

**Parish Profile
of
The Anglican Parish
of
Drayton**

2017

A community of Anglicans bringing faith and life together.

Anglican
Church Southern Queensland

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Worship

As individuals, as households, and as a faith community we will...

- Respond to God, the source of our life, who is always bringing new possibilities to birth
- Develop and offer liturgies that honour God
- Include all people and connect with daily life in ways that value our Anglican heritage

Community

As a Christian faith community we will...

- Support each other as disciples of Jesus
- Be an inclusive and generous Christian community
- Enrich the lives of all who encounter our community, whether or not they share our faith

Mission

We understand that our basic mission as Christian people is to...

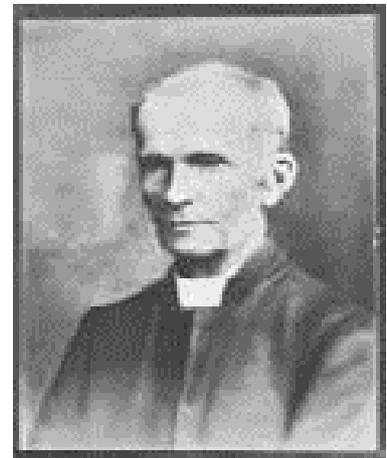
- Share God's life with others in ways that respect their own experiences and values
- Work for the coming of God's kingdom in our own areas of influence
- Seek greater justice in human society

OUR HISTORY

The Anglican Parish of Drayton has a proud history, having been founded by the man who became known as the 'Apostle of the Downs', Archdeacon Benjamin Glennie.

On 29 July, 1850 Archdeacon Glennie was appointed by Bishop Tyrell to be incumbent for the Darling Downs, resident at Drayton, the parish being called St. Matthew's. Official records show that the first service of the Church of England on the Darling Downs was held by Archdeacon Glennie on the 20th August 1848 at The Bull's Head Inn, Drayton.

Throughout his appointment he travelled thousands of miles ministering to his widely spread flock. Late in 1850 Benjamin Glennie purchased two allotments in Drayton, comprising five acres, in trust for the Church of England. In 1851 the parsonage with its slab walls and shingle roof was completed, two of the rooms being used as a church.



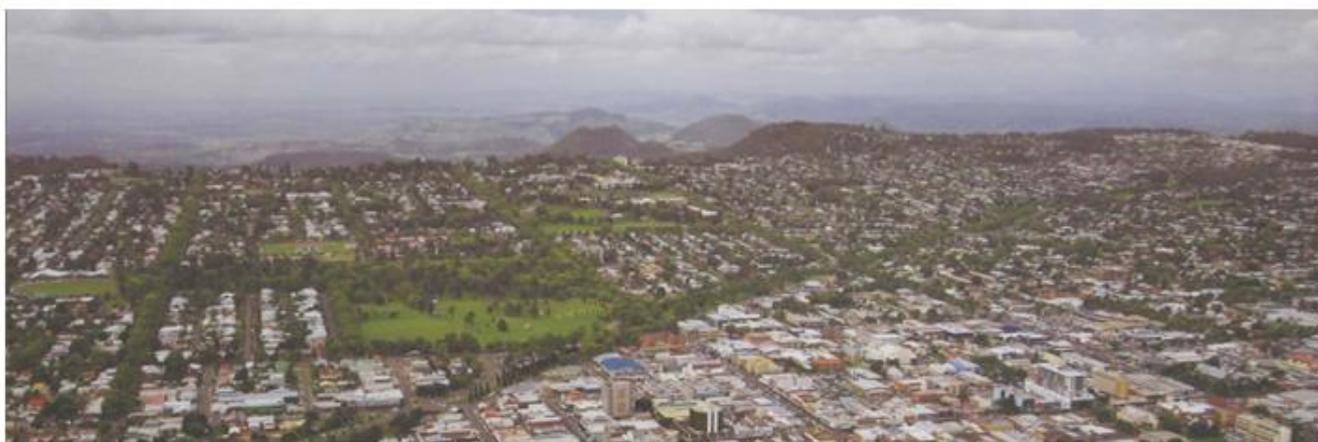
In 1859, a separate church was erected on adjacent land. This building was used for some 27 years. A stone cairn was erected in 1940 on the corner of Rudd and Cambooya Streets to mark the site.

The present St Matthew's site was acquired to serve the needs of a growing congregation. The Reverend James McCleverty raised funds and Bishop William Webber laid the foundation stone for the new church on August 16th 1886. The first service was conducted on November 22nd 1887.

To meet the needs of the region, a series of country churches were erected at Cambooya, Wyreema, Umbiram and East Greenmount, and another city church in Harristown, closer to the city centre.

St Matthew's Church is listed on the Queensland Heritage Register (File No 600837) due to its association "*with the early development of Drayton and of the Anglican Church in Queensland, being the oldest parish on the Darling Downs.*"

A complete history of the parish has been written by the Parish Archivist, Dr Kathleen Simmons.



WHERE WE LIVE

With a population of just over 100 000, Toowoomba is Australia's second largest inland city. It is situated at the top of the Great Dividing Range at the juncture of the Warrego Highway (east-west) and the New England Highway (north-south). At 300m above sea level, the city enjoys a pleasant climate with four distinct seasons. It is within easy reach of Brisbane and the Gold and Sunshine Coasts.

Its health needs are serviced by three hospitals, numerous private clinics, nursing homes and a hospice. There is a continual expansion of specialist diagnostic, therapeutic and surgical services available, reducing the range of treatments that require a trip to Brisbane.

Toowoomba has one of the highest ratios of education facilities per head of population in Australia making it one of the most prominent education centres in both Queensland and Australia. There are currently 15 State primary schools, 14 private primary schools, 3 state secondary schools and 12 private secondary schools, the latter providing boarding facilities for regional students. Toowoomba is home to the South Queensland Institute of TAFE (SQIT) and the University of Southern Queensland (USQ). USQ is situated within the boundaries of the Drayton Parish and has an enrolment of some 26,000 students. There are several private post-secondary colleges and training providers in the city.

A new commercial airport, with regional and intercity passenger services and international freight services, has just been completed. As a result, the Oakey abattoir has been expanded to meet the demand for frozen beef in Hong Kong for onward distribution to the Far East. A spin-off from this has been the reinstatement (after 20 years) of the rail service to move cattle from the west to the abattoir. A factory to provide dried milk products to the same market has recently been approved. A second crossing is due to be completed at the end of 2018 and this will provide a much needed bypass for the city. Plans are also underway for a new inland railway route from Melbourne, which will become a major inland transport and economic hub.

Our city has a reputation as being one of the most beautiful in Australia with many parks and gardens. As a culturally diverse community there is a strong commitment to peace and harmony from local government, businesses, and faith communities. For these and many other reasons we think Toowoomba is a wonderful place in which to live.

OUR PARISH

Drayton was the original settlement in the area, a place where both people and draught animals would pause after a difficult range crossing. There was a limit to the water supply and as a result people began to settle to the north at 'The Swamp', later renamed Toowoomba, and once an alternative range crossing was found, the city soon outgrew its neighbour. The two settlements eventually grew together with Drayton becoming a suburb of the city.

The parish population consists of people from all walks of life including dairy farmers, broad acre landowners, white and blue-collar workers, university students and academics, and a large number of retirees. The Parish has a membership base of some 200 households, and over the whole year averages around 60 communicants each week. Women make up the majority of our congregations. A large percentage are in the 70+ age group.

WHERE WE WORSHIP



The parish lies in the southwest corner of the City of Toowoomba and includes extensive rural areas within the former Cambooya and Jondaryan Shires (now part of Toowoomba Regional Council).



① St Matthew's, Drayton



③ All Saints', Cambooya



② St Mary's, Harristown



④ St Paul's, Umbiram

① Drayton

St Matthew's Church

Bluestone church built 1886.
Extended 1935.
Seats 125.
Medium-sized pipe organ.
Heaters and ceiling fans.

Community Centre

Small multi-purpose building.
Modest catering facilities.
Gas space heater.
Tables and chairs.
Internal toilets with access for people with disabilities.
Children's play area (no longer fenced or covered but could be reinstated).

Ministry Centre/Office

Refurbished timber hall.
Administration centre and clergy office space.
Office furniture, 1 Computer (2nd being considered), laser printer, photocopier/scanner, fax machine, safe, kitchen facilities. Reverse cycle air-conditioning. Rainwater tank

Toilet Block

Besser brick construction. Minimal facilities.

Garage & Archives

Zincalume construction.
Double garage with purpose-built archives
Rainwater tank

② Harristown

St Mary's Church

Brick church built in 1980.
Seats 185.
Electronic keyboard and organ.
Electric heaters and fans.
Microphones throughout.

Hall

Medium sized timber hall.
Tables and chairs
Heaters and fans
Recently refurbished toilet block
Exterior painting scheduled for 2017



Community Centre (top), Ministry Centre (bottom)

③ Cambooya

All Saints' Church

Timber church built in 1915.
Seats 100.
Building in good repair.
Organ.
Gas heating.
Rainwater tank.
External timber toilet – basic facility
Storage shed – Zincalume construction

Stanley Lodge—George Street

Backing on to All Saints' Church Brick residence built in 1995 to Diocesan standards.
Originally served as an Assistant Curate's residence.

④ Umbiram

St Paul's Church

Timber church built 1906.
Seats 50.
In good repair.
Pump organ.
No electricity.

OUR INTENTIONS

In previous parish profile written in 2008, mention was made of our ageing congregation being perceived as a weakness. The next profile, written 6 years later, noted that virtually no new younger people have joined us and many older congregants have either died or gone into aged care. In the interim, an NCD survey was carried out, and in a subsequent Parish Vision workshop we examined the results and resolved to:

1. Develop a stronger sense of “one” parish community through intentional social events and combined worship services;
2. Initiate more assistance in the office to enable the parish priest to be released for other ministry.
3. Strengthen and develop the welcoming ministries (at all centres) to enable better listening and understanding of peoples’ needs; and
4. Grow the baptismal ministry (before and after baptism);

The first two of these have been realised through regular combined worship services, and a growing team of volunteers that help at the office.

Income is from freewill offerings, Guild and other donations, fundraising and wedding fees. The Parish currently supplies offering envelopes to those who wish to use them. It has been many years since we undertook a professional stewardship program using outside consultants.

The Parish has no liabilities, being debt-free, and makes an annual contribution of \$6000 to the Diocese and some \$2000 to missions. In order to budget for a part time stipend, we have indicated to the diocese that we will be temporarily reducing our parish contribution.

WHAT WE OFFER

Owing to diminishing congregations we find ourselves in a financial situation where we can only offer a part-time stipend - at least a 3-day week or a 7-day fortnight. Parish council is examining ways to develop income streams to supplement offerings from parishioners. The parish is asset rich but income poor, and while parishioners accept the need to reduce the number of congregations and worship centres in theory, there is much work to be done!

OUR MINISTRIES

Activity	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Communicants*	4184	3591	4589	3461	3001
Weekly average*	82	70	90	68	60
Baptisms	35	29	16	22	17
Admission to HC	0	1	0	0	1
Confirmation	1	3	-	2	1
Weddings	13	10	13	6	9
Funerals	20	5	4	6	2

* Excludes Christmas and Easter services

In spite of our ageing parishioners, a great deal of voluntary work is carried out. Nearly all parishioners have at least one ministry, with most having two, or more.

Pastoral Care and Outreach Programs

- Visits are made to 1 public and 2 private hospitals by clergy and lay people.
- Communion is administered in private homes, aged care facilities and hospitals, again by clergy but sometimes by liturgical assistants.
- Cursillo groups and prayer groups operate within the parish and Lenten study groups at Drayton, Harristown and Cambooya are very popular.
- A few parishioners have been involved in Education for Ministry (EfM).
- Ecumenical activities – Toowoomba Churches Together links our parish with the local Catholic, Uniting Church and Lutheran congregations in the city through their respective priests, rectors and pastors, and there is an annual study group for the lay people. An ecumenical service with the Catholic and Uniting Church congregations is held at Cambooya on the fifth Sunday of the month.
- As a result of the Archbishop's challenge to Synod, Bible Study groups offered by the Ministry Education Commission (and lay people within the parish and deanery) are well attended.

Ladies Guild

This organization successfully arranges the major fundraising activities that enable the parish to meet some of its non-stipendiary commitments, and oversees some of the ministries (church cleaning, altar linen, etc.)

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is active in ministries external to the parish, such as overseas missions and courthouse attendance.

Publication Committee

As its name implies, the committee, looks after the parish newspaper and the pew bulletins.

WE ARE SEEKING A PRIEST WHO HAS:

1. A great love for God and people
2. Good communication skills, and who can preach well
3. An ability to relate with all age groups, from young to old, and who can lead different styles of worship
4. A commitment to develop lay ministry, especially in leading worship and pastoral care
5. An ability to lead collaboratively, but who is also able to make bold and informed decisions about Parish assets, congregations, and worship times
6. A strong character and who understands the need to attract the younger generation whilst still ministering to established church goers
7. Someone who has a clear vision of how we can "go for growth".
8. Experience with Diocesan administration systems, or who is willing to learn them
9. A passion to reach out to the local community, and build ecumenical relationships
10. A sense of humour, and who enjoys a challenge!