

# St John's Anglican Church Canberra

## Pastoral Care Policy

Pastoral Care in a faith community is the broad, inclusive ministry of mutual support, healing and growth. Pastoral care is a response to the need that everyone has for warmth, nurture and respect.

- As a faith community we are committed to offering pastoral care to people, both within the congregation and in the wider community.
- Baptism is a calling and commissioning for ministry. Every baptised person is a minister of the Christian gospel.
- We recognise that pastoral care comes in many forms and at many different levels.
- The stipendiary clergy take responsibility for ensuring pastoral care is provided, either through them, through referral or by linking people to others.
- Parishioners are encouraged to contact the stipendiary clergy when there is a need for pastoral care, either for themselves or for someone else. Parishioners who are interested in offering their skills or being available to provide pastoral care are encouraged to inform the clergy.
- In addition, St John's will promote an intentional culture of pastoral care, where all the baptised are called to pastorally care for one another. An intentional culture of support and pastoral care will be fostered within our worshipping congregations, groups and networks to which people belong. In 2014 the parish will offer a course in listening skills to enable parishioners to improve their listening skills, to enhance their ministry to each other and to others beyond the church.
- Parishioners are actively encouraged both to care pastorally for one another, and to receive pastoral care, within their worshipping congregation, the parish groups to which they belong and their networks – e.g. Choir, Bible Study Groups, Mainly Music, Meditation Group, Grumpy Old Men, Cuppacomalong, Sunday Lunch Group, flower arranging, sacristan teams, etc.
- Stipendiary and honorary clergy provide pastoral care by visiting, building relationships, providing spiritual guidance and responding to pastoral requests, including times of illness, crisis, the death of loved ones, etc. Our Family Minister and Children's and Youth Minister assist them.
- St John's Care is our main focus for providing support and pastoral care to those in need in the wider community.
- A fundamental principle underlying pastoral care is the absolute need for confidentiality and people's right to privacy.

19 February 2014