



LOVE. KINDNESS. GOODNESS.

FAITHFULNESS.



Anglican Parish of Sherwood — Parish Profile —



Introduction

The Anglican parish of Sherwood is 152 years old in 2021. Parishioners come from diverse backgrounds and reflect the multicultural nature of the area. In general, they highly value the rich heritage of the local churches and the deep sense of community within each of the different congregations. A significant proportion of members maintain loyal links to the parish, often dating from childhood. Although some parishioners have moved to live outside the area, they still attend one of the parish churches and are prepared to travel considerable distance to do so.



Interior, St Matthew's Church

Location and Background

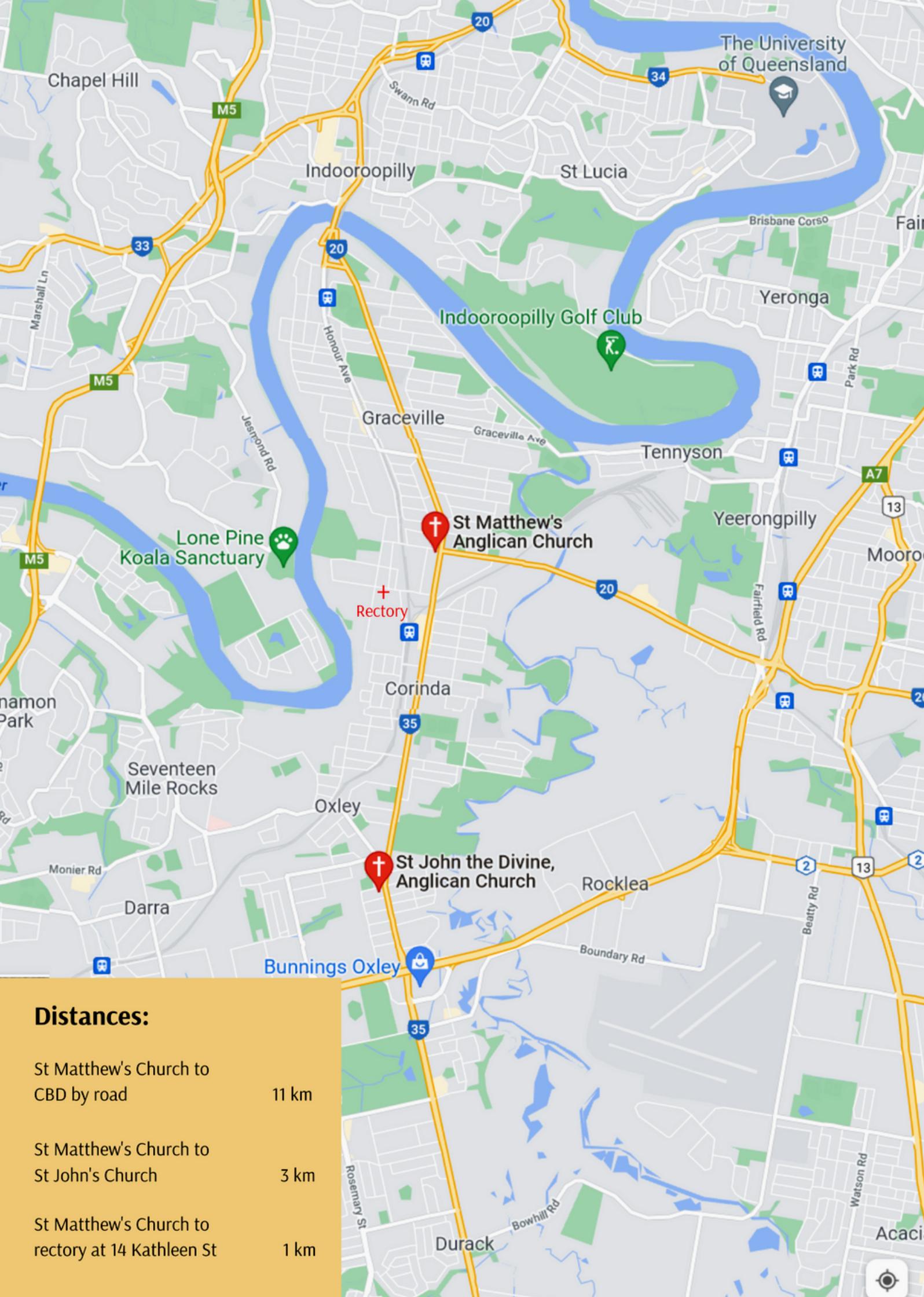
The parish is located 11 km west of the Brisbane CBD. The surrounding suburban make-up is generally low and medium density housing. However the area is also graced with two sets of wetlands: the Sherwood Arboretum and Oxley Creek Common. Blocks of units are becoming more prevalent due to the proximity of four railway stations within the parish boundaries as well as the regular bus services. The original St Matthew's church was situated where the cemetery now is: at the corner of Sherwood Rd and Egmont St.

Our parish has two campus locations:

- ✝ St John's, California Rd, Oxley
- ✝ St Matthew's, corner of Sherwood and Oxley Roads, Sherwood



Interior of St John the Divine Church, Oxley, during Bishop Roundhill's visit



Distances:

- St Matthew's Church to CBD by road 11 km
- St Matthew's Church to St John's Church 3 km
- St Matthew's Church to rectory at 14 Kathleen St 1 km

St John's Church

St John's is a simple wooden building, tucked out of the way on a side street. It has recently celebrated its 90th anniversary. Built above-ground in the typical heritage Queenslander style, it is air-conditioned and has traditional pews and a disabled access ramp, as well as a well-kept hall and a Wayside Library. The grounds have been improved and are maintained by members of the local Men's Shed (sponsored by the Anglican parish), which meets three days a week under the hall.



St John the Divine Church, Oxley

St Matthew's Church

St Matthews is a high red-brick building with green, peaceful lawns, located within the Sherwood Rd retail strip. It has an exceptional collection of 43 stained glass windows. It also has padded chairs, suitable for both formal and informal settings, as well as air-conditioning and two large projection screens.

There are two halls: one wooden and one brick. Both of these halls are in need of extensive repair. The wooden hall is heritage-listed. Both St Matthew's and St John's have an asbestos register. It is a state government requirement that asbestos be removed by specialists when any projected upkeep or renovation is undertaken in the sections where it is present. Church members work in collaboration with the Rotary Club to maintain the cemetery.

The rectory is located in Kathleen St, 1 km from St Matthew's Church and close to St Aidan's Anglican Girls School. The parish is currently in the process of working with the diocese to sell the property and purchase a new rectory.



St Matthew's Church, Sherwood

Surrounding Suburbs

Sherwood Parish takes in the suburbs of Sherwood, Corinda, Oxley and Darra with a combined population, according to the last census, of approximately 25,600 people. 67% of these are of working age. About 1800 people (or 7%) receive either an aged, disability or carer's pension. Although there are only 130 children in the area enrolled in pre-school, there are at least 17 childcare centres, kindergartens and after-school care centres in the area. There are five primary schools (Sherwood State School, Oxley State School, Corinda State Primary School, Darra State School and St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School at Corinda) and also two high schools (Corinda State High School and St Aidan's Anglican Girls School) within the parish boundaries. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, approximately 50% of the population claim an affiliation with Christianity. Based on the last census an estimated 3,300 residents indicated they were Anglican.



National Church Life Survey Summary

	Most Value	Want to give attention to
St John's	Sharing in Holy Communion (75%)	Building a sense of community (53%)
	Traditional style of worship or music (69%)	Ensuring new people are included (29%)
	Practical care for others in times of need (50%)	Spiritual growth e.g. direction (24%)
	Praying for one another (44%)	Worship services that are nurturing (24%)
St Matthew's 'Sunrise Service' 7 a.m. service (now 8 a.m.)	Traditional style of worship or music (48%)	Building a sense of community (36%)
	Sharing in Holy Communion (48%)	Ministry to children and youth (36%)
	Sermons, preaching or Bible teaching (including by lay leaders) (39%)	Spiritual growth e.g. direction (32%)
	Praying for one another (35%)	Growing into a larger local church (32%)
St Matthew's '9 AM service' (now 10 a.m.)	Sharing in Holy Communion (53%)	Creating a clear vision for the church (34%)
	Wider community care or social justice emphasis (35%)	Spiritual growth e.g. direction (30%)
	Contemporary style of worship or music (33%)	Growing into a larger local church (30%)
	Praying for one another (27%)	Ensuring new people are included (27%)



Interior, St John the Divine Church, Oxley

Our parish consists of four very different church 'families':

(1) The St. John's congregation is quite traditional with a Sung Eucharist. They are oriented towards the use of An Australian Prayer Book. This older congregation would hope to see the new priest at least once a month.

(2) The 'Sunrise Service' congregation at St Matthew's is also more traditional in focus, currently using booklets based on An Australian Prayer Book. In recent years, this service has often been led by a member of the laity. These lay-led services are more flexible and relaxed in tone. This older congregation would hope to see a new priest preferably three times a month.

(3) The congregation who attend later on Sundays at St Matthew's have a greater emphasis on creativity and stimulating, artistic visuals through a contemporary all-age worship service. They are geared towards weekly powerpoint presentations and greater freedom in liturgical expression.

(4) MISCA (Messy Intergenerational Church Sherwood Anglican) is part of the worldwide Messy Church network. This congregation, who come on the third Sunday of the month, comprise a mix of regular congregants plus their children or grandchildren, along with families who attend only this service. Messy Church services focus on the person and teachings of Jesus using creativity; parents or grandparents always with children; celebration; fun and hospitality. Through Holy Communion, Bible-focussed intergenerational craft and creative activities, all ages celebrate and engage with Christ.





Lay Leadership

We have four licensed liturgical assistants in our parish including one with a licence to preach.

We also have two priests who have generously volunteered their time in the past: Rev. Bob McKennay and Rev. Jackie Hurren. Jackie is now paid part-time to assist with the congregation at St John's. The Venerable Valerie Hoare is also a retired priest who has recently moved into our parish and has been involved in taking services and has joined the MISCA team.

Members of the parish are involved with Cursillo. Many active Cursillistas attend Cursillo activities and are also involved with Diocesan Servant Community and Secretariat.

The laity are involved in Sunday services through:

- Reading the lessons (all services)
- Leading intercessions (all services)
- Officiating at service ('Sunrise Service' once a month)
- Delivering meditations ('Sunrise Service' once a month)
- Song-leading (10 a.m. service)
- Playing music (all services)
- Assisting as table leaders (Messy Church once a month)
- Developing and leading the Order of Service for Messy Church

The laity are also involved in wider Parish Activities:

- Offering Religious Instruction in local schools (weekly during term)
- Convening Prayer Meeting (weekly)
- Convening Small Group Bible Studies (to be restarted after COVID)
- Convening Women's Fellowship (once a month)
- Convening Fellowship Lunch (quarterly)
- Pastoral care on an informal basis—physical, social, and emotional support including collection and delivery of non-perishable food to Inala Pantry at St Hugh's Church, Inala.
- Collection of food items outside Woolworths Sherwood once each year on behalf of Inala Pantry.
- Overseeing cemetery and liaising with Rotary (as required)
- Gardening (as required)
- Trivia Nights (fundraising for mission)
- Writing group as part of the Men's Shed
- Minor maintenance (as required)
- Sherwood Street Festival (a community event held annually in November; a fundraiser for mission – suspended during COVID restrictions)
- Organising rosters
- Children's activities for crèche
- ZOOM services and outreach during COVID shutdowns
- Messy Coffee—a weekly 'playgroup' for younger children and their parents (suspended since COVID)
- Film Club—gathering every two months (morning and evening) to watch a film, share food and conversation (suspended since COVID)

- Catering for Linus and Sherwood Stitches and Quilt Show biannually
- Operation Christmas Child – a global event through Samaritan's Purse, a hands-on way of putting together a shoebox gift for under-privileged children showing the love of Christ to an unknown friend
- Adult Card Craft held twice a year (parish and community event)



St John's Hall

The 'Men's Shed' meets tri-weekly at St John's Hall. This is not strictly a parish activity, although it was started by parishioners and was originally sponsored by the parish. Some parishioners still attend. The 'Men's Shed' pays a peppercorn rent for use of the facilities in return for upkeep of the grounds at St John's and general maintenance. The hall at St John's is rented regularly by Scottish Dancers. The hall at St. Matthew's is used regularly by Linus Quilters and Sherwood Stitches.

There are 170 people currently on the Parish Roll, including children. In 2019 (prior to COVID), the average attendance each Sunday at St John's was 18, at St Matthew's 'Sunrise Service' was 18, at St Matthew's 9 A.M. service was 43 and at the monthly Messy Church meetings was 82. Special events, such as Christmas, Easter and the 90th anniversary of St. John's generally saw much higher attendances. In general, in 2021, numbers are down. Some people have not yet returned because of ongoing concern about COVID restrictions.



Parish Mission Statement

Faith in God + Hope to Grow + Love for People

Forming CHRIST like people of CHRIST like love

Making and nurturing disciples of Jesus.

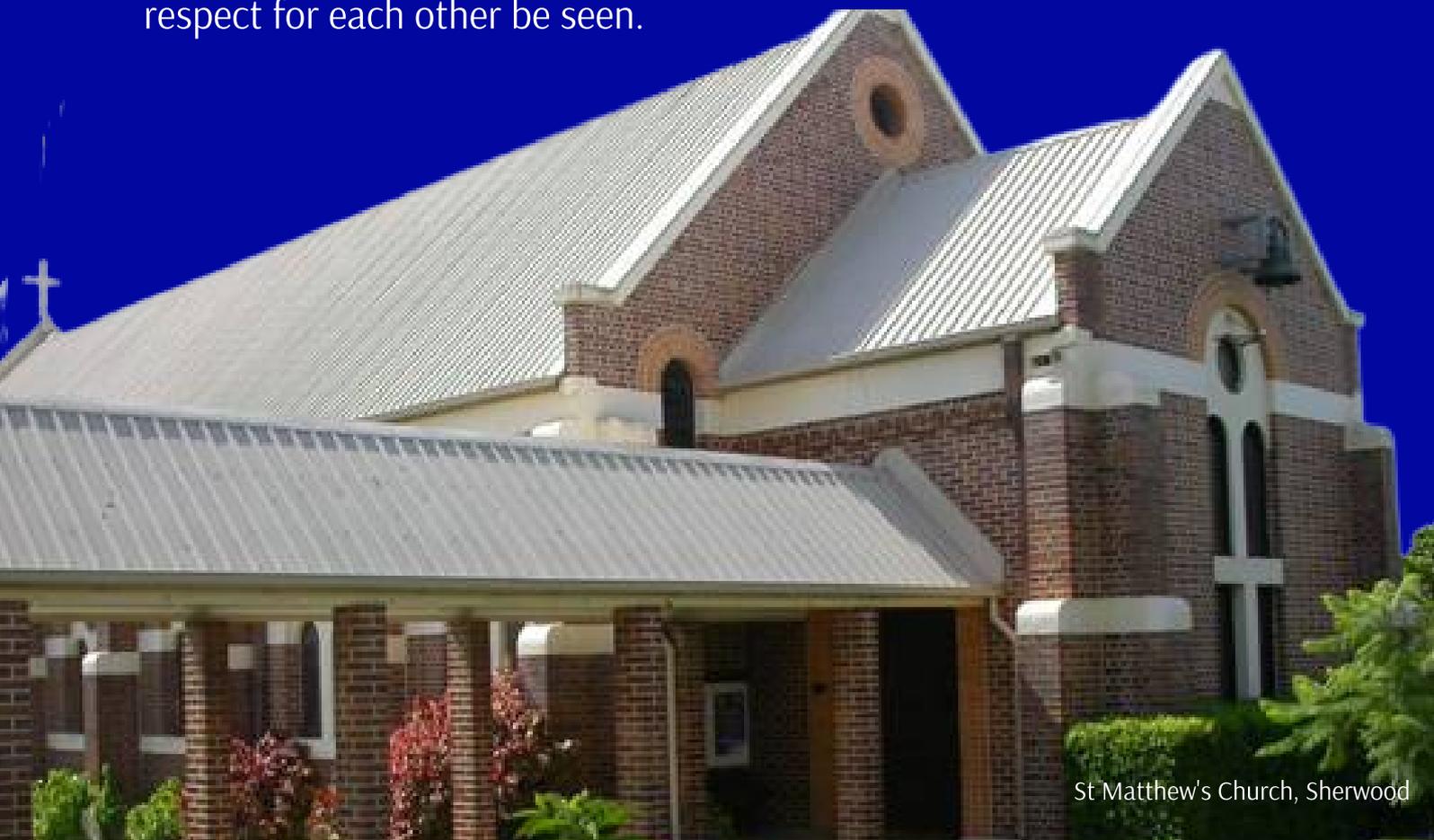
Strengths and Challenges

Strengths:

The cohesion within each congregation. Each is a deeply caring community in its own right. Loyalty, faithfulness and fellowship are key elements for each group. In general, the members of the congregations are hopeful about change and would like to see resolution for existing conflicts. Messy Church (MISCA) is vibrant, interactive and craft-driven. It draws many families to the church, some of whom have very little faith background.

Challenges:

Our four congregations are cohesive in themselves, catering to differing needs of people within the parish. However, they may not at times appear to be members of the same team. We look forward to embracing more opportunities for teaching and learning about liturgy and worship which, while respecting our diversity, also builds up our unity as a parish. Our challenge is to work together at sharing God's Word with the whole of the parish and the wider community, letting our love and respect for each other be seen.





Hopes and plans for the future



Healing



Growing



Discipling

What we are looking for in a new priest

Above all, integrity.

We see our next priest as someone who:

- is visually creative and adept with IT
- has excellent time management and communication skills
- is consultative in approach
- is transparent in decision-making
- is able to lead and delegate
- can follow through projects to completion

He or she would:

- be a good mediator and an attentive listener
- have a pastoral heart
- be flexible: an ability to move smoothly from a traditional Sung Eucharist to a casual and high-energy, craft-oriented Messy Church communion service is essential

Ideally, our next priest would also be:

- a mature and strong leader who is not influenced by partisan groups
- capable of fostering dialogue and finding a way forward for competing interests
- able to balance and negotiate between differing viewpoints
- someone who values the heritage of both churches and people
- able to provide warmth and creativity to a diverse range of worship styles, ranging from a casual and carefree contemporary format to a traditional, devotional service.
- an engaging teacher able to cater for different needs—someone who could encourage a seeker-sensitive approach while also nurturing the faith of our more theologically conservative members.

He or she would feel a definite 'call' of God to our parish.