

Hello. I'm Bridey Hentschel, the Pastoral Care Coordinator at Latimer.

My role is to support and assist Pastors, Growth Group Leaders, and church members in caring for everyone in church. As brothers and sisters in Christ, it is our responsibility to look out for each other, care for one another, and pray for one another.

*Romans 12:10*

*Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.*

This information booklet is to help you:

- see the opportunities to care for and pray for others in everyday church life.
- know what resources, groups, and structures are in place for you to access.

If you have any questions or would like to access any support on offer, please don't hesitate to contact me via:

- email: [bridey@latimerchurch.nz](mailto:bridey@latimerchurch.nz), or
- phone: 0212564637

God Bless,

Bridey

# How do I care for my brothers and sisters in Christ at Latimer in everyday ways?



Get to know people in the service and growth groups you attend, and the people you serve with.

## 1. Services

The best way to get to know people is by attending a regular service time every week. This will enable you to get to know the people you worship God with, and stay informed about their lives.

Make sure to take some time after the service to socialise and fellowship with people. If possible, invite them over to your home and share a meal together. This can help you get to know each other better.

See [latimerchurch.nz](http://latimerchurch.nz) website, for Sunday service times.

## 2. Growth Groups

Growth Groups are a fantastic way to care for one another. Regularly meeting with a small group of people to study the Word and pray together:

- Provides an opportunity to hear what happening in each other's lives, and
- Offer any support that may be needed.

### **3. Serving**

Get involved, by using your God-given gifts and abilities to serve the body of Christ. This is a great way to build relationships and support others.

Practical ways to support people:

- Pray
- Offer to cook a meal or deliver a meal for people from the Latimer Community Freezer
- Offer to look after children
- Have people over for a meal
- Meet up for a coffee or go for a walk together
- Offer information and support to people if they are in need

## **Supporting people at Latimer**

Latimer provides support structures for people at various stages of their lives.

### **Senior Saints**

**Supporting the senior members of our congregation**

#### **Communion on Wheels**

The Communion on Wheels ministry delivers communion to your doorstep if you are unable to attend church on a regular basis.

#### **Visiting**

If you can't go out often or attend church or a growth group frequently, having church members regularly visit you at home can help you stay connected with your church family.

## **Friendship Friday**

If you want to get to know other members of our church family while having fun, consider joining Friendship Friday. This social group meets on the First Friday of most months (excluding Jan and Dec) at Berwick Street. Contact Bridey for more details.

## **Meals for Mums**

### **Supporting mums and families at Latimer**

Meals for Mums is a Latimer ministry providing 6 meals to any new mum after giving birth. The coordinator of this ministry will check in with the mother to see how she's doing, and if she requires any additional support.

We have women in our congregations who are midwives, and we can call on them for help with any issues related to childbirth or breastfeeding.

## **Latimer Community Meals**

### **Supporting tough times with food**

The church kitchen has a freezer stocked with meals of different sizes ready to go for those that are in need of practical support. Anyone from our church community can access these meals to take to members in need.

## **Marriage**

### **Supporting couples who are married or engaged**

#### **Pre-marriage Preparation**

Pre-marriage preparation is designed to help engaged couples prepare for marriage. At Latimer, we have two trained couples who offer this ministry. The engaged couple meets with their mentoring couple about four times before the wedding, and then around four times during the first year of marriage.

### **Investing in Your Marriage**

There are a number of options available to invest in your marriage:

#### ➤ **Marriage Mentoring**

Marriage mentoring is available for any married couple who would like to invest in their relationship for a year. The programme includes 10 monthly mentoring sessions with an experienced trained couple. To find out more, see <https://familylife.nz/marriage-mentoring/>.

The mentoring programme covers topics such as gratitude, showing love, money, peace and priorities, fun and recreation, and communication.

#### ➤ **Building a Safe and Strong Marriage**

This is a marriage course that Latimer runs every year (usually in the third term) for couples who want to invest in their marriage. This course runs for 5 weeks and covers the following topics:

- God's design for marriage.
- What damages our connectedness in marriage.
- Building the positives – friendship and communication.

- Building the positives – sex and spirituality.
- Managing conflict gently.

<https://mentalhealthinstitute.org.au/building-a-safe-strong-marriage/>

➤ **Talk to a Pastor**

If you need help to address struggles in your marriage, we suggest talking to one of Latimer's Pastors first. They can meet with you, offer prayer, and suggest options for support.