

MEET OUR 2023 PARISH COUNCIL

With great thanks to God, the 2023 Parish Council was elected on November 20. Please be *praying* for our Parish Council as they take responsibility for the governance of our church. Please also *give thanks* for the unique ways in which God has gifted each person and the ways in which they use their lives for his glory. This year I'm delighted that we welcome three new members: Tess Kelly, Carrie Roberts, and David Robinson. *In Christ, Adam*



Wendy Brodribb (Churchwarden)

Frontlines: *I serve Jesus as a wife (to Rob), mother and grandmother, as a Church Warden and Small Group leader at St Bart's.*

Background: I am a retired medical practitioner where I mainly worked in the areas of women's health and completed a PhD in 2009. Subsequently, I worked as an academic at UQ in the general practice area. As a volunteer I have been a member and chair of the boards nationally and internationally.

Vision 2025: I am most excited that we are looking at making & maturing disciples of Jesus, not only now, but laying foundations for years to come.



John Cuff (Churchwarden)

Frontlines: *I serve the Lord as husband (to Lyndell), father (to Joel, Jonathon, and Karissa), volunteer and neighbour.*

Background: Born on the mission fields (PNG), raised in C/Qld, with eclectic background. My training is in engineering and theology with a passion for the kingdom of God, advancing his cause and foreshadowing the coming restoration in the new heavens and new earth.

Vision 2025: I'm excited by it because it's seeking first the kingdom of God, just as Jesus said, and doing so as his fellow-workers with enthusiastic grace.



Neil Anderson (Parish Council & Synod Representative)

Frontlines: *Husband, Dad, Small Group leader, Alpha facilitator, Co-worker, cyclist, enthusiastic fisherman.*

Background: Since my training in finance, I have worked in senior management positions in the energy, agribusiness and infrastructure sectors in Australia, England and Scotland.

Vision 2025: I'm excited about our strategic mission goals, especially extending reach and improving footprint.



Peter Choi (Parish Council)

Frontlines: *I serve Jesus as husband to Phoebe, Dad to my children, Dental Practitioner to patients, colleague & employer to my staff.*

Background: I was born in Korea, raised in NZ, and now in Australia since 2008. Training to run business as mission (BAM) but finding it very challenging. Have been attending Korean speaking church all my life but decided to come to St Bart's in 2019 and have been really enjoying it since!

Vision 2025: Everything! But I am particularly interested in mission. Breaking through cultural, *geographical* or language barrier with work of gospel, I am happy to be part of it.



Jodie Gunders (Parish Council & Nominator)

Frontlines: *I am a mum to Noah and Lucy, wife to Peter and work full time at the ABC, leading rural coverage and running the regional traineeship program.*

Background: My background is in journalism and I am also a registered teacher. I am involved in the school our children attend (Mary Mackillop Catholic College) as a member of the Parent Partnership Forum executive.

Vision 2025: I am so excited by the potential for further growth at St Bart's, particularly in the areas of children's and youth ministry and the opportunities we have to serve diverse communities.



Tess Kelly (Parish Council)

Frontlines: *I serve Jesus as a daughter, sister, friend, junior doctor, and 6PM Hello team leader at St Bart's.*

Background: I grew up on a farm on the Darling Downs and attended secondary school in Toowoomba before relocating to Brisbane to study medicine. My final years of study brought me back to Toowoomba for placement and I have worked at the Base Hospital since graduating in 2020.

Vision 2025: I am excited about Extending Reach and Improving Footprint, as we seek to make disciples of all nations and grow as responsible stewards of God's creation.



Ben Mienert (Parish Council)

Frontlines: *Husband to Aischa, Father to Ziyah & Nova. St Bart's mission liaison person.*

Background: We have helped lead youth groups and a number of SU camps. Internationally, we spent 18 months overseas across ~10 countries working alongside and serving missionary families. After this time, I completed an internship at Church by the Bridge (Sydney). I am studying education to one day qualify for a long-term visa for future global mission.

Vision 2025: Actively Planting and Extending Reach are in-line with my passion to reach the lost and unloved.



Trish Rathie (Parish Council, Synod Representative, Nominator)

Frontlines: *I serve Jesus as a wife to Lachlan and mum to Rebecca, Peter and Julia. I also work part time as a GP.*

Background: I graduated as a doctor in 1993 and trained to be a rural GP - working in rural areas as part of my training. We moved to Toowoomba due to my husband's work and have been here for 18 years. I have also been involved in medical education and have a Masters in Medical Education.

Vision 2025: I am excited about the opportunity to better equip God's people so they can grow in their relationship with Christ and point others to Jesus through the way in which they live.



Carrie Roberts (Parish Council)

Frontlines: *I serve Jesus as a daughter and sister, as a Chiropractor and at St Bart's Kids and 6PM music.*

Background: I grew up on a property west of Toowoomba, studied my degree in Sydney and moved to Toowoomba in 2019 for my first post-graduate job.

Vision 2025: I love the breadth and depth of the whole vision, but I am particularly excited about improving our stewardship of God's creation with Improving Footprint.



David Robinson (Parish Council)

Frontlines: *I serve Jesus as a husband (to Robyn), grand/father, uncle and son-in-law. I also enjoy interacting with a diverse range of people while playing golf.*

Background: I was raised in Toowoomba in a strong Christian family and it is good to be back after 40 years. I spent my working life as a teacher, principal, and administrator.

Vision 2025: Making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ for God's glory is a fantastic mission that I'm humbled to be part of. I have a particular interest in the goal of 'Extending the Reach'; *with an emphasis on the most vulnerable in our community.*



John Strachan (Parish Council & Nominator)

Frontlines: *I serve on the Parish Council and also help out with Small Groups, Ridley, and our ministry to Symes Thorpe Aged Care. I live in a gated community and there are lots of opportunities to interact with our 19 close neighbours.*

Background: I've been a Christian for nearly 60 years and never regretted it for a minute. I taught Primary children in State Schools for 35 years.

Vision 2025: I'd encourage anyone interested in developing their gifts through serving God and the Church to consider applying for one of our intern positions.



Kate Venables (Parish Council)

Frontlines: *I serve as a spouse (to Cam), mum (to 3 adult kids), the CEO of CatholicCare and the President of the Chamber of Commerce.*

Background: I have worked in the Community Sector for more than 20 years in a variety of leadership roles. I have had the privilege of serving in a number of community leadership roles and am passionate about ensuring good governance drives strategic decision-making and supporting the operationalising of people's passion and commitment.

Vision 2025: I'm excited about better equipping God's people so they can grow in relationship with Christ and point others to Jesus.



Bec Vonhoff (Parish Council)

Frontlines: *I serve as a Mum to three gorgeous children, wife to Garrett, elected representative in local government, community member, farmer/fencer when Dad needs me, friend, and colleague.*

Background: I'm a former journalist with a PhD in German history. I work in politics and governance.

Vision 2025: I'm excited about faithfully and deliberately planning for our future.