



Get to Know Living Water

Pathway to membership and serving

*As each has received a gift,
use it to serve one another...*

1Peter 4:10



living water
ANGLICAN CHURCH

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WHY JOIN A CHURCH?

Being a member of a local church is a physical expression of our spiritual union with Jesus Christ and is vital for the health and maturity of our faith. Every believer is to have a Christian community of local belonging; a community within which believers are known and loved, give and receive care, have spiritual oversight through pastoral leadership and use their gifts and abilities for the building up of the church and the common good. The principle of committed belonging for every follower of Jesus undergirds all the teaching about the church and her call to love and mission in the Bible.

OUR STORY SO FAR...

Living Water began as a church plant from St John's Church, York Street, Albany, in 1998, and part of the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury.

From the start Living Water was intentional in being a church that would bear witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ: where everyone would feel welcome, children would be included, worship would be contemporary and meaningful, and where Jesus and his mission would be the centre and focus of everything.

A key aspect of our ministry of care and hope to our city are our Community Store and The Good Life Community Garden located onsite. These projects, and many others over the years, all form part of our ongoing commitment to be a community that loves Jesus and loves our neighbour.

As we look to the future, we are confident in the Lord, that the story we are living into will continue to bear witness to the love of God in Jesus

Christ. As we grow, our desire is to be a wellspring of 'living water' in this place, both as individuals and as a community for the benefit of our families, our friends, our city and beyond.

LIVING WATER'S DNA

DNA is fascinating because each of us is unique with distinctive characteristics and so much of this is determined by our DNA. As our physical bodies grow, it's our DNA that is replicated into each new cell and this determines how all the cells in our bodies will harmoniously function together.

In many ways every church also has a 'DNA' of distinctive characteristics that Jesus has formed us with. And as our church grows, it's this 'DNA' that we want to see replicated into new members so that we function together harmoniously as Jesus' body.

So what is Living Water's DNA?

We are a community that has come into existence through the **LOVE** of God in Jesus Christ. And this **LOVE** is expressed among us in these five key ways:



Passion for **JESUS**

We believe he's the centre of all of life: the Son of God, the Lord and Saviour of the world! He's the reason for living, and without him it's impossible to know God as he truly is: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe the Bible and its testimony about him, and we deeply sense his joyful call on us to make him known in Albany and the rest of the world.

Love for **COMMUNITY**

We believe following Jesus is something that we do together. We love sharing life with one another. For this reason, Life Groups are at the heart of our church because in these small groups we find acceptance and belonging as we learn to live in the love of Jesus. We learn to give and receive care in times of need, we learn to pray, to serve, and we learn generosity as we grow in humility, forgiveness and grace. God's love is experienced in the love of his people in community.

Commitment to the **MINISTRY** of all

We believe Jesus has gifted each one of us for the ministry of building one another up. We need each other! And although we all have different gifts and different areas of responsibility, we are all equally valuable for our health and growth as a body. Serving one another and together serving our city, is our great joy and privilege.

Love for **PRAYER**

We believe one of the most wonderful experiences of our life in Jesus is that God hears and answers us when we pray. As such, prayer is a 'generative' engagement with God in that as we pray, our faith is strengthened, our hearts encouraged and our lives shaped by his loving goodness. Whether we are praying privately or in prayer groups,

in healing ministry groups, contemplatively or corporately on Sundays, prayer remains our foundational life-giving experience in Jesus.

Enduring **JOY**

God's Spirit is at work in us and he brings us joy! This joy lives in us because Jesus laid down his life for us and was resurrected for our reconciliation with God. Being loved by God makes our joy complete and binds us together across all ages: from our precious children to our enthusiastic seniors. In everyday life and when we gather on Sundays we love to celebrate and rejoice in what Jesus has done for us.

The love of God continues to transform us individually and as a community and these five marks are the fruit of his life in us.

VISION'24

VISION'24 is our 5 year (2020-2024) vision to guide us as we follow Jesus and his call on us to love and mission. VISION24 grew out of our times spent together in 2019 where we, as a church, in prayer, conversation and discernment, considered God's shaping and leading of us, and the future he might be calling us into.

Jesus has a glorious vision for his church - people gathered round him from every tribe, nation and tongue, cleansed of their sins with hearts full of praise. This is our future. This is the kingdom we are living into, and it is glorious!

By 2024 We see...

1. Gospel Progress

We see a church rejoicing in the love of God, led by the Holy Spirit and prioritising evangelism, discipleship and the equipping of believers. The preaching is compelling and there's a high emphasis and confidence in the Bible and its witness to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. We see church members intentionally mentoring one another. Contemporary technology and media are used in the tasks of mission, discipleship and training.

2. Worship

We see people of all ages and backgrounds worshipping at three Sunday services. Each service having a distinct style, meeting its missional goals and sharing a common identity. There is high quality community engagement through Easter and Christmas. We see music and creative arts encouraged and developed to enhance our worship and outreach.

3. Embodied Hope

We see a vibrant community of people who serve and love others... not detached or distant, but as hope come-to-life: hope personified. This overflows into our city through the ministry of the Community Store, Community Garden, and various avenues of compassionate outreach. We see the store and garden becoming known throughout our city as community-making and well-being assets. They refresh and connect people, enriching life and pointing to hope in Jesus. We see people coming to faith in Jesus through the attractive love and care of his people.

4. Prayer and Pastoral

We see a large team of passionate pray-ers for the church and the broader community. We see a growing healing prayer ministry and prayers regularly lifted up for urgent needs. We see the church pastorally caring for one another bringing healing and wholeness to one another.

5. Families and Children

We see Living Water as an exciting, enriching and inspiring place for children and families, with regularly organised discipleship and training opportunities for children and parents. Children can't wait to come to church because of the love, friendship and truth they experience in Kid's Church and Creche. We see our Kids Ministry volunteers receiving high quality training and support. We see high quality and appropriate curriculums for children, grounding them in the truths of the faith. We see interactive ministry spaces, a weekly kids club and annual holiday kids club.

6. Youth and Young Adults

We see a number of Life Groups of young people led by well-trained leaders. We see Youth Church on Sundays and young people participating fully in the Sunday evening service. We see a youth camp, various youth events and opportunities to go deeper in Christian faith. We see school leavers deepening their faith through gap-year internships.

7. Men and Women

We see vibrant men's and women's ministries for all ages, each with groups for Bible study, fellowship and pastoral support. We see groups of

men and women involved in serving the church community and providing an access point for newcomers to quickly get connected into the life of the church.

8. Retirees and Seniors

We see our retirees and seniors flourishing in their faith in Christ actively participating and contributing in the life of the church. We see regular fellowship gatherings and social events. We see the Residential Aged Care ministry growing with new teams of volunteers able to bring the love of Christ to those who can't get to gatherings anymore.

9. Life Groups

We see seventy-five percent of our congregation meeting weekly or fortnightly in Life Groups. Our Life Groups are inclusive communities focused on making and maturing disciples. We see pastoral care and biblical teaching flourishing. We see Life Groups mobilised for mission, inviting new people, identifying one another's' gifts and serving the church community.

10. Promoting the Gospel - Beyond Ourselves

We see every member of Living Water as an ambassador for Christ, working to promote the gospel locally, in Australia and worldwide. We see members confident in conversations about Jesus and inviting people to services and events. We see a welcoming church with a deep commitment to love, inclusiveness and community. We see the gospel promoted through Living Water in Albany, the Great Southern and beyond.

SERVING AT LIVING WATER

'... the Son of Man (Jesus) did not come to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.' Mk10:45

To receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour means that we have been served by him in forgiving our sins and reconciling us to God. He has washed us. It is the most **profound** act of service ever...

'Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you...you will be blessed if you do them.' Jn 13:14ff

Like our lord we are called to serve others, and the goal of our service is to use our gifts and abilities and in the power of the Holy Spirit build one another up in our Christian lives. We need one another in order to grow and mature

*"⁷But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it...
...¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Eph 4*

WHO DO I CONTACT ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED?

Below you will find a number of ways that you can get involved serving at LWAC. If you would like to get involved or find out more about any aspect of service at LWAC then please do one of the following:

1. email admin@lwac.org.au with your enquiry and we will put you in touch with the ministry leader concerned.
2. fill in a Connect card at church, on our website or church app, indicating your area of interest to serve and we'll be in touch with you.

ALPHA COURSES

We run an ALPHA course each year after Easter. It is a significant evangelistic programme of our church. Are you interested in serving at Alpha?

People to invite friends and family, Table Facilitators, Cooks and kitchen hands

PRAYER

Prayer and Worship are the foundation of everything we do at Living Water. In prayer we come to God in praise and for help and healing, and we also come to God on behalf of others.

There are a number of ways in which you can serve in prayer:

Pray for members of our church each week

A great place to start is to pray for the 3 families of our church that we publish each week in the bulletin and e-news.

Intercessory Team

We have a team of intercessors who pray in their own time, guided by the weekly emails that are sent in response to people's requests for prayer. The team also meets Tuesday mornings in Community House at church for an hour to pray for the needs of Living Water members and the mission of the church.

PASTORAL CARE

Most of our pastoral care needs are met through our Life Groups where we encourage everyone to be involved in caring for one another. However, we also have a Pastoral Care team within Living Water to undertake and support this shepherding ministry.

Serving in this role requires training and Licensing for Pastoral Care.

MINISTRY TO PEOPLE IN RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE

To share the love of the Lord Jesus with people who live in Residential Aged Care. It is such a blessing and encouragement to the residents who are no longer able to fellowship at church.

Serving in this role requires training and Licensing for Extended Communion Ministry.

COMMUNITY STORE

The store provides good quality clothes and merchandise at very reasonable cost to the Albany community, as a way of providing Christian outreach. It is a store where everyone is welcome to come and browse or to have a chat. You could help with sorting and pricing of donations, serving our clients or making them a tea/coffee.

If you feel called to reach out to the community, then consider joining our awesome team of volunteers.

GOOD LIFE COMMUNITY GARDEN

We aim to demonstrate God's love through generosity, compassion and community. Gardening offers us beauty and simplicity and opportunity for connection and community.

Serving in the garden will assist in ensuring the Garden is a wonderful place for people to connect and share life.

GROUNDS & MAINTENANCE

We have great buildings and grounds that allow us to worship God together and to serve the wider community of Albany. Our site consists of the church building, Community House, Community Store, Good Life Community Garden shed and gazebo, and the church office building. We want God to be glorified through our use of all these buildings, which need to be maintained, as do the grounds.

Could you assist with maintenance needs on our site?

CREATIVE ARTS AND MUSIC

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest story ever told! Music, fine art, graphic design and media/video production are all key tools in helping us to tell this life-giving story for the benefit of our church and our broader community. Our team of creatives harness the power and beauty of the arts to lift Jesus up and invite us in to His story. There are three main creative areas in which you may like to share the creative gifts God has given you.

Could you assist with Art Installations, Media and Graphic Design, Music?

SOUND AND SCREEN

A vital ministry for our worship services is the one rarely seen! Operating the audio and screen systems. Previous experience and a tech mind is helpful but not essential, training will be provided. We have workshops once a quarter for training and to connect with others involved in services and the music teams.

Could you serve in Audi/Visual Ministry?

SUNDAY HOSTING

The aim of Sunday Hosting is to provide a welcoming presence to all who come to worship and ensure their comfort during the service.

We have welcomers at the Sunday morning and evening services.

Serving in this role is a great way to get to know the people of our church.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

"It takes a village to raise a child." We love supporting our families in raising their children to know and love God.

We provide children's programmes for the Sunday morning and evening services.

Are you gifted to inspire and nurture the spiritual growth of our children, to be a part of sowing spiritual seeds into the next generation?

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Our ministry with youth and young adults is mainly centred around involvement at our Sunday evening service (CU@5). Consider getting involved in youth / young adult ministry at LW.

Are you gifted in helping young people grow in discipleship?

KITCHEN MINISTRY

A ministry that welcomes one and all. Helping to provide the opportunity for warm fellowship over a cuppa or even a meal, and at the same time experiencing warm fellowship serving together in the kitchen.

Tea and Coffee

At Sunday services.

CU@5 meals ministry

If you like to cook for a crowd then we would love your help in cooking on a Sunday evening. We love to provide meals to enable deep fellowship and evangelistic connection.

Baking

If you like to bake, there are always opportunities to bless others in the life of the church.

Meals Ministry

When people are in need due to illness, recent bereavement, moving house or personal crisis, we like to be able to help with meals. We have a stash in the kitchen freezer or we make them fresh as needed.

SAFE CHURCH

The goal of Safe Church is to provide appropriately safe environments for everyone, especially those most vulnerable. Safe Church is an important aspect of our serving life and ensures that people who serve at different levels of responsibility are appropriately authorised to do so. Safe Church involves Working with Children Cards as well as some online training and identity verification documentation dependant on the different areas of service in the life of the church.

MEMBERSHIP

Pastoral Membership

Being a part of a local church (parish) is God's vision for the health and maturity of his people. By joining the Pastoral Roll of Living Water you are indicating:

- your affirmation of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour.
- your desire to know and be known to this congregation.
- your willingness to participate and support the ministry of the church, for the progress of its vision, values and goals.
- your support of the governance and leadership of the church.

Voting Membership

There is a second aspect to membership that concerns the annual meeting that is held each year, and voting rights associated with it. At our annual meeting various ministry reports are published, including; the audited financials for the year, a proposed budget for the year ahead, missions report and the Senior Minister's annual report. Office bearers are also elected at this meeting.

To be a voting member means:

You are a baptised, communicant (receiving communion) member who:

- Has regularly attended public worship for at least three months in a parish within the Diocese: and
- Has attained the age of 18 years: and

- Has taken communion at least three times in the parish in the preceding 12 months; and
- Has elected to be on the electoral roll of this parish and no other except with the approval of the Bishop.
- Is a member of this parish and no other.

The annual meeting at Living Water takes place in February each year, while the election of Office Bearers takes place in November each year.

GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

Living Water Anglican Church, Parish of Oyster Harbour, is part of the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury.

Parish Council

The church is formally served by Ministers (who are licensed by the Bishop), three wardens, as well as parish-elected councillors.

Altogether they constitute Parish Council (PC). All elections for Parish Councillors and wardens as well as Synod representatives take place at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP).

Finance

Living Water is responsible for all costs associated with the ministry of the church. We don't receive funding from any other source apart from the generosity of our members. 14% of our general giving is subject to

Diocesan assessment and is paid over to assist with Diocesan administration, global mission, and to support parishes in need.

Living Water is also committed to partnering with like-minded organisations in furthering the cause of Jesus in the wider world. Parish Council sets aside an additional 10% of our general giving to support partner mission and ministry organisations. These organisations are listed on our website. The remaining funds are used to fund staff, and all other parish costs.

Biblical Principles about Generosity and Giving

Generosity is a fruit of the Holy Spirit's work to transform our hearts into those that love the things that God loves. The scriptures call on all believers to be generous with their time, talents and treasure for the benefit of those in need (particularly those who cannot support themselves, those we might call 'the poor'), and for the progress of the gospel in the local church and beyond. Two reasons for this call to be generous are firstly, that generous and cheerful giving is pleasing to the Lord (2 Corinthians 9:7) and the second is because of the underlying stewardship principle that the Lord is creator, and therefore everything ultimately belongs to him. Our possessions are ultimately never our own; we are stewards, they are rather a trust from the Lord to be enjoyed, appreciated, shared and used for his glory.

The question of, 'How much should I give?', is one that only you can answer. We are each to give as the Lord leads and enables.

*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a **cheerful** giver." 2Cor 9:7*

How can I give?

1. Give in **cash** or **cheque** at Sunday services in the Locked Box on the wall at the entrance.

2. Use the **envelopes** provided at the church entrance. There are envelopes for weekly giving to the General Fund as well as to the Building Fund.

3. Direct deposit into our **General account**:

Living Water, BSB 706-001, AC: 30004022

Giving to the General Account assists the parish in meeting all costs of running the parish including staffing.

4. Direct deposit into our **Building Fund** account:

Living Water, BSB 706-001, AC: 30004023

Our Building Account receives donations that are used to meet our church Building Loan repayments exclusively.

5. Using your bank card to give via our **website** or **church app**.

Living Water Community Connection (LWCC):

The LWCC charity was formed in 2007 and is an incorporated body aiming to assist people who find themselves in necessitous circumstances due to poverty, sickness, suffering, misfortune, disability or helplessness as arouses compassion in the community. The charity has a management committee and guidelines and criteria which determine the eligibility of recipients. Eligibility is not dependent on being a member of Living Water Anglican Church.

Application Forms for assistance from LWCC can be received from the wardens of the church who are members of the LWCC management committee.

All donations to LWCC are **tax deductible**.

Donations can be made to:

LWCC,

BSB: 036-168,

AC: 265496

