

PARISH PROFILE
PARISH OF GAYNDAH WITH MT PERRY

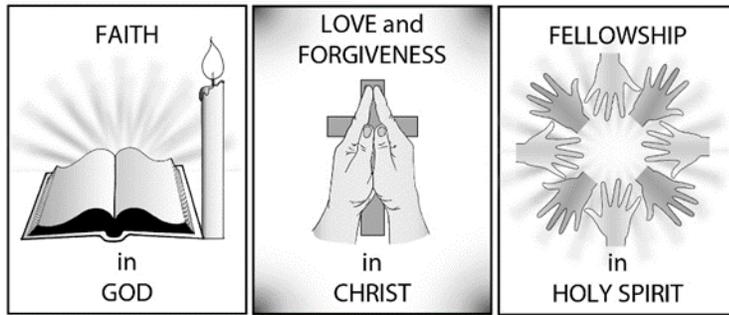


St Matthew's Anglican Church, 97 Capper Street, Gayndah QLD 4625



St Anne's Anglican Church, 99 Heusman St, Mount Perry QLD 4671

At St Matthew's, we value



- Our vision is to build up God's kingdom.
- Ensure that we continue to learn and cherish being better disciples for Christ.
- Our Church family is all of us together working in unity and mission for Christ.

Our prayer for St Matthew's as we discern our future

We pray for God's wisdom

To do his will, to love one another surrounded by the presence of Holy Spirit.

To speak with kindness, with open hearts and minds, with confidence and joy.

We pray for an evangelistic outlook with a reviving spirit.

We pray for protection from the enemy.

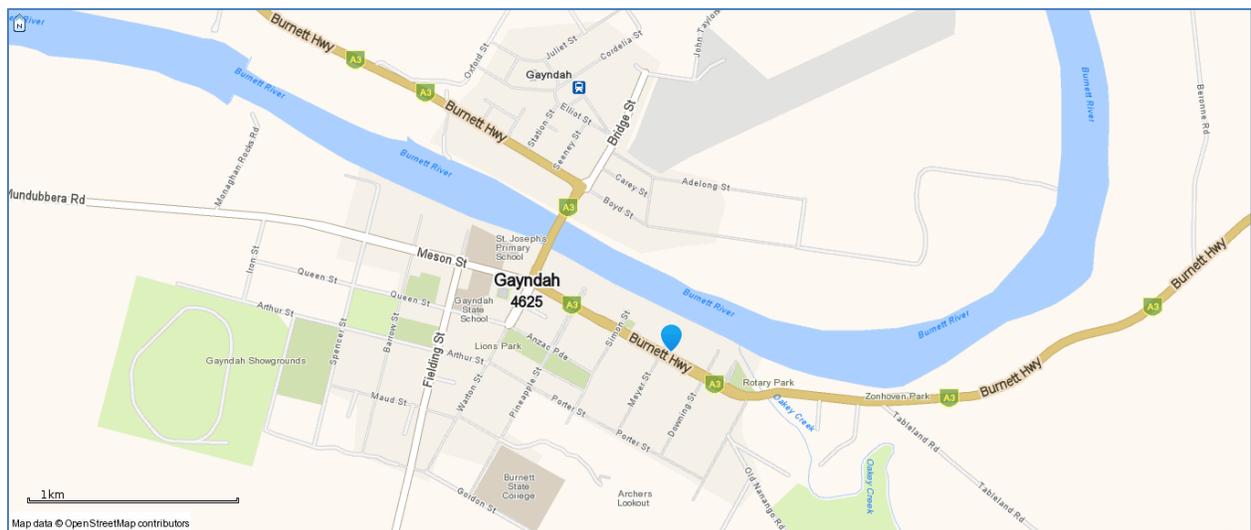
We pray our work will be a blessing to the community.

We give thanks for past blessings, endeavors and future directions.

St Matthew's Gayndah are 166 years (1853) and St Anne's Mt Perry are 113 (1906) years of Anglican presence in our communities and we pray we can continue to serve our God for many more. Amen.

(A prayer sent to us in September 2017 - from the Holy Spirit)

Where we are (Map showing location)



The Anglican Parish of Gayndah including Mt Perry is situated in the Wide Bay area of Queensland along fertile plains beside the Burnett River. The area is known for citrus and beef cattle. Other major crops in the area include a variety of grains, fruit and vegetables – pumpkins, peanuts, sorghum, watermelons, rockmelons, and mangos. There has been a trial of sugar cane, the early stages of a new industry development for the area. Mt Perry is the location for a major gold mine, situated at Mt Rawdon and mined by Evolution Mining.

Our Anglican neighbour to the north is the Parish of Mundubbera, Eidsvold, Monto and our eastern neighbour is the Parish of Goonaneman, with Biggenden being our adjoining neighbour.

Gayndah and Mt Perry are part of the Burnett Deanery that is then part of the Northern Region of the Brisbane Diocese (Anglican Church Southern Queensland). We are classed as being in the most northern area of the Diocese.

Short History –

ST MATTHEW'S GAYNDAH

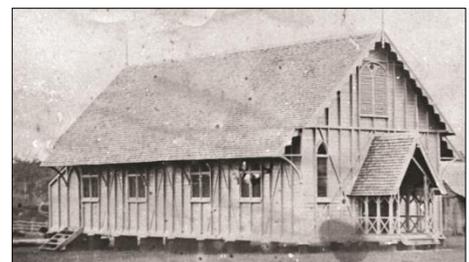
Gayndah's first ordained visiting Priest was The Rev'd. Edward Tanner —1853-4, who had come to Australia with the Bishop of Melbourne in 1847, and was certainly an adventurous priest. He spent the next 40 years in many of the remote areas of this nation. Tanner's ministry was based at Maryborough, and extended out to Gayndah. During the 1850's, laymen conducted services in the Courthouse. In 1860 there were only three Anglican clergymen for a scattered population of more than 25,000.

On 6 June 1859, letters patent were issued creating the new diocese of Brisbane and appointing the Rev'd. Wyndham Tufnell as its first bishop. In 1861, a senior priest, Duncan Mackenzie, Gayndah's first resident Clergyman, was posted to the Burnett Wide Bay area, with headquarters first at Gayndah, and then at Maryborough. Diocesan statistics show Church of England Services held in Gayndah Courthouse from 1860 to 1882. The war and religious upheaval in Germany and the famine in Ireland resulted in many more immigrants coming to the Gayndah District.

The year 1881 marks a turning point in the history of the parish, for after a lapse of twenty years, the question of building a church was at last given serious consideration. Bishop Hale dedicated St. Matthews Church on 17th September 1882 for divine worship.

1901-11, Gayndah's Bush Brotherhood, this was an Australian concept of a religious community with the aura and romance of life in the bush that could inspire an Englishman at a distance. In 1901 to meet the need of ministering to the growing settlements in the Burnett watershed an informal bush brotherhood was formed at Gayndah.

1906-36, Gayndah Parish is reduced in size. The parish of Gayndah in the early days comprised the whole of the Burnett River watershed. It extended from near Maryborough on the east to the Maranoa on the west. In fact it had no western limit. From the original area the parishes of Kilkivan, Murgon, Kingaroy, Nanango, Eidsvold, Gin Gin and Biggenden have been "cut off."



When St. Matthew's was built it was the only Church of England in all the wide extent of country above mentioned. It was therefore considered the mother church of the immense Burnett River district.

St. Matthew's Bell could be one of the oldest bells of its kind in Queensland. The bell was used at Cania Station to call the station people to meals, etc. After the station was sold the bell was given to St Matthew's Church. It was obtained originally from Dr. Sewell, who got it in India as loot. The story always heard was—that it was made for a Rajah who had precious metals cast into the bell to make it worthier of his dignity—hence the sweet tone.

Mr. Compton was appointed to St. Matthew's in 1911 and remained there throughout the difficult years of World War 1 and its aftermath. When the war ended, he ordered stained glass windows and silky oak paneling to be installed in the church as a thanksgiving for allied victory. A Role of Honor of the fallen was placed in St. Matthew's Church after the Great War: In Remembrance 1914 –1918: A. ATKINSON; F.C BUCHOLZ; H. BUCHOLZ; H. CADELL; A.A. CROWE; G.H.E. CROWE; P. E. DEEM; V. GREENUP; C.V. IBSDEBISKI; A.H. LIDDLE; A.E.S. MARSHALL; H.G. MASON; F.W. MAYFIELD; H.H. SCOTT; J. SINN; C.J. SEIDNER; M.C. STEPHENSEN; T. WEBSTER; W. WILLIAMS; A. WINSTONE; J.H. WORLAND MM.

St. Matthew's Church was thoroughly renovated for the 1932 Jubilee year. The old shingle roof which had served its purpose for fifty years, was replaced by fibro cement tiles. The whole building was carefully repaired and renewed where necessary; the vestry enlarged and the building painted within and without. The total cost of this work exceeded £300 and subscriptions and various appeals raised this amount.

The Rectory was built in 1952 for a cost of £ 3,090/0/0.

1970-79, Gayndah Anglicans build a new town Church. The difficulties for raising funds for the New Church are highlighted in the Warden's Annual Report for year ending 21 March 1970. The Right Bishop Rev Bruce Quinton Clark — 1970-76. The new building replaced the wooden building. The last service in that building was Holy Communion on 11 June 1975 celebrated by Bishop Ralph Wicks, Assistant Bishop of the Diocese, following



Confirmation the previous night when eleven candidates were presented. The dedication of the Church of St. Matthew Gayndah by the Most Reverend Felix Arnott, Archbishop of Brisbane was held on Saturday 14 February 1976. The church is constructed of cavity brick, concrete floor and Stramit roofing system with permanent seating for one hundred people.

ARCHTTECT: Mr. A.I. Trewern Dip. Arch., F.R.A.I.A.

BUILDER P.J. Bryant and Co., Gayndah.

CONTRACT PRICE \$54,500.00 plus cost of light fittings.

Bricks were transported free of cost by parishioners, enabling the cost of the Sanctuary carpet to be included in the above price. Most of the furniture from the old church has been retained. The church organ is an Estey two manual, full pedal board, harmonium. Originally it was hand pumped and some of our senior parishioners remember being "Pumpers" as young lads. Later it was converted and in 1949 a new rotary pump was purchased. To coincide with the new

church the ladies guild financed the reconditioning of the harmonium by Whitehouses, and the installation of a new silent blower at an overall cost of \$1600.

Social and Economic Changes – the struggling years 1980-2003. Country towns like Gayndah were affected with the ongoing rural recession. Changes in society, such as the increase in secularism and materialism, resulted in a rapid decline in church attendance. This was coupled with the church's difficulty to penetrate the emerging youth culture, and new ways had to be found to meet these challenges.



The Matthew Stained Glass Windows installed in 2006.



St Matthews Harvest Windows installed in 1995

ST ANNE'S MT PERRY

The timber church was built in 1903 to the design of the Diocesan Architect John Hingeston Buckeridge. The church walls were originally built with external studwork.

There were 2-3 Thousand people living in Mt Perry in 1905.

St. Anne's, the "English Church" as it was called then and is still called by many who were born in Mount Perry was opened and dedicated by the Right Rev'd Nathaniel Dawes, D.D. Bishop of

Rockhampton on 17th July, 1903. Electric lighting was installed in the period 1947-1956. In 1954 the porch was repaired.

In 2000 St Matthew's Gayndah accepted responsibility for providing ministry as required.

In 2003 it was necessary to replace the flooring in the chancel. The timber cost over \$1000 with labour provided by BACUS.

A stone memorial gift of Equigold was dedicated on 17 July 2003 by Area Dean Rev Kevin Lewis. The plaque provided by Des Allen & Co of Bundaberg. This complimented the existing stone wall erected many years ago.

Church Services are held on the 4th Sunday of the month at 11.00am.



Interior St Anne's Mt Perry



Altar – St Anne's Mt Perry

Our Community of Gayndah (Taken from ABS data – www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/)

In 2016 there were 1981 people in Gayndah People - 1,981. There were 70 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people - 70 (8.6%) which is over double of the Queensland average at 4%. The median age in our town is 45 and there are 467 families who have an average of 1.9 children. The average household has 2.2 people a weekly income of \$949 and 1.8 vehicles.

There are approximately 505 people who identify as Anglican in Gayndah (ABS data) which is 25.5% of the town. The Queensland average is 15.3%. There are 335 who identify as Catholic, 156 Uniting Church, and 424 said they didn't identify with any religion.

Our Parish

Table includes Mt Perry attendance.

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total attendance all services (including funerals etc)	5380	4196	4638	4164	3771	4485	3354
Total acts of Communion	3023	2626	2797	2347	2307	1680	1183
Ash Wednesday communicants	23	22	31	26	26	20	15
Easter Communicants	91	71	83	63	60	43	58
Christmas Attendance	121	128	151	117	91	46	47
Christmas Communicants	91	104	113	96	85	40	40
Baptisms	9	3	2	2	0	1	5
Admission to Communion	3	0	3	0	1	0	0
Confirmations	0	2	2	0	0	0	3
Weddings	2	0	1	0	1	2	1
New Lay Ministers	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Funerals	14	8	10	6	6	9	6
AGM attendance	21	20	26	15	13	18	24
Reception into Anglican Church						2	0
Sunday Morning Prayer services						18	26
Number of attenders Morning Prayer						567	728

Our Worship

- We are currently engaged with Father Jeff Balnaves who comes to our Parish as a Locum Priest for 6 days a month, usually the fourth week of the month for 5 days plus the second Tuesday of the month.
- Sunday services currently follow a pattern of Morning Prayer services for the first, second, third and fifth Sundays of the month with a Eucharist service on the fourth Sunday of the month. Sunday services commence at 8am. Our congregations range from 20 to 30.
- Sunday services also include a time **of fellowship and shared morning tea** following the 8am service each Sunday.
- Sunday services follow **the Anglican Liturgical year** with Bible readings, hymns, and banners are changed according to the colour of the season.
- **St Anne's Mt Perry** – Eucharist Services held monthly at 11am on the fourth Sunday of the month. Visiting Priest conducts the service. A Liturgical Assistant is rostered to go to Mt Perry as a support and a connection within the Parish. Congregation range from 4 to 16 parishioners. Some children attend occasionally.
- **Tuesday Communion Services at St Matthew's** are held on the second and fourth Tuesday's of the month at 9.30am.

- **Home Communion** Currently there is a special ministry with Home Communion and reaches out to those who are not able to come to church due to health issues. Liturgical Assistants have had training to be able to provide a Home Communion ministry.
- **Nursing Home Ministries** – A liturgical Assistant regularly attends weekly at the Gunther Retirement Village to visit residents and provide a Home Communion if request. A monthly Communion Service is rostered into the Activities Plan on the 4th Thursday of the month. This is attended by 10 to 15 residents.
- Preparation of the **church and surrounds for Sunday worship** – fresh flowers are donated and placed at the Altar each Sunday by volunteers. There is a roster system in place for cleaning the church and mowing the grounds each week. The gardens are tendered to regularly by a few parishioners who take pleasure in ensuring the appearance of the church grounds is aesthetically appealing.
- St Matthew's Church has eight (8) **licensed Liturgical Assistants**. This enables an ongoing roster to be prepared and the duties of the Liturgical Assistant to be shared. For Eucharist services we roster one LA and two LAs for Morning Prayer services. This helps us to maintain our skills and knowledge. Reliable LAs are vital as it gets more difficult to find Parish Priests prepared to come to rural areas. Training has been provided for all LA's and support for each other is most important.



All Souls Service 2 November 2019



Donald and Tomoko McGregor with Sylvia Kirk

Parish Groups and Activities

- Parish Council
- **Mothers Union** 18 members (1962) The 18 members of Mothers union meet monthly as we have done since 1962. Links with All Saints Honiara Solomon Islands.
- **Anglican Men's Society** – recently formed group of about 8 men
- **Parish Mission with Solomon Islands** – us to them, and them to us.
2019 – Gayndah hosted Fr Wilfred Kekea for 6 weeks as an exchange of cultures
2018 – 5 parishioners from Gayndah visited Solomon Islands for the 100 year anniversary of Mothers Union for the Diocese of Ysabel
2017 – 26 Solomon Islands Mothers Union members visited Gayndah for 3 days
2010 – 15 Solomon Island Mothers Union members visited Gayndah for 10 days
- Wednesday Bible Study group 9 members
- Evening Prayer weekly – minimum of 3 Wardens meet and pray together weekly
- Home Communion by Priest and / or LA as need arises or requested
- Nursing Home ministries – weekly individual visiting with a monthly communal Holy Communion service at Gunther Retirement Village (54 beds)
- Catering Group – Parish Functions, funerals and other private caterings
- Hospitality after services includes morning tea and fellowship
- Maintenance Team
- Housekeeping includes cleaning church and other buildings as required
- Care cupboard for local requests
- Christmas Hampers distributed into the community (donations from parishioners)
- Back to school help for those in need
- Christmas Shoeboxes - 32 boxes filled and transport covered in 2017; 18 boxes in 2019
- Supporting Missions – ABM, BCA, plus others
- Church Garage Sales, street stalls and Fete
- Church representative on local Schools Chaplaincy committee
- Church representative on local Gayndah Churches Together group
- St Matthews is a part of the local World Day of Prayer activities
- Membership in Gayndah Churches Together group
- Curcillo Ultreya – some commitment but could be improved



What we can offer financially

We are a small rural Parish and accept that, as such, we have been saving really hard and can now offer a full time position for 12 months or part time for 2+ years at Diocesan rates. Our

Parish is willing to be flexible and creative if the Clergy Family would like to supplement your income with other “tent making” activities. The rural environment is a great setting for creative occupations such as writing, art, music etc.

Starting February 2020, there will be a 0.5 EFT opportunity available with Scripture Union as Chaplain at the local high school. Income streams that others look for in Gayndah include citrus picking and packing in the winter months a hospital with limited services and a 55 bed community nursing home for health professionals, Schools periodically have positions available for education professionals from Prep to Year 12 – Burnett Secondary College, Gayndah State School, St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School, Binjour Primary School, Coalstoun Lakes Primary School.

The parish is currently debt free with no plans of going into debt. We have a strong fundraising ethos that includes at least one massive garage sale each year. There has been a cattle scheme where cattle are bought as young cattle and sold to the meat works when mature. This scheme has now been put into retirement as at September 2019. Street stalls are held regularly in the main town area. Catering group is engaged for funerals and sometimes private functions.

Challenges of the Parish of Gayndah with Mt Perry:

Our challenges that we are prepared to action include working with visiting Priests, Bishop Jeremy Greaves and through God’s power.

- Small number of parishioners who have full time employment
- Youth leave town for further studies and work which leaves us with a poor representation of younger generations
- Aging volunteers limits the amount of fundraising we do
- The number of churches in Gayndah – with a town population of around 2000 people, and 7 other churches holding regular services (Catholic, Uniting, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, Assembly of God, Apostolic, Seventh Day Adventist), all maintaining church buildings and some form of ministry.
- Limited availability of specialist medical (including birthing), and legal services which often require long distance travel if they are needed.
- Local schools have declining number of registrations – Gayndah State School currently around 120 students
- Some older parishioners / citizens have relocated to regional and coastal towns - to be closer to family and health services
- Low housing costs attract a very low socio economic group to our town
- Distance to Mt Perry plus the quality of the roads – 70 km includes approximately 15 – 20kms of dirt road not well maintained.
- Maintaining motivation and energy through a long interregnum
- 505 people have identified as Anglican in the last Census and only about 50 come to church sometime during the year
- Limited public transport to and from and in Gayndah – Council bus to Maryborough and Bundaberg weekly, limited taxi service

- Being a small Anglican Parish located between 2 larger 'amalgamated' Parishes – Parish of Mundubbera, Eidsvold Monto to our north and Parish of Goonaneman (Childers, Gin Gin, Biggenden, Woodgate and Brooweena) to the east.
- Being a part of a Diocese that is centered in Brisbane 760km return.
- There is some travel involved and our parish Priest would need to own their own car and have a current driver's license. We do pay for vehicle expenses in accordance with Diocesan canons. We expect our Priest would have to travel to Mt Perry 70km (one way) once a month, to Childers, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay or Maryborough for Burnett Deanery activities which is a return trip of no more than 360km, but being a rural town there is always someone going to where you need to go and can car pool.

Attributes wanted in a Priest

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

- Holy Spirit Filled
- Preach from the Word of God, shows an engagement with scripture
- Ability to connect theology to everyday life
- Evangelistic outlook
- God centered, with a Christian ethos.
- Has a passion for mission
- Has a Prayer based ministry, desire to share in the prayer life of the parish and an ability to encourage the parish in their prayer life.
- To be able to connect to wider Gayndah and Mt Perry communities
- Able to nurture our parishioners through spiritual practices such as prayer, worship, study and service.
- Lives a life abundant in the fruits of the Spirit.
- Willing to build ecumenical relationships
- Has a strong track record of mentoring, supporting, and listening to others who need support.
- Is able to investigate and is interested in children's and youth ministry, which could include Religious education at the local primary school
- Able to be "at home" in our parish and call our town "home"

Expressions of interest should be sent to the Right Reverend Jeremy Greaves
Email J.Greaves@anglicanchurchsq.org.au