

St Philip's Anglican Church Rochedale

Parish Profile 2021/22



270 Rochedale Rd, Rochedale, QLD, 4123

<http://www.st-phils.org.au/>

<https://m.facebook.com/St-Phils-at-270-Rochedale-Rd-546891422328747/>



About Us

Parish Background

While faithful ministry to the people of Rochedale had been occurring for many decades under the Evangelical umbrella of the Mt Gravatt and Wishart Parishes, St Philip's became a Parish in its own right in 1996 with the Rev George Stuart serving as our Senior Pastor until his retirement in 2021. The 'Little Brown Church' on the corner of Miles Platting Rd and Gardner Roads in Rochedale had served as our gathering place for worship, fellowship and outreach for many years until the need to seek new premises became apparent with the resumption of the Parish property by the Brisbane City Council for the ever expanding Rochedale development. In God's good timing we have been blessed with the provision of new premises at 270 Rochedale Rd which we moved into in October 2017.

The suburb of Rochedale is a growth area, with a large influx of new occupants due to the ever expanding additions of new housing developments in the old agricultural areas. As a Parish we have an ongoing relationship with the local State Primary School having been involved in providing Kids Hope ministry for a number of years in the past, and the long standing and ongoing involvement in the provision of Christian Religious Instruction to the primary school children.

Who are we?

We are a quite diverse body of believers in terms of age range (infant to elderly) and cultural mix with members from many different backgrounds including parts of Asia, India and the Pacific Islands. What unites us is our love for the Lord Jesus Christ and our desire to 'strive to help people know Jesus Christ and grow in him' (our Church Mission Statement).



What we believe

Our core beliefs are those of historical Biblical Christianity. In summary

- ❖ God is One, yet redeems his people through the work of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- ❖ We believe in the Sovereignty of God from beginning to end, from Creation, Revelation, Redemption to Final Judgment and Eternal Glory.
- ❖ We believe in the divine inspiration, supreme authority and absolute trustworthiness of Holy Scripture, delivered to the Apostles, unchanging, relevant and authoritative in all matters of faith, life and conduct.
- ❖ We believe the Human race is a Fallen race since the time of Adam, universally sinful and guilty of deliberately rejecting God, and so worthy of God's rightful condemnation and wrath.
- ❖ We believe in the Incarnate Son of God :- that God came into this Fallen and dysfunctional world as the Son, whom we know as Jesus Christ – Saviour, the Anointed One, to redeem His people from their sinful and broken relationship with God, our Heavenly Father.
- ❖ We also believe that in Christ Alone, we have redemption from the penalty, control and guilt of sin....we believe that through Jesus Christ's substitutionary and sacrificial death, God has graciously provided the ONLY means of being reconciled with Him.
- ❖ We believe in the Spiritual and Bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ; that He rose from the dead and ascended to the right hand of God the Father.
- ❖ We believe in the powerful work of regeneration that belongs to the Holy Spirit, that He alone mysteriously brings life and the light of the Word into the heart of mankind and that He indwells every believer.
- ❖ We believe that, Justification of the sinner is by the grace of God through faith alone.
- ❖ We believe that, in the same way that Jesus Christ ascended to the Father in Heaven, Jesus Christ will return in person as KING, ushering in a new and eternal age.



Sunday


For many years we have had two gatherings on Sunday mornings with the 8am being a traditional Holy Communion Service utilising the Australian Prayer Book and the 10am gathering being more 'contemporary' with an added focus on children's ministry. The advent of COVID-19 has led to a change in that we now have a single gathering at 9am with 80-90 regular attendees. We have been blessed greatly in that the new facility has allowed us the space to gather as a whole congregation for fellowship on Sundays; a privilege that we recognise many of our fellow believers have not been able to enjoy. The transition from two services to one has been a marvellous example of unity. The whole parish has enjoyed the benefit of the intergenerational and cross cultural aspects of gathering as one community for fellowship around the Word and the Lord's table. We also have a small number of members who are able to take advantage of Zoom to electronically join in the Sunday fellowship. We have been able to maintain a faithful Children's ministry with Crèche and Kids Club running during school terms.

We have also been able to make the church building available for a Mandarin speaking service on Sunday evenings, which has primarily been a ministry to overseas students. While COVID-19 has had an unavoidable impact, this gathering has continued to minister faithfully.

Other Ministries

Over the last few years, we have been working at developing a growing culture of discipleship within St Philips. We have seen, and hope to see more, a growing number of our members gathering together for one-on-one Bible reading and prayer, in addition to Sunday gathering and weekly Home Groups. Our prayer is that through the work of the Spirit as people mature in Christ, the work of discipleship and mission will grow 'organically' as our hearts and minds are changed and conformed to our Saviour.

In terms of formal 'Discipleship' ministries, we have a number of weekly Bible Study and prayer groups, a monthly "Friendship Group" and Men's Ministry and Women's Ministry gatherings which aim to provide opportunities for fellowship and encouragement.



Our efforts to reach those in our area with the good news of Jesus include

- ❖ Christianity Explained
- ❖ CRI (Christian Religious Instruction) at Rochedale Primary School
- ❖ English Classes
- ❖ Art Classes
- ❖ After school tutoring and tennis lessons

We are keen to continue to support the work of mission in other areas of Brisbane, QLD, Australia and globally also with ongoing involvement and support of mission organisations such as

- ❖ Church Missionary Society (CMS)
 - General giving and support of our Link Missionary
- ❖ Bush Church Aid (BCA)
- ❖ Barnabas Fund (support for persecuted Christians worldwide)
- ❖ Fishers of Men (local ministry to disadvantaged men)

Staff

Our Parish has one full time paid Minister who is supported by two Wardens and a Parish Council (elected and appointed members) along with lay member involvement across all ministry areas.

Accommodation

The Parish has a Rectory located in Springwood (around a 10-minute drive from the Church Site). It is a free standing two storey 5-bedroom home with one ensuite, one bathroom, three toilets. The lower level has been utilised as an office but could be utilised for accommodation.

Facilities

The church building and land at 270 Rochedale Road has been a real blessing and we are very thankful to God for His provision. The building itself was designed to provide an appropriate and flexible space for ministry, with the indoor area being able to be separated into Sanctuary and hall or opened up into one useable space. The kitchen facilities enable service either into the hall or out to a covered area enabling great flexibility in the service of food and drink. There is an office, board room, two secondary office/meeting rooms and two flexible rooms at the back of the hall area which are used primarily for children's ministry. We have a sound-proofed cry room which enables viewing and sound for use during the services.

The grounds are 'spacious' and provide great space for quiet meditation and there is a full sized tennis court which has provided great fellowship and outreach opportunities.

Due to the generous giving of our Parishioners, the debt on the property continues to be serviced and is on track for paying down on time.







Opportunities and Challenges

In one sense, the opportunities and challenges we face in Rochedale will be similar to those facing any Christian ministry in Australia. As mentioned, Rochedale has expanded greatly over the last decade and continues to do so in terms of population. The influx has been of people from many different races and cultures and we would hope to be used by God to reach many with the good news of Jesus in the years to come with cultural diversity within our own congregation hopefully giving us insight into how to best reach those of a different culture. A significant proportion of our congregation are ageing, and adjusting to the ministry needs across the age spectrum also presents a challenge (and opportunity!). We have continued to be blessed with the opportunity to take God's Word into the local primary school through the CRI ministry, and pray that this will continue into the years to come and result in kids and their families coming to know Jesus.

Whatever the future holds, 'We strive to help people know Jesus Christ and grow in Him'.

Who are we looking for?

In essence, we are looking for a Minister to continue to shepherd us through the faithful teaching of the Word of God, equipping us for the work of ministry with a desire to see the people of St Philips becoming more like Christ our Saviour and others added to our number as the Gospel is proclaimed in word and action.

It would also be an advantage to have administrative abilities, and an ability to work within the context of the broader church of the Diocese of Brisbane which is comprised of mixed traditions.

We will be continually praying for our new Minister, and look forward to meeting them in God's good timing and provision!

For further information and enquiries, email Bishop John Roundhill:

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