant & DDF Administrative Officer: Samantha Brennan & Chris

DDF Accounts Assistant: Anita Thomas & David

Archivist: Shirley Dawson



Julie



Anita



L-R: Caleb, Emily, Ian, Rod, Sam, Dave, Christopher



Give thanks for:

- The Diocesan Staff Team: Rod, Ian, Christopher, Julie, Dave, Emily, Samantha, Anita and Caleb. Give thanks for the warmth and cohesiveness of the team and for the way they use their various gifts to further God's kingdom.
- Answers to prayer in raising up workers for the Lord's harvest field in our Diocese.
- Our long history of faithful bible teaching, discipleship and evangelism.

Pray for:

- The Diocesan Team, that God will continue to equip us to serve the churches in our Diocese with wisdom, love and strength.
- Ongoing recruitment of godly clergy and ministry workers who love God's people and proclaim his word faithfully.
- Safety in travel, good health and energy for the team, especially Rod and Jenni.
- The many Diocesan events this year. Pray that people will make the most of these opportunities for fellowship, celebration, encouragement and equipping.

