

Church as a Second Language...

or everything about church you were afraid to ask!



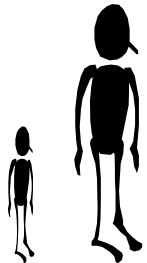
CROYDON UNITING CHURCH

# ROSTERS

The church functions because of the voluntary work of many people. The rosters listed over the page are some of the tasks completed by those involved in the life of the church to keep it and its mission and outreach “ticking along”. It is true at Croydon, as in many churches, that retired and aging members complete many of the tasks. This is not only because of the age make-up of the congregation, but also because retired people sometimes have more available time. It is true, however, that some rosters are becoming harder to fill because of the age of our congregation.



## ***Who can do the tasks.. don't I have to be an elder or member or something?***



Most of these tasks are open to all - there are no special requirements or positions you must be in to be involved... (they are also open to children and young people as well as adults - so talk about the list with your school age children, to see if there is any tasks they would like to be involved in)....so if you're willing, you can be involved! If a roster is usually filled by an elder or the like, the roster will have been dealt with at that group's meeting, there won't be a general list put up for completing. If in doubt, please ask!

## ***How can I be involved if I have my children to look after?***

One way you can be involved is as a family. A family can be rostered on as Greeters/Stewards on a Sunday morning, or the same on Morning Tea, or Cleaning or a number of other tasks. It is important for even our young children to be involved in serving others, and this may be a suitable way for your family. Children and young people can be involved in most tasks - they can read part of a bible reading, or can help prepare and “drive” the data projector (their technical knowledge usually outstrips ours!!)

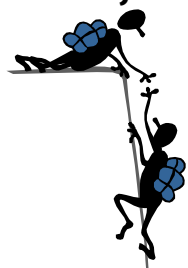


Other ways to handle this is for a *OR* roster.. that is Jim or Ellen Smith - so which ever parent is more available on that day completes the task. Also, talk with other parents at church, most are happy to watch your kids whilst you complete a rostered task, and you can offer in turn to watch their kids for them for their turn.

## ***How often do I have to be involved?***

As is indicated, many require involvement only a few times a year. Most work on the fact that the more people who offer, the less frequently you will be on! Most are on monthly to six weekly cycles, others are once/twice a year rosters.

## ***What if I've never done that task at Croydon before?***



In all cases you can be partnered with experienced hands to “learn the ropes”, or someone can take you through the steps involved - although most tasks are not particularly complicated. All rosters have a co-ordinator who can let you know “what's what!”. The more technical tasks (PA system, Data Projector preparation and “driving”) come with training - you don't have to an expert to be involved... if you're interested, please ask!

## ***What if I know I'm going to be away, or when I get the roster I can't do the task on the day I'm rostered?***

You can indicate times you are unavailable - because of holidays or other commitments - that's not a problem! You can always "swap" a rostered task too - that is if the date doesn't suit, swap with someone else on the roster for a more suitable date. You will receive a roster with phone numbers of those involved listed so you can arrange a swap easily! On the roster it will indicate who you need to let know if you have swapped! And if an emergency arises **don't panic...** if you can, let someone know (such as the office, or the minister if it's a worship related task) and someone will fill in... we all know emergencies happen!



## ***What tasks can I be involved in?***

Some tasks that are rostered (and when the task is normally done) are:



### ***Community Outreach Programs during the week:***

- Helping Hand bread pickup
- Helping Hand volunteers (weekday mornings)
- Helping Hand support (at various times of need)
- Music Together Support (Thursday mornings)
- Casserole Support (as required throughout the year)

### ***Church Property:***

- Grounds/Lawn Mowing (during week or on Saturday)
- Cleaning of Church Worship Space and attached rooms (late during week or Sat)

### ***Preparation for Sunday Worship:***

- Communion Linen Preparation (usually on Saturday)
- Flowers (usually on Saturday)
- Data Projector preparation – training provided (done at home sometime between Thurs & Sun morn)
- Team Led Worship Planning Teams (meet at time convenient for the team - usually 2/3 evening meetings)

### ***On Sunday before, during and following Worship:***

- Door Greeters
- Door Stewards
- PA System – training provided
- Data Projector "driving" – training provided
- Carrying in of Communion Symbols (a task usually undertaken by children and young people)
- Serving Communion
- Prayers of the People (usually both preparing & reading – occasionally someone prepares it, another reads it)
- Scripture (Bible) Reading
- Musical Leadership (organ/piano, involvement in band etc)
- Sunday STEPS (Sunday morning program for children) teacher or support
- Morning Tea serving
- Finance (money counting)

## ***So, how can I be involved?***

Most rosters are prepared on a half-yearly basis - with the new rosters commencing in March and September. Usually a form is distributed in October as part of the Stewardship program, for people to indicate their willingness. In all cases there are always gaps to fill, so you can "hop on" offering your assistance at any time during the year. All rosters have a co-ordinator who prepares the roster or works with Laura in the office to prepare it - call the office and chat to Laura - and she'll either take your details, or let you know who you need to talk to!