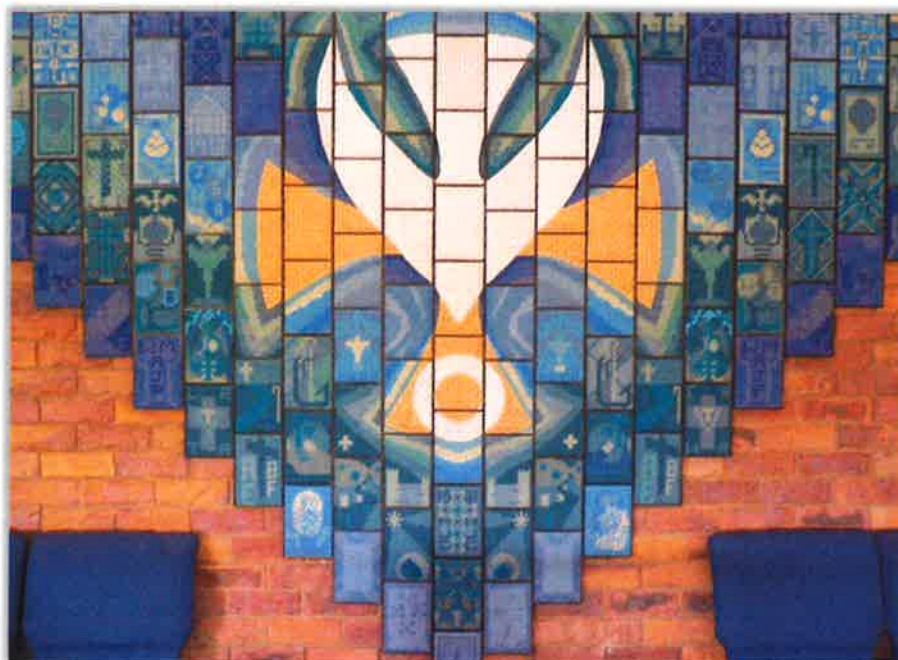




Church of the Holy Spirit Anglican Parish of Algester PROFILE



Cnr Algester Rd & Ormskirk Street, Calamvale.
Entry via Ormskirk Street
Ph.: 07 3273 7169
Email: office@algesteranglican.org.au
Web address: www.algesteranglican.org.au

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Introduction

The aim of this document is to introduce the Anglican Parish of Algester – Church of the Holy Spirit. You will appreciate this is an overview. More detailed information is available on request.

Mission Statement

*We share meaning, purpose and direction for today
and hope for tomorrow through Jesus Christ.*

Historical Context



Fig 1: Beginnings 1980

According to the Service Register the inaugural Eucharist of the Parish was held at 9.30 a.m. in the Algester School Library, on the 3rd June 1979.

The Mission District of Algester was formed during February 1980, incorporating the previous Parish of Acacia Ridge.

The St. Albans Church at Acacia Ridge was decommissioned, and the building was moved to Algester in 1980 where it still serves as the Parish Hall.

The Church of the Holy Spirit was dedicated on 18th October 1981 and consecrated on 29th May 1993.

Our Community Context

Location

Algester is situated on the southern outskirts of Brisbane along the Brisbane – Beaudesert corridor. It is close to the suburbs of Calamvale, Stretton, Pallara, Lakewood, Sunnybank Hills, Sunnybank and Acacia Ridge. A substantial road system allows easy access to all points of the compass:

- ✓ North to the Gateway Bridge, both airports and the Sunshine Coast;
- ✓ South along the Logan Motorway to the Gold Coast and along the Mt. Lindesay Highway to Beaudesert;
- ✓ East to the Redlands and Bayside Suburbs;
- ✓ West along the Motorway to Ipswich, Toowoomba and the Darling Downs.

Local Facilities

Medical:

- ✓ QEII Hospital – Nathan;
- ✓ Logan Hospital – Loganlea;
- ✓ Sunnybank Private Hospital;

This area is well catered for in terms of doctors, dentists and all complimentary medical services.



Fig 2: The Church from Algester Rd
circa 1981

Emergency Services:

- ✓ Police Station, (24 hour) - Acacia Ridge;
- ✓ Police Station - Kameruka Street, Calamvale
- ✓ Ambulance - Sunnybank Hills
- ✓ Fire Station - Acacia Ridge

Schools:

- ✓ Algester State Primary School;
- ✓ St Stephens Algester – Roman Catholic Primary School;
- ✓ Wisdom College – Turkish Primary and Secondary School;
- ✓ Calamvale Community College;
- ✓ Calamvale Special School;
- ✓ Stretton State College;
- ✓ Acacia Ridge State Primary School;
- ✓ Watson Road State Primary School;
- ✓ The Murri School – Aboriginal and Islander Independent Community School.

Universities:

Public transport is available to:

- ✓ University of Queensland - St. Lucia;
- ✓ Nathan and Mt. Gravatt Campuses of Griffith University;
- ✓ Queensland University of Technology (QUT) – Brisbane City.

Sporting and Activities:

- ✓ Algester Sports Club;
- ✓ Algester Golf Driving Range;
- ✓ AJ's Swimming and Sporting Complex – Algester;
- ✓ Ice World Olympic Skating Complex – Acacia Ridge;
- ✓ Splash Aquatic Complex – Acacia Ridge;
- ✓ Algester Scouts and Guides;
- ✓ Parkinson Aquatic Centre.

Church Location

The Algester Church of the Holy Spirit is located on the corner of Algester Road and Ormskirk Street. It is set well back, on a tree dotted site that covers nearly one hectare.

The Church building, Church Hall, Rectory, and Child Care Centre are all on the same title.



Fig 3: Church location and property

Demographics

The population of the district is quite diverse. The composition of the Church reflects the diversity of the general population.

Bureau of Statistics figures from the 2016 census indicate a population of approximately 66,425 from the suburb of Algester and the surrounding suburbs of Parkinson, Calamvale, Drewvale, Sunnybank Hills and Acacia Ridge. 8.25% of this population listed themselves as Anglican.

Worship Style

The defining characteristic of the Parish is love. Love of God, love of Jesus, love of scripture, and love of worship, all of which is manifest in love for each other and reflected in a variety of expressions.

Mostly drawing from *A Prayer Book for Australia*, Second Order of Holy Communion, we have a fairly traditional approach to worship over two Sunday Communion Services, at 7.00am and 9.00am. Many from an evangelical background feel comfortable, as do those with a leaning toward a more charismatic expression. It is not unusual to witness **an entire congregation participate in the “laying on of hands” for someone who needs particular prayer.**

Liturgical dress at most services is at least an alb with stole for the priest or deacon and alb for liturgical assistants. Chasubles are available and it is left to the priest to exercise discretion regarding whether they are worn for the entire service, for Communion or not at all. The sacramental vessels on the Holy Table are normally dressed according to the propers with corporal, bier, and veil.

Worship is extended regularly to those who cannot attend the Church. Lay representatives and clergy “take” church to those who, owing to frailty or advanced age, are best served in the aged care facility in which they live. It is like a loving hug to incorporate them into a worshipping community. Denomination or worshipping tradition is not a barrier to inclusion at these or any other services.

On the fifth Sunday of the month “family focused” worship is offered, consisting of, children’s stories, younger oriented music and skits as well as craft activities in which all God’s children (from babies to 95 year olds) are encouraged to participate. Other offerings include a Pet Blessing in October, Taizé, Carols on the Corner, and New Year’s Eve Reflection and Thanksgiving.

All these offerings are supported by a broad ministry team, including a host of Liturgical Assistants, people who pray formally, readers, musicians and singers. Music styles vary from pianists, organists, guitarists and keyboard players to a small choir.

Parish Organisations and Amenities

AMUA

Anglican Mothers Union Australia, (formerly Mothers' Union), was begun in Algester during 1986. This strong branch meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 9.30 a.m. Occasional special focus meetings are scheduled in the evening, to accommodate members who are otherwise engaged during the day.



Figure 4: Admission to AMUA Membership

Activities include visits to other branches, St. John's Cathedral, the Mission to Seafarers, participation in the World Day of Prayer, the annual Fashion Parade and a range of other activities. Aside from donations to selected ministries and causes the branch contributes to the life of the Parish. This is not only manifest in the positive and constant ethic of MU positively influencing the people of the Parish, but the support the members give individually and as a branch. Individually members make their own contributions in the life of the Parish.

Ladies'/Men's Fellowship

Informal group outings and regular breakfasts are organised by the ladies and men of the Parish to get together in a single gender social environment.

Sunday School

For children of primary school age, the Sunday School team seeks to support the worship of the congregation by basing lessons on the theme of the day, using songs, prayers, stories, craft, and fun activities. The children are also given opportunity to attend and participate in worship specifically geared toward them.

Yahweh Youth

This is a group for high school aged people to discuss topics relevant to their lives from a Biblical perspective.

Mainly Music

Mainly Music is a weekly activity for infants to preschool children with their parents, carers or grandparents, which happens every Friday morning of the school year. It is a fun and exciting place where children can grow educationally and enjoy music, dance and play. Adults can enjoy time with the children, establish friendships with other adults and find encouragement.

Kids Hope Aus

Kids Hope Aus is an outreach programme which partners our church with a local primary school. Potential mentors are rigorously screened and then trained to mentor vulnerable children. They spend one hour per week, one mentor to one child. While the program is secular, each mentor has a prayer partner who supports the mentor and child with prayer.

Chaplaincy Support

Through Scripture Union this Parish is involved with the Karawatha Local Chaplaincy Committee supporting the Chaplains in eight local schools. We support financially these Chaplains as well as Chaplains in two other schools that are not part of the Karawatha group.

Retirement Home Services

The Parish conducts services at eight local retirement homes. Cazna Gardens and Carrington have services once a month while others, Algester Lodge, Arcare, Brigadoon, Mortimer Gardens, Raffin Place and Stretton Gardens, have services every three months. Members of the Parish assist the Priest on these occasions.

Coffee 'n' Chat

This is a ministry to the retirement homes as well as elderly residents living in their own homes, who have limited social opportunities. Every second month a large group gathers to enjoy a morning tea catered by the Mothers Union members with entertainment organised by the Parish Community Coordinator.

Bible Study Groups

There are currently four groups meeting weekly to study scripture and enjoy fellowship. One of these is a KYB (Know Your Bible) group. The other three groups select and source their study material autonomously, but often use the material recommended by the clergy particularly during Lent and Advent.

Saturday Café

On a Saturday morning, once a month, a café is set up at the side of the Church to serve coffee, tea and homemade baked goods to the parents of children attending dancing lessons in our hall. This has grown to become a drop in café for the community and, during the cooler months, includes a carpark carwash.

Memorial Garden



Fig 5: The Memorial Garden

Our Memorial Garden, which is situated in the grounds down from the front of the Church, is a lovely addition to our grounds.

Management and Administration

The Algester Parish Office is located at the rear of the Church building and is the administration hub for the Parish. It is equipped with computers, internet and email facilities, photocopier, scanner and the usual equipment expected in a well-equipped Parish office.

At present the Parish employs a permanent part-time Parish Secretary for a total of 18 hours per week, 4.5 hours per day, Tuesday to Friday.

The Parish is in a strong financial position with no debts.



Fig 6: Covered area

The Parish Community Coordinator has a desk in the office and works towards involving the church in community activities. Presently this person is also the Anglicare Parish Ambassador and partners with Anglicare for several events.

The Parish Council meets in the Church, at 7.00 pm on the third Tuesday of the month. The Parish Executive is made up of the Rector and three Church Wardens.

On the Church grounds is the Parish Hall. It is rented out for a small fee to various community and private organisations. The hall has had new windows and a new kitchen installed in the past twelve months.

A Goodstart Early Learning Centre, which is self-managed under an agreement with the Diocese, is located on the grounds and produces income for the Parish.

The Rectory is currently tenanted. Regular inspections show it is being well looked after.

Risk Management, Workplace Health and Safety

All members of Parish Council and all church workers hold a Positive Notice (Blue card, from Queensland's Working with Children Check) in line with Diocesan guidelines.

The Algester Parish fully complies with the Diocesan Risk Management Policy. All registered church workers have been trained in Risk Management.

The Parish has an Annual Safety Management Plan in place and our dedicated Safety Officer carries out safety audits on a regular basis. They regularly put notices in the pew sheet and report to Parish Council monthly.

An asbestos audit is completed by a qualified inspector on a five-yearly basis.

The Parish Response to COVID19

The Parish's immediate response was to comply with the Diocesan, State and Commonwealth guidelines and will continue to do so to protect the most vulnerable of our Parish Family.

Maintaining connections with each other and the wider community was of principle concern and parishioners were encouraged to avail themselves of the various platforms to enable face to face communication. The Church Office has remained open utilising physical distancing principles and office staff were enabled to 'work from home'.

Initially using borrowed equipment, the Parish was able live stream worship within a week of 'shut down'. As a result of the initial uptake by the congregation the Parish has invested in equipment to live stream with reasonable production values. At the time of writing the services incorporate readings and prayers from people off site, music recorded in the Church by the Church and live participation by regulated numbers in the nave of the Church. The decision to live stream worship rather than record and broadcast has been ratified by the feedback from regular parishioners and those on the fringe that they feel connected with other worshippers. The ANZAC Day service was well received.

Special interest groups within the Parish have also been active in maintaining connections by internet platforms, e.g. Parish Council, Home groups, Mothers' Union...

Parish Focus

Under God, the Parish seeks to be a beacon for Christ in the heart of suburbia. Ministry will be done by the people where they are – that is where Christ meets people.

Owing to the composition of the congregation it is extremely important that strategic policies be adopted and implemented that will cater for the existing congregation as well as provide an outreach designed to draw non-attending families into the Church community. This will enable us to fulfill our focus, which is to expand the Kingdom of God.

Perhaps our Parish Prayer says it best:

Heavenly Father empower us by your Holy Spirit to do your will.

Help us to grow in love, faith and obedience as we discover meaning, purpose and direction for today and hope for tomorrow through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Fig 7: Porte Cochère at the narthex



Church of the Holy Spirit Anglican Parish of Algester Expectations



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Introduction

The aim of this document is to outline the desired capabilities and qualifications of a new Priest-in-Charge or Rector for the Anglican Parish of Algester – Church of the Holy Spirit.

Refer to the Parish Profile for information regarding the Parish.

Mission Statement

*We share meaning, purpose and direction for today
and hope for tomorrow through Jesus Christ.*

Expectations

It is desirable that the new incumbent be an energetic and enthusiastic pastor of the people within the Parish.

One who works co-operatively with the Parish Council in ministering to the people of the Parish, utilising and expanding existing, as well as creating new, viable ministries and ministers. They should be well schooled in the Rites, Liturgies and policies of the Church as practised within the Diocese.

They should possess:

An evident love and knowledge of scripture with a resilient personal faith and clear identity in Christ Jesus.

A discerning openness to change, having a flexible outlook in delivering God's message of hope without compromising the love and teachings of Christ.

Good communication skills and the ability to preach and lead worship in a manner that encourages parishioners to grow their faith while allowing newcomers to feel welcomed and included.

A personal appreciation of prayer covering every aspect of Parish life and ministry.

Compassion and acceptance for those who come into the embrace of the Parish family, through their own approach or the programmes and ministries within the Parish.

Flexibility and grace to lead, and encourage others to lead, in a variety of worship offerings, from formal rites to informal patterns and the wisdom to know what is appropriate and meaningful.

Initiative to nurture growth in the Parish and the ability to envision strategies for the Parish's development. To be open, gracious and collaborative in a shared decision-making environment while maintaining leadership and oversight.

Abilities not only to nurture the present congregation but to reach out and connect with the younger folk and families in the area and embrace intergenerational worship.

A willingness to appropriately utilise a range of technologies, digital and otherwise, in reaching people, in the practice of worship and study, along with the administration of the Parish.

An ecumenical outlook and openness to other legitimate and doctrinally sound expressions of Christian spirituality.