

# Pittsworth Parish Profile



**Anglican**  
Church

St Andrew's Pittsworth



*St Andrew's Anglican Parish Pittsworth*

*Pittsworth Craft and Fine Food Spectacular*

## **Our Vision**

We are a faithful, friendly, community minded Parish striving to seek and do God's will. We aim to promote relationship with Christ, care for people, and increase the number of people in our worshipping community, especially the younger generation.

Our Parish recognizes the difficulties of a country town, and the realities of smaller church attendance. As a Christian community, we have been encouraged to explore and accept our strengths and abilities and enjoy a collaborative approach to ministry. We are able to work as a "team" and recent covid restrictions have highlighted our care and concern for others through a network of staying in touch. We believe this framework of shared ministry is helpful and has the potential to be ongoing, enabling even *small contributions of time and talents* to strengthen our discipleship.

We are seeking a priest who will build on these core strengths and develop a way forward to nurture our discipleship and help us to proclaim the Gospel.

### **We are seeking a priest who.....**

- Has a great love for God and a great love for people
- Has abilities to teach, lead and encourage
- Is prepared to work ecumenically
- Is prepared to engage with the local community
- Feels called to grow what is currently a part-time role (4 days/wk), back into a full-time role

### **Perceived Parish Strengths**

- Experienced and dedicated liturgical assistants
- Well organised Children's Ministry – which will begin again when COVID restrictions are eased
- Ecumenical participation and co-operation
- A high standard of administration and financial management
- Steady financial position

### **Perceived Parish Weaknesses**

- Not many from the younger generation attending church regularly
- There is need for one or two more musicians!

## Parish History

The Parish of St Andrew's Pittsworth, includes the communities of Mt. Tyson, Southbrook, Felton and Brookstead.

The town of Pittsworth is situated just forty minutes drive south-west of Toowoomba and has a population of approximately 2000. St. Andrews' Church replaced the original small wooden Church and was built by local Parishioners who made the bricks onsite. The Foundation was laid on 03/11/1912, and the building consecrated on 07/10/1913. The heritage listed Church is said to have the most beautiful stained glass windows in the Diocese. The majority of the windows have been dedicated to those service men who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars. A Memorial Service honouring this is held each Anzac Day.

The Church can seat approximately 150. It has a Pipe Organ (built in 1928-29), a piano, and an electric organ/clavinova.

The church has a public address system and three monitors for Power Point display.



## Other Buildings

St Andrews has a good sized hall which is in good condition. The toilets have recently been replaced with the inclusion of a disabled toilet, and included in the Hall now is a Childrens Ministry Room.

The Parish recently built a large storage shed to house things needed for grounds maintenance and the annual Pittsworth Craft and Fine Food Spectacular.

The Rectory, which is next door to the Church grounds, is a beautiful old Queenslander. The house has at least three rooms that can be used as bedrooms, with the main bedroom having an ensuite. The house block has a garage and is enhanced by a selection of trees. The Rectory and land are currently under contract to be sold and when that happens, it will be replaced with a modern low-maintenance dwelling.

The Ministry Centre (Church Office) is a small wooden building currently used for meetings, photocopying and office administration.

There is an active Community Garden situated on part of the Church property.



## Parish Administration

We have a volunteer Office Administrator, who along with the Priest, Wardens and Treasurer attend to the everyday management of the Parish.

The Wardens and Treasurer have monthly meetings with the Parish Priest to discuss important matters.

## Active Ministries

### Services:

<b>Sunday 9am</b>	A family service with average attendance in 2019 being 31. Before Covid, Morning Tea followed in the Hall.
<b>Thursday 10am</b>	Average attendance 2019 was 7.
<b>Saturday 6pm</b>	Average attendance 2019 was 14. (including attendance at a Pre Covid "Alive at 5" - Monthly service for Youth of the Parish, with music the main attraction)

Monthly services are also conducted for the aged at **Beuaraba Living and Grange Villas** and these are well attended.

In 2019, there were 2 Baptisms and 6 Funerals.

Hospitality is an important part of our worship and ministry. Before Covid we had Morning Tea in the hall each Sunday after the 9am Service. It was served by a Roster of Parishioners and provided great fellowship.

**Prayer Chain:** Our Prayer Chain currently has a list of nineteen ladies of the Parish.

## Parish Organisation

- The Parish currently has no Priest, as the previous Priest has retired. We have 6 dedicated Liturgical Assistants.
- Rosters are renewed each year to arrange Church cleaning and to see to the flowers in the Church.
- Working bees are held when needed
- A Parishioner prepares the weekly pew bulletin – THE LINK – to be issued at services, sent by email, or delivered to shut-ins on a Saturday morning.
- Parish Council meets once a month and is made up of the Priest's Warden, 2 People's Wardens, Treasurer, Minute Secretary and 6 Parish Councillors.

## Children's Ministry

Pre Covid, on a Thursday afternoon after school, Children's Ministry was held in the Children's Ministry Room in the Hall by a committed team of parishioners.

Presently at the 9am Sunday Service, the Priest will give a Children's talk before the Sermon.

## **Bible Study Groups**

In 2019, a group of ladies started meeting for Bible Study after the 10 am Thursday morning Service. It's now known as the **Pilgrim Group** and is becoming increasingly popular. In Pittsworth, an ecumenical group of ladies meet weekly for Bible Study. Some of our Anglican Ladies are part of this group known as KYB and they are currently studying the Books of Acts.

## **Mothers Union - AMUA**

The Parish has a strong Mothers' Union group of 29 Members, three of whom travel from Millmerran and another from Clifton to attend. Monthly meetings (and morning teas) were usually held in the Hall Kitchen, or sometimes in a member's home, or elsewhere according to the yearly Program. Covid has curtailed Mothers Union activities during 2020. The group has been meeting monthly in the Church (currently our only Covid Safe Place) . "Care & Share" mornings were held on the third Thursday of each month, entailing a service held in the Church followed by morning tea in the hall. Members drive elderly ladies to the Church to take part in both "Care & Share" mornings and Mothers' Union Meetings.

## **Activities**

Pre Covid a growing number of men in the Parish attended a "Mens Breakfast" once a month at a local café. This was an occasion when our men could chat together, enjoy each other's Company and grow in Fellowship.

Our big activity of the year, and our main fundraiser, is the Pittsworth Craft and Fine Food Spectacular held in October at the Town Hall. In 2020 the event was cancelled due to coronavirus. A small sub-committee organizes the event and meetings officially begin in January. Another benefit of the three-day event is that it brings crowds of people into our town, which benefits local businesses as well as the Parish.

Other activities in the past have included a second-hand book sale, street stall etc.

Prior to Covid we would cater in the hall for funerals when required.

## **Financial Information**

St Andrews is in a steady financial position.

The incumbent Priest will be paid two thirds the recommended stipend as set by the Diocese, and will be supplied with a vehicle (2019 Mitsubishi ASX), accommodation at the Rectory, Electricity and Mobile Phone.



***As the above Photo shows - We are flexible and our Church Furniture can easily be arranged to suit worship, Bible Studies and Meetings. (This has been particularly helpful during present restrictions.)***

Our town was originally called Beauaraba and later named Pittsworth after a local family with the surname of Pitt. Pittsworth is situated in picturesque countryside just off the Gore Highway, approximately 200 klms west of Brisbane. It has a population of approximately 2000, lovely soil for gardening, excellent shopping for a town of its size, and a great sense of community. Rows of Jacaranda and Silky Oak are a spectacular sight in November. Schools available are the Pittsworth State Primary School, St. Stephens Catholic School and Pittsworth State High School, all of which are well recommended.

The Aged Care Facility, Beauaraba Living, also comes highly recommended, as do the two medical centres, a dental surgery and pathology clinic. Two well stocked supermarkets have all we need for food.

The Pioneer Village is popular with visitors as they can explore old buildings from the District, and see all the history available in the museum. A well-run Technology Centre offers excellent service as well as being available for Concerts etc.

Pittsworth is blessed with two school chaplains who work with the State Primary and State High Schools. Other Church denominations in the town are Catholic, Uniting, Lutheran and Harvest Life (AOG).

## **What next?**

If you have a sense that God may be calling you to the Parish of Pittsworth and would like to discuss this further; or, if you have some questions about the role, please contact the Bishop for the Western Region:

Bishop Cam Venables.

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