
CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How did this partnership come about?

The partnership came about after the Nominators of CCM spoke to Stuart Maze about the possibility of becoming the joint-Rector of CCM alongside C@P. As discussion progressed, we became increasing aware that a ministry partnership between CCM and C@P was the best thing for the gospel in both Peakhurst and Mortdale.

2. Why are we considering this partnership?

As the Wardens of both churches have met, discussed, debated, and prayed about this possible partnership, we are convinced that under God, we will mission better together. That is, as we partner together in ministry, we believe we will be much more effective in growing our churches and reaching people in Peakhurst and Mortdale with the gospel, than if we stayed apart.

3. What are the benefits of this partnership?

There are many good reasons for us to be partnering with CCM in gospel ministry, including:

- C@P using its ministry momentum to help re-build momentum at CCM
- Combining our two evening services and youth groups to create greater critical mass to be more effective in reaching the lost
- Making better use of the ministry centre at CCM for gospel ministry
- Having a bigger and more diverse ministry and administrative team that is better able to serve both churches

4. What is expected to change?

The merging of our two night services, and our two youth groups will be the most significant change. The two staff teams will work together and meet at the CCM offices. We are prayerfully hoping that 10 people (5 families) from C@P may join CCM, and both churches will need to adjust to having Stuart split his time across both sites on Sundays.

5. How does this partnership fit with our mission and vision?

Both CCM and C@P are united in the gospel and desire to see people in our suburb come to know Jesus. This is reflected in our current mission statements which are all about making disciples of Christ. Our prayer is that our partnership together will help us be more effective in making disciples of Jesus.

6. Is this a takeover?

No, this is not a takeover. Both churches are coming together with their respective resources and strengths, to partner together in our mission to reach Mortdale and Peakhurst with the gospel.

7. Will our church names stay the same or change?

During the partnership period CCM and C@P will retain their church names and logos etc. Should we proceed to a full merger, we will re-evaluate what we do about our church and site names.

8. What is the alternative to this partnership?

For CCM, the alternative is to continue searching for a full-time Rector. The consequence of this would mean once he is on board, CCM could not afford to keep Alan Wood on as assistant minister. This would mean CCM would be reduced to one full-time minister.

For C@P, the alternative is to carry on in their mission and vision whilst being incumbered by a lack of a building that restricts its ministry opportunities and/or effectiveness.

9. How long will our ministry partnership last?

The partnership between CCM and C@P is for approximately 1 year, with a decision about whether to proceed to merger to be made no later than 30 November 2023.

10. Has partnership / merger like this been done before?

Yes. We can take confidence that this form of ministry partnership between two churches is becoming increasingly common. Two years ago, St Matthews, West Pymble and All Saint's, West Lindfield partnered together in ministry before merging. That partnership has been very successful, and we have learned much from their experience. A similar partnership and merger has also been successful between Neutral Bay Anglican and Church by the Bridge.

11. Who will be our pastor?

Throughout the partnership period, Stuart Maze will remain the Senior Pastor (Rector) of C@P, whilst also taking on the role of Acting Rector for CCM. Pastoral oversight for each congregation will be undertaken by the following:

- CCM 8am Karen Ray
- CCM 10am Alan Wood
- C@P 10am Stuart Maze
- Combined 6pm Dan Tooma with Alan Wood

12. Why not merge the two 10am congregations?

Whilst it is more complex and will require more work in the initial stages to retain two 10am congregations, we believe in the long term, it is better for the gospel in Peakhurst and Mortdale to have a gospel footprint in both Mortdale and Peakhurst with two healthy, mission minded congregations both seeking to reach the lost for Jesus, than just one.

13. What will happen to Growth Groups/Bible Study Groups?

Bible study/Growth groups will come together under the one umbrella including:

- Encouraging all groups to study the same material
- Encouraging all group leaders to meet together for quarterly training

For 2023, we will also explore the possibility of:

- Evening groups meeting together onsite at CCM for supper and fellowship before splitting off into groups for study
- Establishing a women's small group (with creche) onsite at CCM where members gather for morning tea and fellowship before splitting into groups for study

During the partnership phase, it is not expected to intentionally mix members from CCM and C@P into the same groups, although some mingling may happen if helpful.

14. What will happen to the existing members of staff?

All staff will continue to be employed on the same basis of their existing arrangements. The ministry team of Stuart, Alan, John, Dan, and Karen will work together over the coming weeks to confirm their ministry responsibilities. Margaret Winney and Mavis Hall will continue in their roles of office assistant and cleaner.

15. How will mission and evangelism work?

Evangelism will be at the centre of partnership and is expected include:

- Mission week (leading into Easter)
- Evangelistic services – Easter, Christmas, and others as determined
- Evangelism course (Life) held onsite at CCM (biannual)
- Community outreach / connection activities such as
 - o Eat Love Laugh
 - o Carols
 - o Toys n Tucker
 - o Door knocking
 - o Coffee Cart
 - o Leafletting (train station)
 - o Mainly Music
 - o Youth group
 - o Gingerbread Night
 - o Card Making
- Scripture (local public schools, Penshurst Girls, and possibly other GRC campuses)
- Evangelism training

Evangelism initiatives will be both combined and location specific, depending on the initiative.

16. What will happen to the existing Wardens and Parish Councils?

The Parish Councils and Wardens from both churches will continue to run in parallel overseeing the finances, property, risk management, and employment matters of each church. As well as meeting separately, the two Parish Councils will come together each month to consider matters pertaining to the ministry partnership and its progress.

17. What will happen at next year's AGM?

Both CCM and C@P will hold separate AGM's and elect their respective Wardens and Parish Councillors for 2023.

18. How will finances be managed?

Finances of each church will continue to be managed separately whilst seeking to support and sustain our ministry partnership. As per our Memorandum of Understanding, CCM will pay an (as yet to be determined) amount to C@P for Stuart Maze undertaking the role of Acting Rector.

19. How will the preaching work?

Both churches will follow the same preaching programme with preachers preaching at both CCM and C@P. To help enable this, we will trial the same preacher preaching one week in arrears at the second site.

20. Where will the staff work from?

Staff will work primarily at CCM to maximise team unity and cohesion.

21. Who and how will we decide if a merger happens?

The Wardens and Parish Councils of both churches will work together to assess the possibility of moving from a partnership to a merger. It is expected the following criteria will be used to help and guide the Parish Councils make this decision:

- A church ‘vote’, by both churches, on the proposal to merge with an appropriate majority to be agreed upon by both Parish Councils
- Ability of the staff team to deal with the complexities of leading a combined parish
- Attendance numbers have increased for both church and youth beyond the combined total of CCM and C@P¹
- Partnership initiatives have proven to be ‘fruitful’
- Financial viability of both churches
- Other criteria as determined by the Rector, Wardens, or Parish Council

This review will take place at time to be determined by the Wardens of both churches, but no later than 30 November 2023.

22. Why aren’t we merging now?

The Wardens believe that working together for one year will give our two churches time to help work out if a permanent partnership (i.e., merger) is viable, as well as working out what things need to be considered, revised, or implemented if and when a merger takes place. Taking the time to work these things out over the course of the partnership period takes the pressure off having to get everything right from day one, whilst enabling us start implementing partnership initiatives much quicker.

23. What happens if we decide not to merge?

Should CCM and / or C@P determine that the partnership between our two churches should not proceed to a merger, the following shall take place:

- A review of ministry activities will be undertaken to determine if they ought to continue or separate
- Stuart Maze will cease to be Acting Rector, and CCM will recommence the process for nominating a new rector
- Other details to be worked out by the Wardens in love and grace

24. I have questions, who can I talk to?

Feel free to talk to one of the ministry team, Wardens, or Parish Councillors if you have questions or concerns about the ministry partnership.

25. What avenues do I have to provide feedback?

¹ To be defined as the total adults, youth, and children at both churches considered to be ‘regular.’

Throughout the partnership period both churches will have opportunity to provide feedback and where appropriate be consulted about partnership initiatives. This will include:

- Holding Q&A meetings at both churches on Sunday 11th September
- Members of both Parish Councils being available for congregation members to ask questions, raise concerns, and make suggestions
- Standing agenda item at combined Parish Council meetings to include 'Partnership Progress'
- Provide updated Frequently Asked Questions for churches members to refer to
- Quarterly (anonymous) survey feedback of congregation members and staff of both churches

26. What can I do? How can I contribute to this partnership?

Please pray! Pray that our partnership will be effective, fruitful, edifying, and God glorifying. Pray that we will ***mission better together***, and that through our partnership we will see people saved and won to Christ.