At St Anselm’s we believe that there are seven areas that demand our attention. It is from these key areas of Church life that we derive our agenda and activity. Each key area of Church life relates to the fundamentals of the Christian journey, including the part we play as individuals and households in the St Anselm community.

Essentially being a community means that there are rights and responsibilities for everyone connected to our life together. It’s like being an Australian citizen. We have rights to safety and good government, and to have a free vote and to receive the services and supports we need flourish. We also have a responsibility to contribute to our nation’s life. We do this through our taxes and other financial contributions, and our involvement in the political process. More locally, we do this through our volunteering and other community engagement which enriches our neighbourhoods.

Our faith community has a similar shape. Each member (individuals and households) should expect first rate ministry when it comes to the worship we share together, the ways in which we support one another, in faith formation and development, through our fun and fellowship and in the way our leaders conduct business on our behalf.

We also have responsibilities in the household of faith. Anglicans are traditionally reluctant to discuss these early on in a person’s involvement in a Church but here we believe that Christians contribute as part and parcel of their
membership in the Body of Christ. Our responsibilities are generally referred to under the banner of Stewardship and are nicely summarised under the ‘3 T’s’ - time, talents and treasures.

- **Time:** This is a scarce commodity for most of us. Christians are called to make their faith and ministry a priority in the midst of many competing claims. Our responsibility is to make time for prayer, worship, study and service as God’s people in this place.

- **Talents:** This is all about how God has gifted us with so many skills and so much potential. Christians know that every person is unique and valuable and that everyone has a part in God’s plan for the world. The Church’s responsibility is to help every individual connected to our church to find a meaningful place within it. The individual’s responsibility is to discern an area where they might contribute to our life together (called ‘ministry’) and offer those talents to enhance our faith community.

- **Treasures:** This refers to the physical resources that we contribute to the ongoing life of the congregation. It relates primarily to our financial contribution towards the costs associated with offering the ministry and facilities we delight in here at St Anselm’s.

Every Christian is called to contribute to the life of our faith community. And like every other aspect of a disciple’s life we are to do this in an intentional manner. We do not give of our time, talents and treasures in a random or impulsive way. Rather, we are called to be thoughtful in how we contribute to our life together. We are to put God first if we can, allocating our availability, efforts and contributions ahead of time so that we can build up the life and ministry of our church.

It’s a big call in a world which is growing increasingly more demanding and chaotic. Here are some suggestions on how to be an intentional disciple.

**TIME**

**WORSHIP**

Within the life of our parish, the primary offering of our time is though our commitment to weekly worship and fellowship. Being with one another during these sacred times is a holy offering of ourselves to God and to one another. Sunday services are held each week at 9am, except for when there are five Sundays in the month. On these 5th Sundays we meet instead at 5pm for worship and a shared meal.

A mid-week Eucharist, followed by morning tea and a Bible Study, is held each Thursday at 9am. There is also a meditation group which meets each Wednesday morning at 8am.

Within the cycle of the Church Year, there are two occasions that are most significant. Every member of the parish is encouraged to make worship with our community an essential priority at these times. These are Christmas and Easter. Christmas commemorates the birth of Jesus, while Holy Week and Easter commemorates the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. These are the feast days upon which our faith is based and grounded. Being together with our fellow brothers and sisters feeds our spirits and builds our community. It’s like coming home for the holidays!

**PRAYER**

Committing to praying daily for one another, our community, and the world at large is another way that we, as Christians, are encouraged to exercise good stewardship of our time. Can we ever be ‘too busy’ to bring before God the needs of our people and the world, as well as our thanks and praise for the many blessings that God bestows on us each day?

To guide us in our prayers, the Prayer Chain circulates by email a list of prayer requests each week. There is also a prayer group that meets fortnightly to offer prayers of thanksgiving and praise.

If you would like to join the Prayer Chain or Prayer Group please contact the parish office.
SERVICES

St Anselm’s strives to be a place that is welcoming and inviting to each member who calls it their spiritual home, and each visitor who comes through our doors. Like our own homes where each family member plays their part in contributing to the life of the family home, so each member of our spiritual family are asked to play their part in contributing to the life of our spiritual home. There is much to do to make this so, and so we ask each member to commit to one or more of these three things - cleaning and set-up for Sunday worship, providing and serving morning tea, and maintaining our gardens and grounds.

There are also other areas of service, such as offering to provide transport to those who otherwise would not be able to get to church, making meals for the pastoral care team to distribute to those in need, and being part of our occasional ‘working bees’ to spruce up the church and gardens for special occasions.

To explore this further, please speak to a member of the clergy or the ministry area facilitator responsible for the particular role.

TALENTS

Each person in our community has talents, skills and abilities to share. We encourage every member to commit to at least one ministry within the parish as their way of serving our faith community.

These ministries range from reading the Scriptures during worship on Sundays, to ministering to our children and young people and controlling the audio visual system.

The Pastoral Handbook outlines the expectations of each of these ministries, and training is provided for each person wishing to take on a new ministry.

A roster is compiled on a quarterly basis to co-ordinate these different roles. If you wish to join one / more of the ministry teams, please speak to a member of the clergy or the ministry area facilitator responsible for the particular role.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Worship</th>
<th>One of the clergy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liturgical Assistant</td>
<td>Intercessor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reader</td>
<td>Musician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio-visual</td>
<td>Flower arranging</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pastoral Care</th>
<th>Cathy Slaughter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral Area Leader</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay Pastoral Minister</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellowship</th>
<th>Debi Baldini</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catering and hospitality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission and Outreach</th>
<th>Kate Castledine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission team</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spiritual Education</th>
<th>Gray Castledine and Mark McCracken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“First – third ministry” – ministry to those in the first 30 or so years of life – children, teens, and young adults.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult education – Bible Studies etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This is certainly not an exclusive list as there may be something that you are specifically gifted in and able to offer to our community. We’d love to hear about it!

**TREASURES**

Money and other resources are always awkward subjects between people. It is such a precious resource, and how we use our money and possessions is often a very personal matter. But our faith is all about what we treasure and hold close to our hearts - our sense of meaning, who we are and why we are here; becoming the person God made us to be; relationships, justice and cosmic matters. In that context maybe we are too tentative when we discuss this particular issue.

The people of God have always held to an intentional form of contribution to the life of the faith community. It looks like this:

1. We place God first when we budget. The giving of our first fruits (as per Deuteronomy 26: 1-2) is to acknowledge in thankfulness what God has done and provided for us. We give back to God in acknowledgement that all we have comes from Divine generosity.
2. We make our offering to God through Planned Giving. That is, an intentional and thoughtful approach to our contribution to the running of our Church.
3. As we consider what we can offer in this way we are encouraged to offer a ‘tithe’. In its purest form this is one tenth of what we have to spend in our weekly budget. In practice most people allocate a certain percentage of their available funds and set that aside for God’s work.
4. We then revise this giving up or down depending on circumstances. In good times (after a promotion and higher salary), bad times (a job loss or financial setback), and an annual revision of what we give and how it should be adjusted. How much we give (although important) is secondary to the thought that goes into our giving and the manner in which we offer our contribution.
5. We make our money available to the Church. Ideally we do this in a way that helps our leadership make responsible financial budgets and decisions on our behalf. Here at St Anselm’s we have two methods of making our offering:

   **i) Through Direct Debit**

   This is our preferred way of giving as it provides a reliable and consistent income. It helps us to budget and simplifies how we handle our funds. We use the services of the Anglican Community Fund who provide a simple direct debit process. This can be accessed in the following ways:

   ◊ Email  info@anglicancf.com.au
   ◊ Phone  (08) 9325 4182
   ◊ Fax  (08) 9325 5045

   **ii) At Sunday worship**

   After offering one another the peace of God at Sunday worship we sing a hymn and pass offering plates throughout the congregation. It is here that many make their money offering in an envelope supplied by the parish or with loose cash. Offertory envelopes are used by parishioners to set aside their tithe in an intentional way before coming to church.

St Anselm’s is a lively faith community committed to growing in Christ’s love and wisdom and in the service of others. We each have a unique opportunity to be part of that story through the way we offer our time, talents and treasures.