

SURFER'S PARADISE ANGLICAN PARISH

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



A Letter to our new Senior Minister

Surfers Paradise Anglican Parish is seeking a Senior Minister who loves Christ, His Word, people, and work. This person would minister to and care for Traditional and Contemporary congregations. However, belief in the divinity of Christ, the sovereignty of God, the inerrant Word of God and the urgency to proclaim the Gospel to our community would be essential theological considerations to the appointment of this person. This person would also need to demonstrate the desire and abilities to reach the younger generation who have had little exposure to the real message of Jesus Christ nor see the benefits of Christianity.

Surfers Paradise became a Parish in the formal sense of the word in 1967. The first Church in the Parish had been built some years before, (as part of the Parish of Southport) largely through the work of a small group of ladies and their fund-raising efforts. The Church, in Hamilton Avenue, Surfers Paradise, is named St. John the Evangelist, and was dedicated on the 30 June 1949. A particular feature of St. John's is a large triptych behind the Altar. In 1974 the triptych in the form of a painting called "Recreation" was given to the then Rector, the Reverend James Warner, by well-known local artist, Peter Abraham. The Reverend Warner gave the painting to St. John's parishioners based on a permanent loan.

In 1978 a site in Salerno Street was selected to build a new church. The current church building was originally built as a "restaurant in the round" and after an extensive fire, the property was offered up for sale. It was purchased by the Parish and converted into a circular church with a central sanctuary seating up to 400. Whilst these attendance numbers are physically possible, to comply with Government COVID Safe regulations attendance is capped at 123.

The site of the Church was dedicated in November 1979 and the Church of the Holy Spirit, Hall, and Sunday School, dedicated in December of that year. A Rectory beside the Church was made possible by using an existing building which had been part of the restaurant complex.

Surfers Paradise Anglican Crisis Care (SPACC) operates from St John's in Hamilton Avenue as St John's Crisis Centre. SPACC was founded as a ministry outreach by three members of the parish in October 1981 with the intention of "putting faith into action". In 1986 SPACC was incorporated as a separate association. Through the years the relationship between the parish and SPACC has continued to evolve and although SPACC has no legal ties to the parish many of the volunteers are parishioners with the Rector of the Parish given membership of the Association. There is ongoing dialogue and reports on activities to the Parish in view of the historic ties and volunteers from the Church. SPACC provides three main ministries:

- a drop-in centre using the back of the church where 50-70 hot lunches are served to needy people each day Monday to Friday. During COVID restrictions takeaway meals were provided.
- a welfare office and
- administration using a building behind the church.

OUR PARISH

Vision

Bringing Jesus to our community

Goals

Girded by prayer we will seek to:

- Develop effective outreach to:
 - Children and families
 - Youth
 - Tertiary students
 - Double income households without kids.
 - Singles
 - Seniors
- Effectively use our property for worship and outreach.
- Support our mission partners.



Staff

In addition to the Rector the parish is staffed by a full-time Assistant Minister / Acting Locum (Rev. Trevor Sketcher) and a part-time office manager (Mrs Sandra Carey).

Wardens / Council

Three Wardens serve the church and Parish Council of 13 meets monthly and is made up of both appointed and elected members.



Congregation

Parishioners come from within the Parish and some travel from the southern and northern suburbs of the Gold Coast.

Recent Rectors

Rev. Michael Uptin has been the most recent rector, serving just over 12 years from June 2009 to January 2021. He accepted the position of QLD/NSW Regional Officer for BCA in January. Rev. Geoff Smith who is now the Archbishop of Adelaide served previously from February 2005 to July 2007.

Ministries

Families/Children/Youth



PURE DANCE

STARTING
1st February 2021

Dance and Fun for pre-schoolers (3-5 years). Ballet, Tap and Jazz for all school aged children. Encouraging creativity, co-operation and confidence. Age appropriate music and choreography.

Classes are held at various times during the week. Lessons are \$10 or less.
email: puredancegc@icloud.com



Paint Pots Playgroup

Tuesdays
9.30 am -11.30 am

STARTING 2nd February 2021

Semi-structured play for pre-school children and a little time out for parents and carers. Morning tea is provided. Cost is \$6 per family
email: playgroup@surfersanglican.org.au



For under 5's and their parents/carers

Fridays
9.30 - 11.00 am

STARTING 5th February 2021

Music and movement for half an hour. Followed by morning tea. Cost is \$5 per family.
email: mainlymusic@surfersanglican.org.au

Programs exist for pre-schoolers and primary aged children, viz:



- Paint Pots – Ministering to mothers and their pre-school children each Tuesday morning.
- Mainly Music
- 20 to 30 families participate in these activities.
- Pure Dance has around 40 youngsters enrolled for jazz, tap and ballet.
- Religious instruction in local schools.

Outreach

- CMS Missionary support –Maggie Crewes and Adam and Helane Ramsay are missionaries supported by the Parish.
- Alpha Courses. Two Alpha courses are held each year with a lay co-ordinator.
- Craft Group- Held weekly in the church hall. This attracts many non-church people / lay coordinators.
- Gardens–R–Us. A group of people interested in gardening including non-church members.
- CAMEO (Come and meet others) for elderly folk to meet and share various activities.

Education

- Home Groups and Bible Studies. 8 groups tailored for various ages meet at various times throughout the week.
- Church Bookstall – operates after the two Sunday morning church services for the sale of Christian books. A large book fair is held twice a year selling second-hand books. Sale proceeds are given to CMS missionaries supported by the Church.
- Church Library called the “Keith Wynn Bookstall” is a library of religious books that can be borrowed for a small fee.



Pastoral Care

An informal pastoral care team shows concern for and watchful attention over the flock. Pauline Millican leads the team of 6 parishioners who devote time each week to following up on parishioners who are sick and have missed church for a few weeks. They contact those in need to encourage, show concern and if needed, help. New people are also contacted, cards are sent on birthdays and get-well cards when appropriate.

Prayer

Following Sunday services, prayer is offered to parishioners with ongoing support. A monthly prayer list is published to help to guide and help their prayer life. An active prayer chain operates in the parish.

Worship

This parish is one of the most diverse in the diocese. In addition to the large number of regular parishioners who come from all sorts of church backgrounds and experiences there are many visitors from other parts of Australia and overseas. Sunday services include a traditional and contemporary style to be effective in reaching people more broadly across the Parish. The reality is that most people who attend worship are older in age and whilst in the past we have seen growth in younger families at the 9.30am service (Contemporary) this is a huge area for growth and potential. The potential to reaching younger people and families is building through a flourishing Paint Pots and Mainly Music Groups.

Typical attendance the four main services across the week is 140:

1. A Traditional Holy Communion Service at St. John's Church on Mondays at 03:00pm is aimed at those who are holidaying on the Gold Coast, shift workers and those who live in the Surfers strip.
2. Sunday at Church of the Holy Spirit. Morning services are based on the 1995 "A Prayer Book for Australia" with the traditional 7:15 am service following the liturgy more closely.
 - 7.15am service – a traditional service of Holy Communion with hymns from the Australian Hymn Book or Together in Song with organ music.
 - 9.30am service – more contemporary aimed at younger people/young families. The hope is that this service will become more and more contemporary in the future. The service and songs are projected on two screens so that all parishioners can see and follow the service. Two teams of musicians and vocalists lead the songs from Hillsong, the Source and Fellowship music books.
 - 4:30 pm – informal service aimed at young families with connection through children's activities held during the week.
3. Morning Prayer is conducted at 8:30am Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday
4. Wednesday Eucharist. 10:00am is Holy Communion without song followed by Morning Tea. This is gaining popularity for people unable to attend Sunday services.
5. Lady Small Haven. A monthly service is provided at Lady Small Haven nursing home, the only nursing home in the parish.
6. Craft group meets weekly and has Holy Communion on the third Monday each month.

Facilities

The church building as described on page 2 has 70 car spaces, with overflow parking also available in Salerno Street and the nearby soccer ground. The building has a spacious well-equipped office, vestry, Assistant Priests Office, and a small community room. The rear of the church leads into a large hall, kitchen, Sunday school rooms and toilet (includes disability facilities). Ramps and lift access are provided for those with mobility difficulties. A partly covered sundeck leads off the hall, allowing generous space for outdoor activities.

The Rectory is a comfortable four-bedroom house with study, backing onto a canal with water views. The house is next to the church, but parishioners are very thoughtful of the rectory privacy and mostly go to the office rather than the house.

The parish also owns a duplex, comprising two separate units each with two 3/4 bedrooms + study in Bundall. The units are very spacious and whilst they were designed for people in ministry, both are privately leased to provide extra income for the Parish.

There is the potential to redevelop the main church site. There have been initial investigations of the various options available but at this stage everything is on hold until the appointment of a new Rector.

Financials

Church finances are sound having sustained the work, ministry, and office staff for several decades. God's people at CHS have been faithful with their giving and when needed, financial challenges have been met.

Potential / Challenge

One of the features of this parish is the significant lay leadership which exists in all the groups and activities, providing support and strength to the Senior Ministers ministry.

Surfers Paradise is a vibrant place where Millennials and young families are dominant, making up over 40% of the population. They are underrepresented in the congregations and therefore present the Parish with a huge potential for reaching the community with the Gospel.

Leadership Attributes / Characteristics

The Minister sought by the Parish shall possess good abilities in spreading God's word, inspiring, and leading people to a greater knowledge of God and relationship with Jesus.

They should have learnt to trust God and rely on the Holy Spirit to enable them to bring about a fruitful ministry, grow in the fruit of the spirit and exude a hope in God that they can faithfully communicate to others.

Good administration, organisational skills and proficiency in current technologies and digital platforms are essential to supporting the implementation of God's vision for the Parish.

OUR SUBURB

Other Local Churches

The Area deanery of the Gold Coast comprises the neighbouring parishes of Nerang, Trinity Anglican Mission at Robina, Southport, as well as Burleigh Heads, Coolangatta, Gold Coast North, and Mudgeeraba. There are 4 Anglican Schools in the deanery as well as other independent schools which have varying levels of association with the Anglican Church. The parish has two State primary Schools and one State High School in its area.

There is a great diversity of denominations on the Gold Coast, including Pentecostal, charismatic and "rebranded" Protestant churches. Catholic and Jewish religions are also represented. It has been estimated that there are at least 140 Christian "churches" on the Gold Coast

Following the Commonwealth Games, the relationship between clergy of all denominations is strong. The Parish participates in three annual events to foster these relationships, viz:

- Gold Coast Mayors Christian Prayer Breakfast
- Easter United
- Gold Coast Pastors Retreat

WEBSITE LINKS

Church Website

[Welcoming church on the Gold Coast | Surfers Paradise Anglican Church \(surfersanglican.org.au\)](http://surfersanglican.org.au)

Sermons / Newsletters

[Welcoming church on the Gold Coast | Surfers Paradise Anglican Church \(surfersanglican.org.au\)](http://surfersanglican.org.au)

2016 Census data for Surfers Paradise

[2016 Census QuickStats: Surfers Paradise \(abs.gov.au\)](http://abs.gov.au)

City of Gold Coast

[City of Gold Coast | Home](http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au)

Tourism Sites

[Destination Gold Coast | Official Tourism Website for the Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia](http://www.destinationgoldcoast.com.au)

CONTACT

For further information on this appointment, please contact Bishop John Roundhill, Bishop of the Southern Region by email bsecretary@anglicanchurchsq.org.au.