



Gippsland Anglicans

*Committed in Christ
Connecting in Service
Creative in Spirit*



Our Vision 2021 – 2024

www.gippsanglican.org.au

Vision Renewal – a journey

In the first long COVID lockdown in the winter of 2020, we began a journey to renew our diocesan Vision. We used the different pace of the next nine months to enter into some deep listening and intentional conversation, as we moved towards the launch of our new Vision for 2021 – 2024 at the Synod Eucharist in May 2021, on the Feast of the Ascension.

The process was underpinned by the acronym 'CREDO', which unpacks to: Consult, Reflect, Engage, Dream and *Oremus* ('let us pray').

We designed some 'brainstorming' exercises for different groups of people across the Diocese to engage with together, in person where possible and online. These included the diocesan staff team (senior clergy and lay leaders), the newly formed Executive Committee of Bishop-in-Council and B-i-C as a whole, diocesan clergy on Zoom catch-ups, parish based focus groups, a regional deanery, and Synod members in break-out groups during our memorable 'Zoom' Synod of November 2020.

Hundreds of people participated in these workshops and forums across the Diocese over those months, and the responses we received – including from voices beyond our parishes and ministry centres – have directly shaped the renewed diocesan Vision 2021 – 2024, which is being taken up in many ways in our churches, schools, and agencies.

Through various different exercises, as we reflected on the disruption of the pandemic and other local and global forces bearing upon our ministry context, we asked you the following questions:

- What should we start doing?
- What should we stop doing?
- What should we keep doing?
- Imagine if ...
- What are you worried about?
- What is important to you?
- What are the bright spots in your ministry setting?

The answers to these questions – your answers as Gippsland Anglicans – are reflected in the following



We acknowledge the First Nations people of this region as the traditional custodians of the land on which the Diocese of Gippsland serves, and pay our respects to past, present and emerging Elders of the GunaiKurnai, Boonwurrung, Bidawal and Ngarigo/Monero peoples.

Vision Renewal Prayer

pages, both in the Vision document itself in its expanded form here, and in the 'wordles' which seek to capture graphically the thousands of words written on post-it notes, white boards, apps, and collated by the scribes of small groups.

Thank you for coming on the journey towards the launch of the Vision in 2021. Now we invite you to continue the journey as we live into and out of this Vision towards 2024, looking always to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith (Heb 12:2).



+ *Rhd*
Gippsland

O God,
your Son taught us to pray
that your Kingdom would come,
and your will be done on earth:
kindle in our hearts
that just and gentle rule;
stir up in our churches
the courage to proclaim your love;
renew in us the same mind that was in him,
who emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant.

Grant us your vision,
quicken us with your grace,
and call us into your future;
show us your purpose
for this Diocese of Gippsland,
that we may share in your mission
to the world in Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.





Committed in Christ

Gippsland Anglicans are grounded in Christ. We engage with the Church's living traditions as intentional inclusive communities where all are welcome, respected, safe, and valued.

Our identity is shaped by

- **Scripture** studied with reverence and rigour
- **Worship** that unites and inspires
- **Ministry** exercised by all the baptised
- **Prayer** which opens hearts to grace
- **Diversity** received as a gift of creation
- **Growth** in belonging and believing





Deep roots, wide branches

Our roots go deep into Christ, and we drink from the springs of the living Word and the sacraments, studying the Bible regularly – at home, in groups and online. We join in worship of different styles, times and places, aiming for meaningful language and uplifting music. With a new flexibility in these uncertain times, we worship indoors, outdoors and online, within our parishes and across them, and across denominations. We actively welcome all who come in, and we create welcoming spaces in our town centres.

Prayer matters. It takes us places, both spiritually and physically – walking a rail trail or labyrinth,

sitting at the water's edge or in silent contemplation in a garden. Wherever we are, prayer opens us to God. As communities of Christ's disciples, we are discovering our ministries while growing in our relationships with God and each other. We are branching up and out.

Where are your roots looking to deepen? What new places are your branches reaching?

'Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season...'

Psalm 1: 2,3





Connecting in Service

Gippsland Anglicans share in Christ's mission. We hold fast to the vision of human flourishing Jesus called 'the Kingdom of God' and we reach out in partnership with good news for all.

Our ministry is marked by

- **Listening** to people's lived experience
- **Looking** outward in meeting needs
- **Speaking** into the big questions of the day
- **Reconciling** where there is injustice or injury
- **Building** up communities of care and trust
- **Acting** for the good of earth and all creatures





Open hands and hearts

As Jesus reached out his hands to heal and restore, to feed and to bless, to die and to rise, offering life to all, so we reach out to others in our local communities and beyond. As Jesus listened, so we pay attention to the needs of the young and old, the hurting, the isolated and lost. As Jesus saw and satisfied the needs of those he met, so we go out, often in partnership with others, to meet needs in our communities through many initiatives, such as homework clubs or school mentoring, starting a community garden, supplying meals or serving in our op shops. Our life in Christian community, where we grow as disciples of Christ, equips

us to be better ambassadors for Christ, embodying and speaking good news. We have a ministry of reconciliation, following in Christ's footsteps – reconciliation with God and each other, with First Nations people and with creation, working for peace, justice and restoration.

As you listen deeply and widely, what needs are you hearing? Where is reconciliation most needed among those you serve?

'God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself... So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.'

2 Cor 5: 19a, 20a





Creative in Spirit

Gippsland Anglicans are open to Christ's leading. We seek to respond to changing needs and new understandings, to be faithful and imaginative in bearing stories of hope for our time and place.

Our calling is discovered by

- **Reflection** on what disruption teaches us
- **Readiness** to try new things and ideas
- **Engagement** with local communities
- **Collaboration** in small and large projects
- **Empowerment** of children and young people
- **Generosity** in the use of our resources





Wings of the Spirit

Disruption has been hard, but the Spirit has given us wings – of many shapes and colours. Opening our wings to the wind of the Spirit, we're lifted up, and we're flying into new freedom – trying things out, being flexible and creative in the use of our buildings, and in how we use technology. There's a new spirit of cooperation, as we find we need each other more, inside and outside of our churches. We're working in partnership with schools and mission agencies, sometimes sharing people and resources when

that offers greater possibilities, or partnering in leadership training. We collaborate with organisations outside the church as well, to meet local and global needs with generosity and hope.

What shape and colour are your wings? Where is the Spirit taking you?

'Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles...'

Isaiah 40: 31



START



Further conversation starters:

- What would you like to see start in your setting, and why?
- What frees people to move forward?

Responses to 'Imagine if...? What would you most like to do/change/see happen...?'



Further conversation starters:

- What would you like to see happen in / with your buildings?
- What would help you to engage young people?
- What would help you to grow stronger prayer communities?

Responses to 'What are you worried about in the Diocese/your ministry setting?'



Further conversation starters:

- What is helping to address isolation?
- What effect does worry over finances and sustainability have?
- What helps when you are worried?

Responses to 'These things are important to us (i.e. must not be lost moving forward)'



Further conversation starters:

- What is it about being Anglican that you most value?
- Why is worship so important to you?
- Why is prayer so important?

Responses to 'What are the bright spots in the Diocese/your ministry setting?'



Further conversation starters:

- What is disruption teaching people in your setting?
- What new ministries have started or could start as a result?
- What new forms of cooperation are emerging?



The Diocese of Gippsland's policies and ministry practices reflect a culture of respect and a duty of care in ensuring our centres of worship and outreach are safe places for all.

www.gippsanglican.org.au/safe-church