

AULD KIRK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Church Address: 50 Auld Kirk Road, Sidmouth, Tasmania
Postal Address: P O Box 150, Exeter, Tasmania, 7275
Website: www.westtampresbyterianchurch.org.au

We are searching for a new, full-time Pastor to lead our church and ministry team. The following information is available for your prayerful consideration.

- our church background
- our Church Profile
- Qualities we are looking for
- Selection Criteria

If you have prayerfully considered God's calling and wish to apply for this position, please email your application to the Session Clerk, Steve Buckland at steve.buckland@bigpond.com
If you would like to speak with Steve regarding this position, he can also be contacted on 0473 037 547.

Applicants must address each selection criteria and attach a covering letter and CV/Resume. The names and contact details of two referees must also be provided. All applications will be treated as confidential.

Thank you for considering God's calling for a new Pastor to join our church family.

BACKGROUND

History of the Auld Kirk (1845...)

The Auld Kirk is situated on the bank of the beautiful Tamar River, north of the Batman Bridge. The church was built by convicts (who were housed at Blackwood Hills) and free labour. The building of the church began in early 1843 at the instigation of the Rev. Alexander McKenzie and Mr James Reid, of Richmond Hill. Rev. McKenzie was the first minister appointed to the area and it was he who built up a congregation while the church was being built. He resigned in 1845 and returned to Scotland. The Reverend James Garrett arrived in July 1846, and was the first minister to take a service in the church. He faithfully served the church for 28 years, before passing away in 1874.

After the disastrous fire which gutted the Auld Kirk on September 6th 1900, The church became known as 'the church with a tree'. There are various paintings of the church which show the tops of wattle trees growing inside the church above the walls. It is said that eight bundles of bark were stripped from them when they were finally removed.

In 1912, a petition was sent to the Presbyterian Assembly from Sidmouth, requesting 350 pounds for the restoration of the building. Unfortunately, no money was available, so the members of the West Tamar Charge raised the money needed, and the church was reopened on May 4th, 1913. In 1914, the Rev. C.A Anderson came to the charge, but he resigned in 1920 after a sharp decline in numbers. The church then closed.

On December 1933, the church was re-opened and re-dedicated. Over the succeeding years, many ministers have given faithful service to the little Kirk on the banks of the Tamar River, and it still stands today, a proud monument to the men and women who worked hard to keep the church open. A mud brick building built to be in keeping with the stone construction of the church was opened in December 1981 giving an improved location for the Sunday School and the provision of a kitchenette for after service cuppas.

In 2010 work commenced to extend the Sunday school hall, including the provision of a new kitchen facility, the extension being officially opened by Rev Charlie Kennedy on the 25th September 2011.

The Auld Kirk was listed under the Australian Heritage Register in 1978.

SERVICES

Our Church is part of the Presbyterian Church of Tasmania, and our congregation is of mixed ages. At present Auld Kirk has around 30 Adult regular attendees, and between 4-8 children. The Congregation is made up mostly of mature age people, both singles and couples.

Our Services are Christ centred and Bible based, and include a mixture of contemporary and classical hymns, the reading and proclamation of God's Word, prayer, children's talks and mission spots, and fellowship over morning tea. We celebrate the Lord's Supper once a month, followed by a shared lunch.

Our Services are held every Sunday at 10am, as well as additional services on Good Friday and Christmas Day.

Mole Creek Church is a preaching place of Auld Kirk, and has a membership of approximately 7 people. They meet in the Church Hall at 2.00pm every Sunday.

ABOUT US

Here at the Auld Kirk we strive:

- To glorify God in all that we do.
- To reach to people in our community with God's love and the Gospel message.
- To nurture individuals in their personal relationship with Christ.
- To encourage and care for one another.

We Are Christians Who Believe the Bible

We believe that the whole Bible is the Word of God in written form, that the Bible is not mistaken in anything it says, that it is the final authority for the church's beliefs and practices, and the ultimate guide for all mankind. Therefore we believe that hearing God's Word carries with it the responsibility to obey God's will. To help us understand the Bible we accept and use the Westminster Confession of Faith as a reasonable summary of the Bible's teaching.

We Are Christians Who Proclaim God's Promises

God gave mankind a message of Good News ('the Gospel') through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, a message which demands a response from all people everywhere. We seek to proclaim the good news that when people put their trust in Jesus Christ and obey His commands their sins are forgiven, they live under God's blessing day by day, and they receive the assurance of eternal life.

We Are Practical Christians

We aim to provide opportunities for people of all ages to learn how to respond to this good news, and then to become effective followers of Jesus Christ. As they do this they progress in the Christian faith through Bible study, prayer, fellowship with other Christians, and service to others.

With the Lord's blessing and a faithful congregation the Church will continue to grow and thrive. In an atmosphere of sincere and dedicated worship and serving as a caring community, it forms a steadfast landmark in the community – a part of Tasmania's history and its future.

Eldership – Auld Kirk currently has seven Elders. We are looking to expand our Eldership in the future.

Board of Management – Our Board of Management consists of seven elected members, and two Elders.

Sunday School is an important ministry of this Church and is held for school age children during the second half of the Service. On Communion Sundays, the children are brought back into the Church to take part in or witness the Service. The Sunday School is overseen by a dedicated team of teachers and helpers, and operates during school terms.

Pastoral Care - Since the resignation of our Pastor in January 2021, we have no official Pastoral Care Ministry. At present members are taking it upon themselves to care for those in need.

Bible Study Groups

Bible Study Groups are held for both ladies and men, and most meet fortnightly.

Church Fellowship Activities – We currently hold four regular activities annually. These events have included Dinners for Six, Bush Poet's Evening, Four Wheel Drive Family Day and Picnic, and an end of year Concert. These events are organised by congregation members and can be used as an outreach by encouraging the congregation to invite family and friends.

Women's Fellowship Groups (Pre-COVID-19)

Ladies Craft Mornings - held once a month in the Church Hall. Ladies are encouraged to bring friends and family along, and a short devotion is presented during the morning.

Ladies Evenings - held throughout the year in the Church Hall. These evenings are themed and ladies are encouraged to invite friends and family.

Men's Fellowship Groups (Pre-COVID-19)

Men's Shed - meets throughout the year. The men take turns at hosting a get together and time of fellowship in their workshops or sheds. The men are encouraged to invite friends and family along.

Annual Christmas Carols – In December each year Auld Kirk hosts an Annual Community Christmas Carol Service on the front Lawn of the Church. With the West Tamar Municipal Band accompanying us, traditional Christmas Carols are sung, readings are presented, a nativity play is performed and a short Christmas message is delivered by the Pastor. Our Carol Service is always well attended, and supper is served in the Hall at the conclusion of the Service.

SELECTION CRITERIA

QUALITIES

- A mature follower of Christ, devoted to God's truth. A person who leads by example, and values the importance of worship and prayer.
- A gifted communicator, preacher and teacher of God's word.
- Team-oriented, able to recognise Spiritual gifts and delegate accordingly.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, able to deal with the dynamics and conflict that may occur within the church.
- A disciple-maker, able to encourage and empower people to serve and lead outside the Church.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. **A mature follower of Jesus with sound knowledge of theology, devoted to living and preaching the truth of the Bible.**
2. **Excellent Communication skills, gifted in preaching, listening and partaking in good theological discussion.**
3. **Excellent interpersonal skills, able to negotiate, guide and be guided.**
4. **Good Leadership skills, team-oriented, able to delegate and committed to equipping others for works of ministry according to their Spiritual gifts. Support and develop current ministries of the Church.**
5. **Excellent time management skills, using time effectively between sermon preparation, prayer, pastoral care and building up church ministries.**
6. **Develop ministries that focus on the next generations to learn about Jesus, and be nurtured in their faith.**