



Hands reaching out— this was just one of the images used to describe the experience of St. Andrew's by members of the

community. On 24 March fifty people from the fulness of the St. Andrew's community gathered to share stories, express gratitude and wonder about the future. All who walk through the doors of the church for whatever reason were invited.

Conversation was held at small table groups around three questions:

1. What has been a recent memorable experience in your time at St. Andrew's and what might this suggest is important as we consider the future shape of things?
2. What three words, or what image, would you use to describe your experience of St. Andrew's? What ideas do you have for building on this in the immediate future?
3. In your experience, what *unique* gift does St. Andrew's bring to the wider community and how might we nurture this going forward?

Welcoming, non-judgemental, feeling of self-worth, connections with others, and finding purpose in life were some of the other words used to describe experiences of St. Andrew's. Overall, it was clear from the responses that something special happens in our togetherness which we hope will grow as we continue to develop and deepen our ministry in Glenelg.

At the end, people were invited to call out words that express the feeling with which they were leaving and the final word offered was: LOVE.

Music Lessons Begin

The Zoe Thomas Foundation was begun by Peta and Peter Thomas, members of the St. Andrew's community, as a tribute to their daughter Zoe who loved music and was a caring person, always looking out for those who might need extra support. The Foundation helps disadvantaged children, teenagers and young adults to thrive into adulthood by developing their talents, skills well-being and social inclusion. Students are provided free tutoring to learn a musical instrument, explore their musical interests and perform. At the same time, they have mentoring to help develop the practical and mental skills necessary to realise their unique potential.



Roberto getting ready

In March, two groups of students began receiving music lessons on Wednesday afternoons through the Zoe Thomas Foundation. All of the students are children of our community whose families have migrated to Australia in the last few years. It is a delight to hear the children drumming, strumming and humming as their parents chat and forge supportive friendship.

If you know of a student you think might enjoy music lessons and qualifies for the program, please contact St. Andrew's.

Meeting Danielle

Danielle is a new volunteer at St. Andrew's who is part of the Friday afternoon team. Danielle grew up in West Croydon with her parents, two brothers and a sister. She now lives at



Danielle and Angie

The Oaks on Sussex Street in Glenelg where, until recently, she was the only woman among the twenty-five residence. Thankfully Danielle will find a greater gender balance among the community at St. Andrew's!

Danielle enjoys painting, listening to music and singing karaoke. She loves living in Glenelg so she can swim at the beach, explore the shops on Jetty Road and eat at local cafes.

Danielle comes to St. Andrew's with her support person Angie. So far, they've done a lot of soup cooking. When people say they like the soup, Danielle is "thrilled." She looks forward to the Op Shop opening so she can help out there as well. Danielle came to St. Andrew's so she could "give back to others." In her experience, "People are always nice to me," and she is enjoying her volunteer time.

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers with specialised interests and experience. First, the Uniting Church in South Australia recently conducted a property audit on all its church buildings. St. Andrew's received its property report and can now work through the report to ensure the buildings are safe and fit for our mission.

If you are willing to serve on a team that will prioritise the task list, collect quotes as needed, help oversee projects, and lend a practical hand when possible, please let us know.

Also, St. Andrew's has been the happy recipient of community grants on several occasions. These grants help support infrastructure projects so the donations from clubs and individuals can continue to be used at the grassroots level.

If you are a person who would enjoy locating grants for which we are eligible and filling out applications on behalf of UnitingCare Glenelg, please let us know. Administrative support is available.

Working Together

Robin, a member of the St. Andrew's community, lost his unit last year in an electrical fire. He was asleep in bed when police officers happened by, saw the smoke, and pulled Robin to safety. Supporting Robin during this time has been a group effort with many in Glenelg returning the friendship that Robin so generously shares with us. Finally, a year on, Robin's unit is almost ready for him to move back in again. Thank you to Richmond Lions Club for providing a kettle, microwave, toaster and refrigerator to help Robin with his fresh start.



Joe and Simon from Lions

Tax Deductible Giving

Donations of >\$2 to UnitingCare Glenelg are tax deductible when made at:

<https://bit.ly/UnitingCareERC> Or scan the QR code with your smart phone. Be sure to designate **UnitingCare Glenelg** when you make your donations.



Please email us at office@standrewsuc.org.au if you wish to receive a printable Christmas card.