

Catching the Wind

St George's Church — Ministry Priorities 2026

Recognising the sails we need to catch the current winds

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." - John 3:8

We believe God is already moving at St George's. Rather than trying to manufacture momentum, we want to recognise where the Spirit is already at work and raise the sails to catch the wind. These priorities are not separate programs but connected movements that deepen our community as we journey together.

Steady Winds

Life Groups

There is already a strong community at St George's through existing groups, including new initiatives emerging organically within the congregation. However, it is currently difficult to know what groups are available or be empowered to start a group. Revitalising small group ministry is a discipleship and structural priority. We want life groups to become a key place of discipleship, belonging, prayer, friendship, and pastoral care, especially in an increasingly anxious and disconnected world.

How you might be involved

- Be a part of our 'Steady Winds' guiding team
- Join a life group
- Have a discussion in current life group about welcoming new members or splitting for growth
- Start or host a short-term group
- Consider your current interests (sport, reading, craft, etc) and consider how this can be the basis for a social life group
- Invite new people to your groups

Welcoming, Connecting & Integrating New People

Many new people are visiting St George's and experiencing warmth, openness, and spiritual curiosity. We are already a welcoming church, but we recognise to best catch the wind of all the new visitors we need to develop a more structured pathway from first visit to belonging for those who feel drawn to our community. We want to cultivate a more active, intentional welcoming culture and **create a clear integration pathway: Sunday → welcome → life group → community.**

How you might be involved

- Join the welcome or follow-up team
- Invite newcomers for coffee or lunch (lunch roster)
- Help deepen a culture of hospitality
- Assist with newcomer events and connection

Fresh Winds

Youth Ministry

God is stirring spiritual hunger among our young people. We are seeing deeper questions and enthusiasm following Easter Camp, alongside a growing number of younger youths coming on Fridays. We want to create a sustainable, discipleship-focused youth ministry by:

- Deepening intentional faith formation for older youth
- Supporting and growing volunteer leaders
- Exploring partnerships with local schools

Our current way of doing things has relied heavily on the investment and input of Callum, Evan and Millie. The team has been stretched and is not sustainable long-term. This year there's been a large influx of younger youth, changing the dynamics substantially. We've identified three distinct threads: a potential partnership with a school to enable a paid youth worker, deepening spiritual formation of our older youth, and ensuring the volunteer leader base is strong enough to sustain it all.

How you might be involved

- Volunteer or explore youth leadership (don't rule yourself out of this!)
- Pray for young people and leaders
- Offer hospitality for gatherings or social events
- Mentor younger people in faith
- Financially support future school partnership initiatives and/or paid youth worker

Young Adults

Globally and in NZ, a growing number of young adults are spiritually seeking, looking for authentic community, spiritual depth, and spaces where faith and real-life meet. We see young people come to St George's and seem to enjoy it, but we are not having much traction connecting them in because we have little current offerings in this space. We want to foster community, belonging, mentoring, and leadership opportunities for young adults through intentional connection points and supportive structures.

How you might be involved

- PRAY!
- Be a part of our 'Fresh Winds' guiding team
- Join or help lead a young adult gathering
- Become a mentor
- Encourage and include younger adults in church life

Other Winds

Alongside these priorities, we also recognise these important movements already alive within our church community:

Continue Developing Ministry to Reflect the Diversity of St Georges

We are grateful that God is drawing more people from different cultural backgrounds. The Church is committed to God is raise up younger leaders in all areas of mission and ministry. Opportunities:

- Bring your gifts and culture as an offering in our worship
- Review and refresh the current rostering system for sustainability and inclusion
- Have a worship workshop training.

ESOL Ministry & Community Relationships

God is building meaningful relationships through ESOL and Alpha, particularly within the Chinese community. Opportunities:

- Hospitality and friendship
- ESOL and Alpha support
- Cross-cultural connection and prayer

Te Tiriti Honouring Mission Partnership

As we did with Te Papapa School, we sense a call to a new missional partnership that reflects the fact that we are a Treaty people as an Anglican church in Aotearoa. Opportunities:

- Learning and listening
- Prayer and pilgrimage
- Supporting a partnership initiative

Eco Church

We believe caring for creation is part of Christian discipleship and worship. St George's holds an Eco Church certification, but there is much room for growth in this area to really be a living commitment. Opportunities:

- Join the Eco Church team
- Volunteer to for practical sustainability initiatives or creation-focused teaching and prayer

An Invitation

This vision is not about creating more activity. It is about joining the movement of the Spirit already present among us.

The invitation is simple:

Pray. Participate. Encourage. Lead where called. Help us catch the wind together