

April 2020

Parish Profile

St Margaret's Anglican Church Nerang



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Our Parish Vision

***Our Parish Vision is to express the love of God,
to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ
and to do this in the power of the Holy Spirit.***

Finding Us

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Parish Water Feature

Brief Parish History

Anglican worship at Nerang can be traced to the 1870s and the Parish is very proud that St Margaret's Church, built in 1877, was the first Church on what is now the Gold Coast region. The first service was conducted on the 20th January 1878 by the Rev'd John Gilbertson.

The much-loved St Margaret's situated on the Nerang River in Nerang Street was built from 'pit-sawn timber, handmade nails. Cedar pews, altar and podium were constructed, and the Church lined with cedar'. (Janet Diehl 2008)

The Church provided a haven for the small but growing Church of England worshippers through Federation, the First World War, the 'Spanish Flu', The Great Depression and the Second World War. There is an exquisite Honour Board in the present Church recording those who Served from the Parish in the two 20th Century Wars.

The Church at Nerang, like the township, continued to grow and in the early 1990s the Parish Council decided that the little Church on the River was too small and a new site was purchased at 167 Beaudesert-Nerang Road which had a building for a Rectory with a large room available for Worship.

As often happens, 'Cometh the moment – cometh the Man'. In 1991 the Rev'd Ken Mackie, from New Zealand, was appointed Honorary Priest, in what is known as 'House for Duty'. Fr Ken and Shirley presided over the de-consecration of the old Church, which was moved to the Gold Coast City Council site at Bundall and used for occasional Worship and Weddings.

Further, Fr Ken was involved in St Margaret's separating from St Peter's Southport and saw the inauguration of St Margaret's as a Provisional Parish.

The property at 169 Beaudesert-Nerang Road was purchased with a house becoming the 'new' Rectory. The Parish still owns the Rectory, however, the land in front of the Rectory was sold and is now a Child Care Centre.

The popular Fr Ken and Shirley retired in 1994 to Burleigh Heads.

The Rev'd Ken Suddick 1994-1998: Ken was an enthusiastic north country Englishman and during his time the present St Margaret's Church was moved from Tingalpa in the Manly Parish.

Janet Diehl writes, 'The re-sited building was completed as a place of worship and dedicated to the Glory of God at a Service by Bishop Ron Williams (Regional Bishop) on the 31st August 1996 whilst the Rev'd Ken Suddick was Rector of the Nerang Parish. The portico was later added providing an all-weather outdoor area at the entrance to St Margaret's.

The Rev'd David Cox 1998-2008: The Rev'd David and his wife, Phyl, saw the Parish grow and develop with many developments for Mission and Ministry.

Further improvements were made to the Church building and in August 2006, on the 10th Anniversary of the new Church, a grand Thanksgiving Service was held.

Another milestone was reached in 2008 when the Parish celebrated 130 years since the opening of the old pit-sawn timber Church down by the river in 1878.

Ms Pauline Harley, now The Rev'd Pauline and Parish Priest of Toowoomba West, was Parish Secretary/Administrator from 2004 to 2015. Pauline played a very important part in the Parish serving two Parish Priests.

The Rev'd Charles Holmes 2011-2018: Fr Charles lived with his wife, Carmel, in the Tallebudgera Valley. As well as Parish duties, Fr Charles became a Queensland Police Chaplain which helped the Parish financially although it was an extra burden in the life of a busy Parish Priest. One notable change during his ministry was the acquisition of the 'movie theatre' seats to replace the brown plastic chairs in the Church.

'Everyone loved Charles' was how the quiet unassuming Charles was described by a St Margaret's parishioner. Over 100 folk attended his farewell in July 2018 when he retired and he and Carmel moved to Tasmania.

The Rev'd Harry Reuss: Parish Priest from 2019-2020.

The Parish also has three retired and well-respected Clergy who provide support for the Incumbent and important Pastoral Care. About 40 folk gather weekly where conservative Anglican worship is enhanced with traditional and modern music.

Hopes and Plans for the future of our Parish

- To be a centre of worship in our area.
- To increase the number of regular active worshippers.
- To achieve greater outreach.... To be a faithful and caring community.
- To actively encourage and support greater involvement with youth and whole families in our community.
- To be open to change.
- To be financially viable and secure.
- To have an appropriate plan for the future of our parish and the redevelopment of the church's campus.

We seek in a new priest

A leader who will provide spiritual, gracious and generous collaborative leadership, and who:

- Continues to lead our worship in its variety of formal and informal patterns.
- Provides Bible-based teaching which challenges us to improve our understanding of our Christian faith and inspires us to witness in our local community.
- Supports our Music Ministry.
- Provides pastoral ministry which supports and inspires and empowers the lay ministry and pastoral care in our parish, recognizing the rich community of gifts and graces where each has a contribution to make for the well-being and flourishing of the whole.
- Explores new ministries for family and youth and encourages intergenerational worship and fellowship.
- Upholds the welcoming culture of openness and acceptance for all who enter our doors.
- Continue, within our region, the existing ecumenical relationship with churches and their pastors.
- Provides leadership in financial stewardship, care of parish property.
- Engages in the digital community and able to reach out to on-line communities to share God's love and message.

Who we are

- St. Margaret's is a small but cohesive parish on the Gold Coast with a congregation of over fifty committed members most of whom are pensioners.
- St Margaret's has a heart for outreach to the underprivileged in the community and supports a meals programme at the Nerang High School as well as support for the School Chaplain.
- Worship Service times are presently on Sunday at 8 am and Wednesday at 10 am. Services are also conducted at three Nursing Homes in our region. Services presently take a traditional style but there are A-V facilities available where styles of worship may alter.
- A strong musical component has emerged, adding its quality to worship as well as the Spring Concert which encouraged local talent into its program.
- A Taizé Sunday worship 6 pm service has now been put on hold.

- Our campus is situated at 167 Beaudesert-Nerang Road, situated in housing estate approximately one kilometre west of the Business Centre of Nerang.
- Our main income stream is derived from member contribution and rental of office space to small businesses plus household rental of the Rectory. The Parish is presently debt-free.
- We have an on-going tradition of supporting mission and outreach activities, locally and nationally.

Parish snapshot: 2019 (full year) statistics

Activity	2019
Baptisms	2
Confirmations	0
Admissions to Communion	0
Marriages	1
Funerals	3
Total Communicants	2238
Average Weekly Communicants	45
Total Attendance at all services	2283

Grounds & Buildings

1. We are a small congregation on a huge property. There are five buildings on the property granting the opportunity for six or more tenant rentals to complement congregational giving.

The Rectory is leased on an annual basis to a family, with option to renew.

2. The Administration Centre offers office space for four or more tenants plus an additional but external building. Presently only three office rentals are occupied. The Parish is seeking to have spaces occupied but such is proving difficult at this time.

It is worth noting the area of Sewerage Connection & Storm Water Outlets is almost complete. Work occupied most of 2019 but red-tape, inter-departmental agendas, and opposing agencies plus a heavy rain period, has been extremely frustrating to those coordinating this project. Hopefully, we are now seeing a light at the end of the tunnel. Finance for these projects have come from reserve funds from the sale of our property next door to a Child Care business [Diocesan permission needed to utilize such funds] or negotiation with the original purchaser where new construction created a problem.

The Parish property is in good condition and there is a continuing updating of facilities by the hardworking Parish Council. The Church Car Park and drainage has been updated.

The Rectory bathroom needs to be updated and should be completed after Easter.

Parish Admin Building



Existing Strengths and Community Activities

- St. Margaret's provides a welcoming, loving, faithful warmth in its congregation, developing a strong sense of family. A shared concern for the needy is supported by action.
- Pastoral Care supports members in need via phone contact and/or coffee meetings; meals may be delivered to homes where requested. This group also arranges refreshments after funerals, baptisms, rosters for assistance in worship services. A Prayer Circle is included in this Pastoral Care management.
- Fellowship: A Meditation Group meets weekly of a Monday followed by a Coffee/ Tea gathering. Morning Tea is also provided following Worship Services of the Sunday and the Wednesday where visitors are most welcome. Parish Breakfasts and Brunches offer social interaction on a relaxed basis.
- Study: Bethel Course recently was completed with participants continuing into Lenten season as a study group. Four other groups also met for study in this period. Some will continue to meet either in Bible Study and/or in Cursillo Groupings throughout the year.
- Chaplaincy [one of our strongest charity commitments]: St. Margaret's is represented on the Local School Chaplaincy Council with our parish donating annually as a major sponsor, financed from stalls within Bunnings Sausage Sizzle program; further involvement in LCC activities such as K4Kids Walkathon, Barefoot Bowls Day at local Bowls Club, dining as a parish group socially at the "Helping Hand" Dinners, Nerang RSL Club, and also coordinating programs of support to school students with purchases of uniforms and providing food parcels to needy students and their families. Provisions for the Food Hamper are provided by congregation donation; additional packs also directed to St. John's help for the homeless and DV victims on the Gold Coast. Domestic Violence persons are issued with Personal Health Packs including items such as toothbrushes, soaps, handwashers and other hygiene needs. Assistance in this area has association with local Police and Departmental personnel.
- Meeting Room in the past embraced numerous community groups such as Mainly Music, Parents Without Partners, Mothers/Child Care Group, Alcoholics Anonymous plus many others on an ad hoc basis.
- Market Day Sales were well-organized events, two per year. They were busy as well as stressful days but added that sense of togetherness and achievement plus financial return.

Challenges and Opportunities

- Ageing of Parishioners limiting given tasks; an injection of younger parishioners could see exciting opportunities accepted.
- Declining numbers places an increased burden upon present giving in, unfortunately, a pensioner environment; it forces us to seek other forms of income to off-set this problem.
- Insufficient Outreach.
- Absence of young families: a previous Kids' Club closed when the Parish reverted to one service on the Sunday which saw these families move away because we offered nothing constructive for young children.
- Ageing facilities whose maintenance or replacement adds seriously to out-goings in the budget.
- Finances: Even though members give freely, the drop in Giving is reflected in our decreasing numbers. Again, the increased cost of maintenance partners this problem.

Risk Management

- St. Margaret's fully supports the Diocesan Risk Management Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth. An Officer hold this position. Management of Blue Cards is recorded within Parish Administration. Workers have been trained to Diocesan requirements.
- A Risk Management Officer has also been appointed covering Workplace, Health & Safety. Reports are presented to Parish Council meetings.

Parish Staffing and Administration

- Staff presently consists of a Locum appointment as Priest-in-Charge. His role is supported by three [3] Wardens [one Priest's Warden and two People's Wardens] who meet regularly with five Councillors to conduct Parish business. A Treasurer and Secretary are appointed to attend to duties in those roles. Other appointments include Working-Bee Coordinators, Director of Music, Synod representatives, property/maintenance coordinators.
- Office Administrative duties are carried out by volunteers.

- The Parish has a web site [www.anglicannerang.com] and Facebook Page [**Anglican Church Nerang**] where activities are promoted and celebrated.
- The only paid position within the Parish is that of Priest-in-Charge.

Facilities Available in Parish Locality

- Public and Private Hospitals are located within a 15-minute drive.
- Nerang adequately provides in terms of General Practitioners, Dentists, Podiatrists, Physiotherapists, and Medical Clinics.
- Pre-school, Primary and High Schools, both Government and Private, are in proximity
- TAFE and Tertiary Education is available on the Gold Coast.
- Emergency Services from Ambulance to Fire Brigade are based in Nerang
- The small business centre of Nerang is also home to a varied and expanding Commercial Estate.
- Nerang is on the M1 Motorway with Brisbane in the north and NSW border in the south just an hour away.
- Rail travel centres upon the Nerang Station with public bus transport and G-link connecting to all suburbs on the Gold Coast.
- Sporting Clubs, for all ages and abilities, are available to the enthusiast; from the public swimming pool and swim club to bowls, cycling at the velodrome to contact sporting competition, with tennis to PCYC proving popular.
- Local hotels, clubs and restaurants cater for excellent dining.

