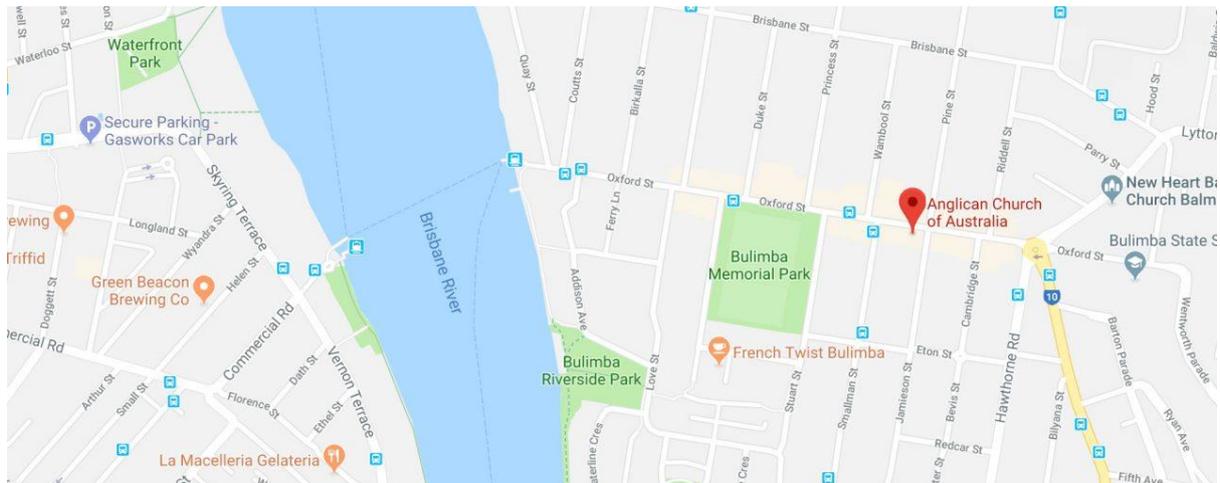


Parish Profile – Bulimba Parish

ST JOHN
THE BAPTIST
— EST. 1888 —
ANGLICAN CHURCH



Where we are:



Built in 1888, St John The Baptist Church is an historic wooden building located on renowned Oxford Street, Bulimba. Framed by manicured lawns, the church can seat up to 130 people.

Bulimba Parish consists of the suburbs of Bulimba, Hawthorne and Balmoral and is bounded on the northern and western sides by the Brisbane River. The Church is located within 5 kilometres from Brisbane CBD.

Address: 171 Oxford Street, Bulimba Qld 4171

Website: <https://stjohnsbulimba.org>



Who we are:

History

Original indigenous residents referred to this area as Boolimbah, meaning place of the Magpie Lark.

St John the Baptist Anglican Church became an integral part of the history of Bulimba only some 130 years ago. Prior to this, Anglican residents travelled along the river by ferry to worship at St Andrew's in South Brisbane. In 1887, Mrs Elizabeth Coxen, a highly respected member of the Bulimba community, decided it was time that Bulimba had its own Anglican Church. A Public Meeting was called at which she advocated for regular church services to be held locally. Money, however, was needed if a building was to be erected for this purpose. To initiate subscriptions Mrs Coxen donated £100. This was a considerable amount at the time and represented 1/7 of the total cost of the building. Her generosity did not end there, however, and she donated land, the funds from the sale of which were used towards purchasing the land on which St John's now stands.

The first service held on the site was 23 June 1888 when Lady Musgrave, wife of the Governor of Queensland, capped the first stump for the new Church; the first service in the completed church was 29 September 1888.



Suburb Demographics

The following data is taken from the most recent census and applies to the suburbs of Bulimba, Hawthorne and Balmoral.

The area is home to 15,721 people with an average age of 36. The average household contains 2.5 people, with 0.7 children.

Of adults, 60.8% are married, and 40.2% have a Bachelor degree or higher. 55.2% work as Professionals or Managers.

71.3% of people were born in Australia, and 15.3% consider themselves as Anglican

Parish Demographics

There are around 125 people on the Parish Roll. The average weekly attendance at the two Sunday services is around 80 to 90. The largest proportion who attend on Sunday are over 60. Many parishioners live outside of the Parish boundaries.

Parish Statistics for:	2016	2017	2018
Average Sunday Attendance	107	99	84
Average Sunday Communicants	99	93	83
Christmas Day Attendance	254	303	388
Easter Day Attendance	238	217	198
Funerals	9	4	5
Marriages	8	5	7
Baptisms	13	14	11

Buildings & Resources

St John the Baptist Church is one of thirty designed by the Diocesan Architect, John Hingston Buckeridge. The ground plan is rectangular and faces East – the direction of Jerusalem and the place of the resurrection. The main entrance to the Church is through the West Door. The building is an example of a timber Victorian Carpenter Gothic Church. The internal frame was originally exposed and in 1936 was covered in wood panelling, some of which is believed to have come from the wreck of SS Maheno. The panelling was consecrated in October 1937 in memory of 25 parishioners whose families donated to it. The building is Heritage Listed.

The area previously used by the Rectory and Church Hall was redeveloped in 2012 and commercial tenancies were placed along the Oxford Street Frontage. A replacement hall, which has been named the Maheno Room, is located behind the tenancies and is adjacent to the Church. New Offices were built on the second floor and are accessible by both stairs and a lift.

The Development is managed on a day to day basis by an external manager. Other management issues are conducted with the Property department of the Diocese on a collaborative basis.

As a consequence of the redevelopment, Bulimba no longer has a Rectory and pays a housing allowance.

Worship

Bulimba has two regular Eucharist services on a Sunday, at 7.30am and 9.00am. The 7.30am service is a more traditional communion service, using the Second Order from the A Prayer Book for Australia (“APBA”) with sung responses.

The 9.00am service is our family service, also using the Second Order from the APBA, with a kid’s talk and Children’s Church is held during school terms. This service also has a singing group to lead music on the third Sunday and at special services.

A Eucharist is also held on Friday at 10.00am which lasts for half an hour, using the Second Order from the APBA but without hymns or a Sermon.

On the third Sunday of each month a Service is held at the Regis Nursing Home at Bulimba, with the singing group involved.



Parish Activities

Social: Social events are held on a regular basis, so that Parishioners can get to know each other better. Events planned for 2019 include Fellowship Dinners, Songs of Praise Concert and High Tea, Patronal Festival Brunch, a Beer Appreciation evening, a Gin Appreciation evening and a Themed Parish Dinner.

Knitting Circle: The knitting circle meets once a month in the Maheno room, knitting squares which are then joined and made into rugs, beanies, and crocheting tea towels. Items have been given to the Mater Hospital Oncology unit and to Missions to Seafarers.

St. John's Guild: The Guild meets monthly in the Maheno Room, starting with a Guild Meeting followed by Hoy.

Mah-jong Group: The Mah-jong Group meets Thursday morning from 9.30am—12.30pm in the Maheno Room or Church.

Little Children's Church: Little Children's Church happens each Sunday in term-time, during the 9.00am service. We have stories and activities for children aged 3 years to Year 2, and younger children are also very welcome to attend with a parent.

Teen Church: Teen Church is an exciting youth programme offered during School term time at St John's. Each term the teens are invited to participate in 3 sessions exploring the Bible and their faith as well as 'In Service' services at the 9.00am Family service. They engage in ministry tasks and liturgical roles in the 'In Service' services which encourage their growth as Anglicans serving the community. Occasional group outings and fundraising events also form part of the Teen Church programme.

Church Welcomers: The Church is open most days of the week and a group of volunteers are there to welcome visitors. Thousands of people come into the Church each year.

Cake Stall: As a fundraising activity, we hold a monthly Cake Stall between February and December, usually held on the fourth Sunday of the month.



Finance

Bulimba has maintained its income over the last few years, but not at a level to keep pace with the growth in expenses. As a consequence of this, Bulimba is continuing to look at ways to raise income.

Bulimba has received income from the Development under an agreement with the Diocese. Such distributions have been relatively low as repaying the construction loan has taken priority.

More detailed accounts are available upon request.

Where we are going:

SWOT Analysis

In 2017 the Parish Council undertook an analysis of our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT). This was distilled into an action plan that is on the agenda of each Parish Council meeting.

Attributes wanted in priest

We believe that the key attributes for our new Parish Priest are:

- Demonstrated ability to preach – connecting Theology to everyday life
- Expanding the engagement of the Church in the local community
- Strong on pastoral care
- Willing to build ecumenical relationships
- A sense of humour and brings joy
- Commitment to further develop intergenerational worship and learning
- Encourage fellowship in our church community
- Honour our worship traditions while being keen to embrace new directions in worship
- Possess good management, counselling, communication and administrative skills
- Seeks a youth program while still upholding the older members of the congregation
- Constructively challenge us and lead by example
- Openness to holding small groups for study and for pastoral support

Expressions of Interest should be sent to The Right Reverend John Roundhill.

Email: JRose@anglicanchurchsq.org.au