



**ST MARK'S THE GAP  
ANGLICAN PARISH  
(ANGLICAN CHURCH SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND)**

**PARISH PROFILE - JUNE 2020**



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# ST MARK'S THE GAP ANGLICAN PARISH

## PARISH PROFILE - JUNE 2020

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# 1 VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

## 1.1 VISION

“To be the best family church and the best church family that we can become”, and so fulfil the command of Jesus that we make disciples.

## 1.2 MISSION

**By making disciples, to help people come to Christ and to take their place in His work of transforming lives and the world.**

### **What does this involve?**

1. Individual commitment to Jesus
2. Discerning where the spirit of God is leading us as a Parish
3. Building the church family through biblically based teaching, fellowship, worship, prayer and care by:-
  - creating a sense of belonging
  - encouraging friendliness, sharing and hospitality
  - cultivating the fruit of the Spirit
  - developing each member's gifts
4. Proclaiming Jesus and reaching out to individuals and families in The Gap and beyond by active outreach and caring. Currently, these are:-
  - Home groups, Cursillo groups and activities for specific segments of the parish
  - by developing a ministry to meet the needs of households and individuals
5. Moving with the Spirit into ministry to the wider world by:-
  - sharing our experience and skills with other churches
  - witnessing in our work places and community activities
  - supporting missionary and caring ministries in both Australia and overseas (pray, send, go)

## 1.3 CORE VALUES

1. The gathering together as the Church is essential to the life of God's people.
2. For ministry to reflect the servanthood of Jesus, it must be centred in prayer and be Holy Spirit empowered.
3. Everyone matters to God and God has a special concern for the lost.
4. Evangelism is an ongoing process that is the responsibility of every believer in the community of faith.
5. Each person's journey to a faith commitment and spiritual maturity is unique and must be respected.
6. Biblical truth is relevant to everyone and the sole basis for belief.
7. Growth occurs most effectively in small groups where there are opportunities to articulate our faith.
8. Every believer is a minister in his/her family, occupation, community and Church.
9. Devotion to and trust in Jesus Christ.
10. Authenticity (i.e. "being real and honest") is essential for spiritual and relationship growth.
11. Giving of our best honours God and reflects His character.
12. 'Unity in diversity' expresses God's will for relationship within this congregation and with others in the wider Body of Christ.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE**

#### **Location**

The suburb of The Gap is situated 10 kilometres northwest of Brisbane's CBD along Waterworks Road. For local government purposes, it is one of 26 wards or electorates within the Brisbane City Council which covers most of the Brisbane urban area.

The Church, Hall, Rectory and Parish Centre are located on the corners of Waterworks Road and Kullaroo Street.

The Gap is a large suburb, with definite physical boundaries and few roads connecting to other suburbs. Generally, people are well educated with above average incomes. The population consists of families with children, young people, parents and retirees of mainly white European backgrounds. There are no significantly large culturally different groups.

Many people from The Gap Parish study, work and play in various parts of Brisbane and South East Queensland, and sometimes beyond, so their witness in these environments may be to people who have no connection with The Gap or St Marks Church.

The population of The Gap itself is approximately 16,700 people (2016 census) and while the parish draws people from other areas up to 45 minutes travel time away, the majority are from The Gap and neighbouring suburbs with a total population of approximately 40,000 people (Keperra, Upper Kedron, Ferny Grove, Ferny Hills and Ashgrove etc).

Brisbane is the capital of Queensland with a population of approximately 2.5 million in the greater Brisbane urban area (including Logan City, Ipswich, Redlands Shire, Pine Shire and Redcliffe City). South East Queensland including Brisbane, Gold Coast (to the south) and the Sunshine Coast (to the north) is one of Australia's fastest growing areas.

#### **Climate**

Brisbane enjoys a sub tropical climate with sunshine and clear skies most of the year.

The wet season is December to March when the weather can be humid and wet. Rain used to be by way of late afternoon storms with a build up during the day. Brisbane has not had a "normal" wet season for some years.

Outside of these months, the weather is very predictable - fine, sunny, blue skies and mild nights. August can have days of cold (for Brisbane) westerly winds which usually coincide with the Ekka (The Royal Brisbane Show held at the RNA showgrounds at Bowen Hills).

Top daily temperatures for Brisbane average in the range of 20°C to 29°C across different months with minimum temperatures averaging between from 10°C to 20°C. Brisbane's daily temperature range of about 10°C is fairly steady throughout the year.

See [www.ourbrisbane.com](http://www.ourbrisbane.com) for more information on geography, history, housing profiles and Brisbane generally.

## **2.2 HISTORY OF THE PARISH**

St Marks began as a branch church of Ithaca-Ashgrove Parish and became a separate parochial district in 1969. It became a Parish in 1970 and the five Rectors to date have been:-

- The Revd Cliff Brown (1970-1974);
- The Revd Douglass Bartholomeusz (1974-1982);
- The Revd Bruce Worthington (1983 -1992);
- The Revd Canon Ron Bundy (1993 -2006); and
- The Revd Kenneth Hopper (2008 – 2020).

There are five other churches in The Gap; Apostolic, Baptist, Catholic, Presbyterian and Uniting. Historically, there has been an excellent relationship between the churches and their leaders.

## **2.3 OVERVIEW OF PARISH LEADERSHIP AND STAFFING**

We currently employ a Locum Rector for three days a week, with the view to increasing this to 4 days a week, and a Stipendiary Lay Women's Minister three days a week. Our Parish is supported by a volunteer administrative team consisting of four (4) people.

As issues arise, or ideas are raised, they are discussed within the Executive, and decisions concerning the direction forward are arrived at by honest and open discussion over time (ranging from Biblical and theological principles through to people and practical considerations), supported by prayer.

Matters of Policy are then taken to Parish Council for further discussion, often with a recommendation/s from the Executive. Parish Council provides appropriate guidance and opinions in the development of policy as part of its role as a Council of Advice to the Rector and Wardens.

In developing this model, the Parish recognises that, under the Canons of the Diocese of Brisbane, the Rector holds certain responsibilities for leadership. The model that the Parish has developed does not challenge that fact, but seeks to enhance the leadership that the Rector provides in performing these responsibilities.

## **2.4 OTHER DOCUMENTS AND BACKGROUND**

Attachments to this document as relevant background material are:-

- Attachment 1 Parish Profile (2006)
- Attachment 2 Parish Dashboard (2018)
- Attachment 3 Ministry Action Plan (2020)
- Attachment 4 Parish History
- Attachment 5 Selected Photos

A reading and perusal of the Parish website ([www.tgac.org.au](http://www.tgac.org.au)) would be useful, however this is currently being rebuilt.

## **3 WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO**

### **3.1 CULTURE**

There are currently 90 households on the Parish roll. The Parish has experienced significant decline in numbers over recent years with departures predominantly of families, youth and children. As a consequence, the demographic of the remaining parishioners is dominated by those over 70 (~80%), which is not reflective of the demographic of the suburb.

St Marks' culture features Bible based teaching, supported through home, Cursillo and pastoral groups which are aimed at deepening Christian commitment. Approximately 30 members of our congregation meet regularly in various small groups. We currently hold an online service each week the Locum Rector and a small team visit the local nursing home and individuals visit the Wesley Hospital, Greenslopes Hospital and the Arthur Gorrie Correctional centre.

### **3.2 CHURCH SERVICES**

There is currently one online service but it is our intention to return to four services at St Marks (three on Sunday and one mid week). All are very different in style.

- i. At 7.30am a Prayer Book for Australia is followed using The Second Order (The third order is used on the first Sundays of the month). The best description of the 7.30am service is 'traditional'. Average attendance is approximately 25 people.
- ii. The 9.30am service is presented with a digital projector utilising prayer book liturgy with a mix of hymns and more modern music. Approximately 30 attend.
- iii. Sunday Night Church at 6pm also makes use of digital screen technology. This is a service of Prayer, Praise and Proclamation and has an average attendance of 12. Modern music is provided by a band with a lead singer. A service of Holy Communion is held on the first Sunday of each month.
- iv. A service of Holy Communion is held on Wednesdays at 9.30am. Average attendance is 8 people. For about half of the attendees this is the only service that they attend at St Marks. There is no singing and a short sermon is given on one of the readings from the Lectionary.

Across all services, the overall numbers have declined over the past decade. From an average of 220 to 250 congregants per week, we are now at an average of 70, with no active youth and family ministry. Reference is made to the attached Parish Profile 2006, attachment 1.

### **3.3 SMALL GROUPS**

There are approximately half a dozen small groups meeting in the Parish. These range from Home Groups to Cursillo groups and one meditation group that meet for Bible study, prayer and mutual support.

Small groups are a vital and integral part of our parish family. In small groups, people meet regularly in a safe environment for the purpose of ministry, fellowship, support, study and having fun.

The fellowship and mutual caring relationships built in small groups are instrumental in spiritual growth.

### **3.4 PRAYER**

Prayer is a key foundation in our parish life. A prayer list is sent to all group leaders each week to provide prayer support for those who request this. Annually, the Thy Kingdom Come Prayer vigil is held, with parishioners meeting every day at 7 am and 9.30 am for prayer.

### **3.5 WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

This is currently provided by a paid position and provides pastoral support to Women in the Parish and assists with other ministries as required or requested.

### **3.6 MUSIC MINISTRY**

The parish has 4 musicians who share responsibility for the three Sunday Services.

### **3.7 ECUMENICAL ACTIVITIES**

Our participation in local ecumenical activities has declined. St Marks still participates in the Pentecost service, hosting it every three years.

### **3.8 MISSION AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**

Financial support of various missions, such as BCA and CMS.

Support of Rev Robin Payne, an Anglican priest teaching theology in a Bible College in Kyrgyzstan (a Central Asian republic). Robin is supported through Interserve and is a parishioner of this Parish. Support of Adam and Helene Ramsay in Japan through CMS. Adam and Helene are both parishioners and they along with Robin visit and share with the parish when on home visits.

### **3.9 FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE**

This ministry to generally senior women has been a long-term outreach by the Parish. The group meets monthly on a Wednesday morning after the 9:30am service. The mobility of the attendees, their transport needs and the need for more able-bodied supporters or members of the group are challenges in this specialist ministry. They provide a pickup service to transport members to the Wednesday Service followed by lunch at The Gap Tavern.

### **3.10 SINGLES PLUS SOCIAL GROUP**

This group meets regularly for coffee at a local cafe and also organises outings a few times a year. It is a group of single elderly parishioners and provides a support and a social outlet for those older singles new to the parish or widowed parishioners.

### **3.11 CHRISTIAN MEDITATION GROUP**

This group meets weekly in the leader's home to listen to a short presentation from the Worldwide Christian Meditation Network, to meditate together for 20 – 30 minutes and to pray. The group varies in size with a core of 3 regular people.

### **3.12 MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP**

A group of parishioners meet monthly at The Gap Tavern for a social get together, providing an opportunity to invite friends who are not parishioners.

### **3.13 MOTHERS UNION**

A long-standing and very active group of around 15 women who meet monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at 4 pm. The group actively supports mission overseas and Anglicare Chaplaincy in Australia. There is retiring collection twice a year at each service.

### **3.14 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MINISTRY**

There is a key ministry provided to the parish by its Buildings and Grounds group. While the small group of men work together on different maintenance and improvement projects, there are others in the parish who do mowing on a roster basis and the weekly changing of the main signage boards.

### **3.15 WEBSITE**

This is currently being rebuilt, with a focus on functionality accessibility, and aesthetics. It is a portal to our online presence, holding links to our Facebook page and YouTube channel.

### **3.16 PASTORAL VISITING**

This has been provided by our Locum Priest and the Stipendiary Lay Women's Minister, as well other parishioners

### **3.17 BIBLE TEACHING WEEKEND**

An annual Bible Teaching weekend is a feature of our Parish commencing with a Parish dinner and teaching provided by a visiting facilitator on a theme over 3 sessions and during the combined Sunday morning service.

### **3.18 OUTREACH MINISTRY**

#### **Men's Regis Group**

This group has meets once a month on the 2nd Wednesday at Regis Aged Care Home and has around 14 members. Led by parishioners it usually provides a BBQ lunch to members and an opportunity to socialise.

#### **Regis Coffee Club**

Every Tuesday 2pm a parishioner volunteers to make coffee and chat to residents who come to the lounge.

#### **Regis Service and Visiting**

Once a month, a group of volunteers and the rector provide an ecumenical service at the Regis Aged Care Home. During the service a Licensed Liturgical Assistant provides Holy Communion to residents in their rooms who request this.

#### **Christmas Carols and Twilight Market**

The first Sunday evening in December the parish ran a twilight market in the Hall and grounds of the Church and included Christmas carols sung by the children from the Gap State School and a local choir. This was very well attended and is planned to be an annual event. All monies raised from the registration fees of stall owners was donated to School Chaplains in The Gap.

#### **Children's Christmas Service**

Held on the Christmas Eve, this service is well attended by those in and outside the Parish.

#### **School Chaplaincy**

A parishioner attends the quarterly Gap School Chaplaincy meeting.

#### **Annual Ecumenical Pentecost Service**

Our parish participates in this service and hosts it on rotation with the other Churches in The Gap.

### **3.19 NEW AND RE-INVIGORATED MINISTRIES**

St. Mark's leadership is keen to regrow our family and youth ministry as we regard it to be essential to the long term development and survival of our parish. Ten years ago the parish had a youth ministry of over 80 members with a dedicated Youth & Children's Minister. This work will be underpinned by increasing engagement with our schools and community, dedicated prayer and by fully embracing the wealth of talent and intent in our parish community.

Identified ministries to commence or re-ignite in the next 12-18 months to support the above longer term ministry direction are listed below.

#### **Schools RE**

We plan to re-engage with the schools, students and teachers, build links with schools and school chaplains to engage with community.

#### **Playgroup**

By engaging with the Playgroup Association and using the Parish Hall to host a Playgroup, we hope to outreach to young families in The Gap.

#### **Prayer Groups and Corporate Prayer**

We plan to re-engage regular corporate prayer and intentional prayer groups in the parish to underpin all current and new ministries and to support the parish leadership team, members and community.

#### **Shed Happens for Men (The Gap)**

This shed was started by a former parishioner. Using this intentionally as an outreach to men in the community.

In our 2020 Parish review, our Parish Action Plan identifies further priorities. See Attachment 3.

## **4.0 PROPERTY AND FINANCE**

### **4.1 PROPERTY**

#### **The Church Building**

The Church building is modern, comfortable, structurally in good condition, adaptable, air-conditioned and seats over 200 people. It was built in the 1977 - 1978 for multi purpose use. Just about everything is movable.

#### **The Ministry Centre**

The Ministry centre was built and opened in 2018 at a cost of approximately \$1.2 million. It is a state of the art, air-conditioned facility with a large outside deck featuring sweeping views over the suburb, it boasts a large adaptable kitchen, smaller meeting rooms, storage facilities and a contemporary AV system.

#### **Parish Centre**

The building is in sound condition and is the former rectory adjacent to the church. The Parish Offices are located on the upper level and are air-conditioned.

#### **The Rectory**

The Rectory is located across the side street from the church. It is the intention of the Parish that the rectory is renovated to the Diocesan standard, incorporating an updated bathroom and kitchen.

It is a four bedroom, lowset brick home which includes a private self-contained bed-sitter. It has a large garden area and single car accommodation.

#### **Photos**

Included in this document at Appendix 5 are selected photos showing:-

Photos 1, 2	Parish Centre - external views
Photos 3, 4	Church building - external views
Photos 5 - 7	Church building - internal views
Photos 8, 9	Church Entry
Photos 10, 11	Rear view of Church buildings
Photos 12, 13	Front view of Church buildings
Photos 14 – 20	Ministry Centre, various views
Photo 21	Rectory - external view

Virtual tour <https://goo.gl/maps/oRZ4H89zVc15hraCA>

### **4.2 FINANCES**

St Marks has a debt to ANFIN of approximately \$370,000 due to the construction of the Ministry Centre. Giving from parishioners is our primary source (approx. \$185 000) against a total income of \$250 000.

## **5.0 FURTHER INFORMATION**

Locum Priest: Bruce Sligo [brucesligo@gmail.com](mailto:brucesligo@gmail.com)

Church wardens: Hazel Boltman [hboltman@bggs.qld.edu.au](mailto:hboltman@bggs.qld.edu.au)  
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## **PARISH CONTACT DETAILS**

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**Appendix 5**

**Photographs of Church Buildings and Property**













