



GROWING THE FAITH IN
COOMA - BREDBO - ADAMINABY
JERANGLE - NUMERALLA - NIMMITABEL

#### Forward - Chair, Parish Council Karen Clark

# Welcome to Vision 2030: A New Chapter for Our Church

Parish Council are excited to share with you Vision 2030, an inspiring vision for the next five years of our parish.

Parish Council has a deep desire to see people grow in faith andwelcome new people into our parish community. This initiative is about sharing the gospel, strengthening our bonds, and expanding the impact of our faith.

As we look ahead, we invite you to be a part of this exciting journey. Your feedback is invaluable to us, and we would love to hear your thoughts on the ideas and plans we have for the future of our parish. Together, we can build a vibrant, welcoming, and spiritually enriched community. Join us as we move toward a bright and promising future with Vision 2030.

"And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."

Mark 16:15

## Forward - Locum Rector Rev. Martin Christensen

Let our plans be God's plans; let us call on and pray to God and He will listen; seek God and find Him when we seek him with all our hearts. (from Jeremiah 29:12-13)

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## **Background**

Cooma and the surrounding area has had a strong tradition of Christian worship since the arrival of the Rev. E.G. Price in 1843. However, despite a significant proportion of the local population identifying as Anglicans, it appears many have moved away from regular church attendance or from actively participating in the local Anglican community. A combination of ageing congregations, changing demographics, and evolving societal attitudes suggests that the status quo is unlikely to sustain the church through to 2030 and beyond. Without an active, functioning, worshipping church congregatoion it will be increasingly hard to proclaim the gospel in the Monaro and to make Christ known in the community.

## **Aim**

The aim of Vision 2030 is to provide a framework for spreading the Gospel throughout the parish and growing the church so that it continues to serve Christ and the community into the future.

## **Our Mission**

To know Christ and make Him known.

#### **Our Vision**

To be a vibrant, supportive, Christ-centred church that is welcoming to all and that actively encourages God's work in the community.



# Our Parish

St Bartholemew's
Bredbo



St John's Adaminaby

## **Adaminaby**

Population: 339 Families: 74 Median Age: 52 Anglicans: 55

## **Bredbo**

Population: 392 Families: 114 Median Age: 43 Anglicans: 59.

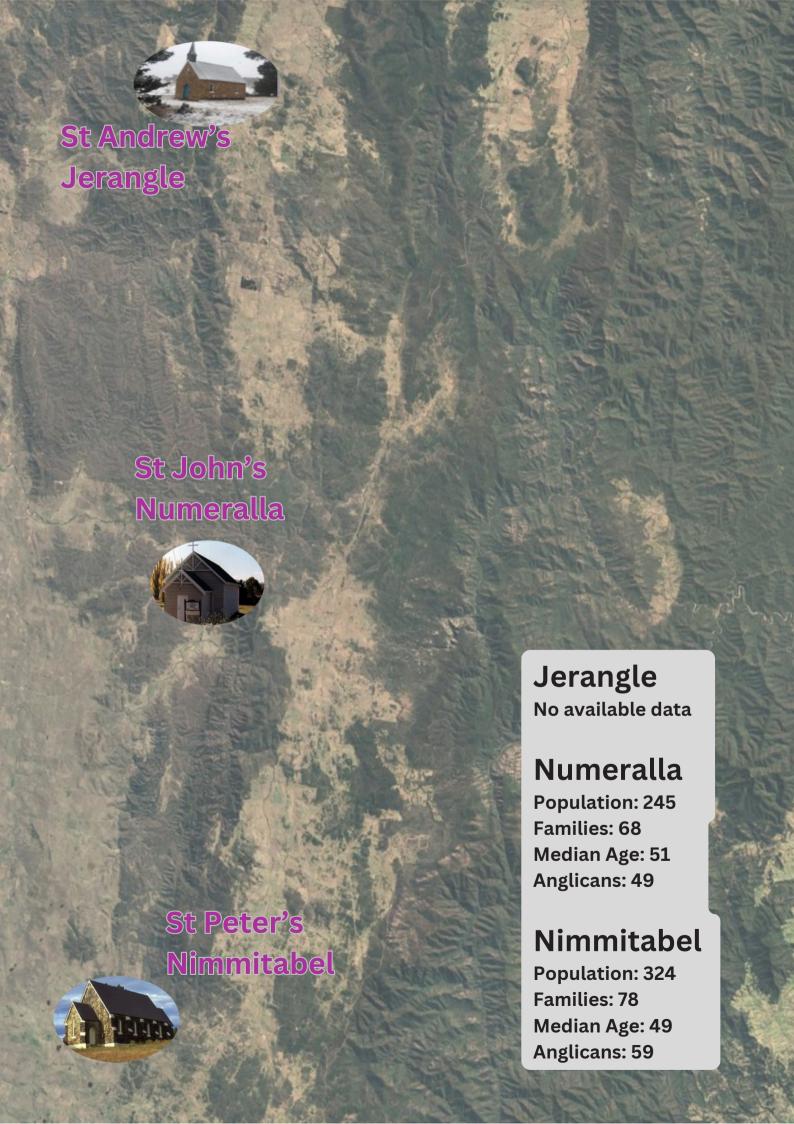
## Cooma

Population: 6,447 Families: 1,628 Median Age: 43 Anglicans: 977



St Paul's Cooma

Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2021



#### **Our Values**

Our values guide everything we do as a church. They define who we are, how we interact with each other and how we engage with the local community. As a church we will live by our values of being:

#### **Christ Centred**

Christ is at the very center of our faith, our lives, and everything our church does. We seek to act as ambassadors of our faith, to personally know Christ, and to make him known throughout the wider community.

#### Committed to safe and supportive fellowship

We are all created in the image of God. We recognise God's love by ensuring our church is a supportive, vibrant community where everyone feels welcome, respected and safe.

#### **Community focused**

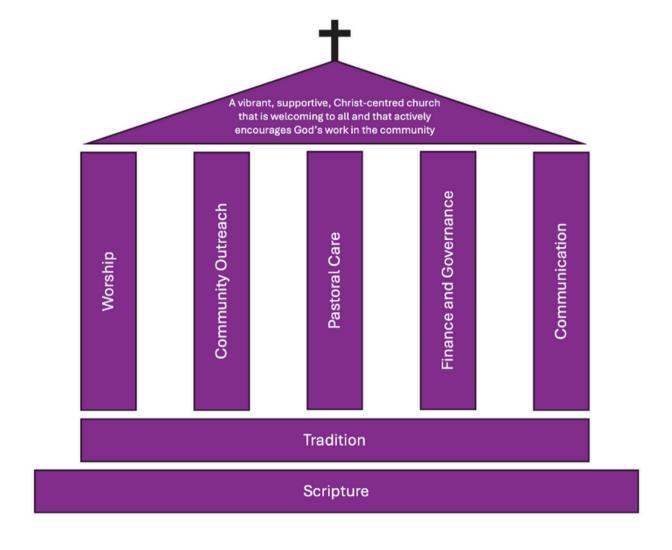
Christ commanded us to spread the Gospel and be beacons of light in the world. As a church, we look outwards to the wider community so that we can engage with those outside the church in order to illuminate God's grace and love for humankind.



## Vision 2030

We need to coordinate a number of activities across different areas of ministry if we are to be a vibrant, supportive, Christ-centred church that is welcoming to all and that actively encourages God's work in the community.

Vision 2030 is underpinned by five pillars, all of which are based on the solid foundations of scripture and the rich Anglican tradition that has served us so well in the past.



Activities will be synchronised across these five pllars at the begining of each year, so that resources - including volunteers and time - can be effectively allocated to achieve best effect. Each of these activies will have associated, measurable goals that - if met - will build towards our overall vision being achieved.

## Worship

Worshipping God, as a community of faith, is central to us as Christians and as a church. There are many different forms of worship. As a church we seek to be as inclusive as we can, while also respecting the traditions which have served the church so well for centuries and provide so much comfort to those who are familiar with them.

Holy Communion is one of the two sacraments within the Anglican church and the cornerstone of Anglican worship. As Timothy Radcliffe writes, "All our experiences of what it means to be alive, to find and lose meaning, to delight and suffer, are illuminated by the Eucharist and illuminate it in turn. It is the sacrament of our joy, freedom and hope". As such, it is wholly appropriate that, as a church, we continue to offer a weekly Holy Communion service in the parish.

However, Holy Communion services may be less appealling to those families with young children and to youth/young adult congregations. Therefore, we will seek to expand the range of worship services we offer so that, by 2030, we have self-sustaining congregations comfortable with worshipping God through both tradtional and more contemporary services. We will also use technology, as well as home visits, to better connect with those who may not be able tio make services in person.



## **Community Outreach**

An outward-facing, community-focused church, that is active across the parish, needs to proactively seek out ways with which to engage with the community in which it lives. Vision 2030 will connect with the wider community across three areas:

#### **Christian Outreach Courses**

We will use the established Alpha courses - which include an emphasis on shared fellowship, as well as developing a greater understanding of the tenets of our faith - to reach out to the local community. These will be programed across the church calendar to complement worship activities.



#### **Community Support**

As a church we will seek to support extant community events, such as local fundraising activities, carol services, ANZAC Day and the Nummarella Folk Festival. Other events will be supported as and when church congregations have capacity.



#### **Community Meals**

We will identify opportunities to invite local people to us, so that we can serve the wider community through food and fellowship. This may take the form of providing occassional evening meals (such as for those who live alone or for families who have young children), lunches celebrating the Saints' Days of our churches, or special events in the calendar, such as Maunday Thursday or Pentecost.

## **Pastoral Care**

Pastoral care is central to the parish's core value of providing supportive followship for parishioners. Pastoral care activities can include phone call check-ins, home and hospital visits, and support following bereavement. Most of the parish's pastoral care is currently provided by two extremely hard-working lay parishioners, supported by the locum Rector where and when he can. As the congregation ages, the pastoral care requirement is likely to increase and there may come a time when it is neither fair nor reasonable to expect two lay members to provide pastoral care support across the entire parish.



By 2030, the parish will seek to have created decentralised, regionally-focused pastoral teams that can provide support to parishioners while lightening the load on the current team. These teams will be formed by volunteers with an interest in pastoral care and the parish will support them with focused training sessions annually.

## **Finance and Governance**

While the church does not seek to be a profit-making organisation, it will need to remain financially viable if it is to be a vibrant, supportive, Christ-centred church that is welcoming to all and that actively encourages God's work in the community. Moreover, the ability to attract permanent clergy, even in a part-time basis, will depend on the parish being able to cover the salary and superannuation requirements that come with the position. Contrary to what some people think, our parish does not receive any external funding (neither Diocese nor government) to support its operations or the maintenance of its buildings. We rely entirely on the support of our parishioners and other donors. Therefore, sound finances and good governance are essential if are to be able to achieve our mission and our vision.

As part of Vision 2030, a finance and fundraising working group will be established that will focus on this area, reporting back to parish Council on a monthly basis.

Governance remains the responsibility of parish Council to ensure we meet all of our legislated obligations, including WHS standards, reports to Diocese, and Safe Ministry requirements.

## **Communications**

Communicating who we are, and what we believe, is a critical part of providing supportive fellowship and engaging in the community. This is particularly the case in a large rural parish, where parishioners may find themselves physically dislocated from a place of worship.

Vision 2030 will be underpinned by a comprehensive, multi-faceted communications plan that will modernise our website and social media prescence, improve connections between the worship centres, and engage with the local community.

"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds".

Hebrews 10:24

