

# What We Believe

## Who we are

First and foremost we are Christians. Christians are people who, by God's grace, have turned to trust in Jesus Christ as both Lord and Saviour.

We meet together as the church to relate with God and with one another. We listen to God as the Bible is read, explained and applied. We talk to God in prayer. We lovingly encourage one another to respond to God in faithful obedience. We also meet in small groups, and seek to express God's love in practical ways throughout the week.

We are committed to Christ's mission of making disciples of all nations. We believe this happens through the prayerful preaching of the gospel (about Jesus) in the context of loving personal relationships.

Within the St Paul's Carlingford group of churches we share staff, finances, youth ministry, specialist ministries and other resources. We are committed to a church planting project which aims to multiply congregations and ministries, so that by the end of 2013 we will be 20 congregations of about 150 people.

We are Anglicans. We share the history, resources, and theological foundations of the Anglican Church. We also share a commitment to the Archbishop of Sydney's goal of seeing at least 10% of Sydney regularly attending Bible based churches by the end of 2012.

## What we believe

Our theological position is reformed, evangelical, and protestant as reflected in the creeds and 39 articles of the Anglican Church.

We believe that salvation is by grace alone. We are sinful and undeserving of anything from God except his wrath. However, because of his great mercy, on account of Jesus death and resurrection, we can repent and be forgiven. Yet even this is the work of God.

We believe that salvation is by Christ alone. There is only one mediator between us and God - the man Jesus Christ. He is God's unique, sufficient and abundant provision for us.

Scripture alone is our supreme and sufficient authority in all matters of faith and doctrine. The Bible is God's revelation to us, the means by which he speaks. It is inseparable from God (who's word it is), Christ (whom it is about & who is himself the Word become flesh) and the Holy Spirit (who both inspired the Bible and enlightens the hearer/reader).

We believe in faith alone as the required response to God's grace in Christ. Obedience in no way contributes to salvation, but necessarily flows from it.

## What we aim to be...

**Christ focused.** Jesus is our Lord and our Saviour. He died and rose on our behalf. He is at the centre of God's plans for the world. *Colossians 1:28* - 'We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.'

**Bible based.** The Bible is the powerful and effective sword of the Spirit by which God calls us, guides us, transforms us and ultimately judges us. We seek to shape all we do by what God says in the Bible. *2 Timothy 3:16* - 'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.'

**Living godly lives.** We seek to be changed to be like Christ. At the heart of godliness is faith in Christ, love for others and hope in the return of Jesus and the world to come. *Titus 2:14 - '(Christ) gave himself to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.'*

**Serving one another in love.** God has united us into one body. We all have our part to play in building the church. *Ephesians 4:16 - 'From him (Christ) the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.'*

**Evangelistic.** Jesus gave his life so that others could be saved. An important aspect of godliness is sharing His concern to seek and save the lost through the preaching of the gospel message. *1 Corinthians 10:33-11:1 - ...'For I am not seeking my own good, but the good of many, so that they may be saved. Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.'*