

PARISH PROFILE

ANGLICAN PARISH OF GOONDIWINDI

**PO BOX 37
Goondiwindi
QLD 4390**

**Phone: 4671 4151
Mobile: 0491 228 672**

**E-mail:
goondiwindi@anglicanchurchsq.org.au**

**Facebook:
Anglican Parish Goondiwindi Queensland**

Our Vision

We are a faithful, friendly, rural Parish who::

- nurture people in their relationship with Christ through worship, prayer, and different forms of ministry;
- care for people in the ups and downs of life through pastoral care, the Op shop, and ministry at Kaloma Home for the Aged;
- and, are genuinely open to God doing new things through us!

To develop these further we seek a priest who...

- genuinely feels called by God to serve in rural ministry
- has a great love for God and a great love for people
- has abilities to teach, lead, and encourage
- can really enable a team approach to ministry by developing lay ministries
- is, in God's grace, resilient, and has a sense of humour (*there are 3 centres in the Parish, and monthly support has also been offered to the neighbouring Parish of Texas-Inglewood, so annual travel has been approx. 20,000km/year*).
- Is prepared to work ecumenically (*the Goondiwindi Combined Churches Group offers a supportive team approach across most denominations*).
- can help us use digital communication tools better (*this would include using Facebook more effectively, recording sermons and Bible studies, developing greater live-streaming capacity...*)

Perceived Parish Strengths

- Four experienced and dedicated liturgical assistants
- A really great community in which to live and work
- A good history of ecumenical co-operation
- A high standard of administration and financial management

Perceived Parish Challenges (Opportunities)

- We're not as young as we used to be!
- We're not as many as we used to be!
- We provide ministry to a number of churches across quite a large geographical area.

The Parish

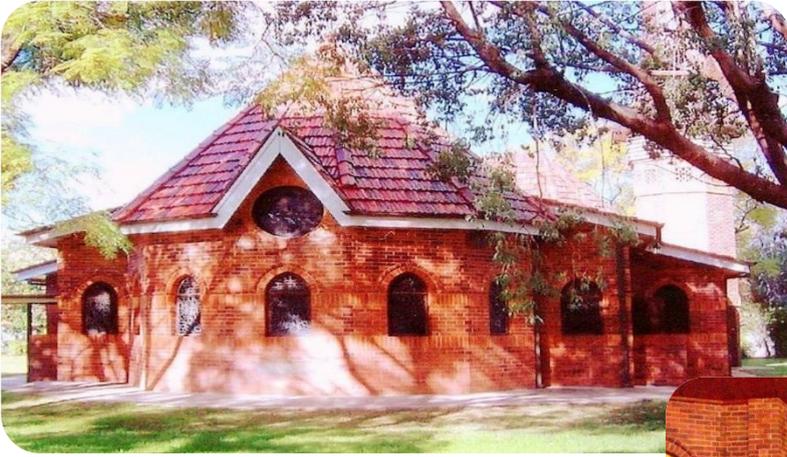
Goondiwindi is a rural parish on the border of Queensland and NSW. The town of Goondiwindi is situated at the southern limits of the parish, with Yelarbon to the east, Talwood to the west, and Lundavra and Wyaga in the north.



Holy Trinity Anglican Church, the centre of parish worship, is located just behind the main street in Goondiwindi. The Anglican Ministry Centre, with its Priest's Study and Parish Office, is sited behind the church. The Anglican Op-Shop, 'Etcetera', is located in the main street and is only a short walk away from the church. The modern Rectory is located away from the church in a newer estate area, only a short drive from the church. Kaloma, the aged care home, is another centre of worship and ministry.

Talwood is a 90km drive west of Goondiwindi and is the location of St Paul's Anglican Church. This extraordinary memorial church has a marble altar and French oak rood screen and altar rails from a church built in France by Australian diggers in the First World War. It reportedly has the same measured acoustic as the Sydney Opera House!

Yelarbon is a 50 km drive east of Goondiwindi. The Anglican Church of the Annunciation and associated Yelarbon Anglican Hall are located here. The hall serves as a major community centre and contains a purpose built area for a mobile kindergarten.



Holy Trinity, Goondiwindi



Holy Trinity, Goondiwindi



Ministry Centre, Goondiwindi

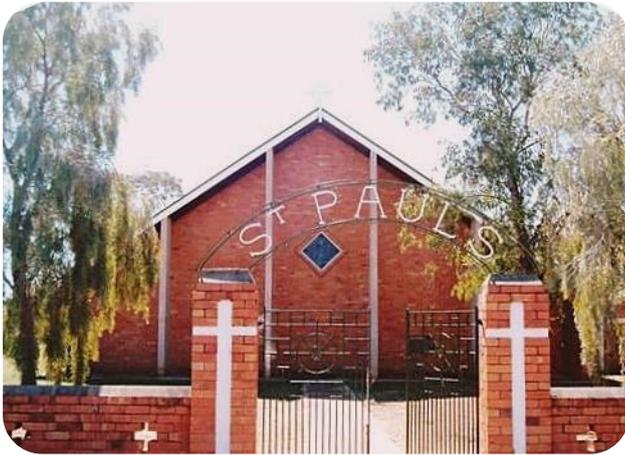


Memorial Gardens, Holy Trinity



The Rectory, Goondiwindi

“Etcetera” Op Shop, Goondiwindi



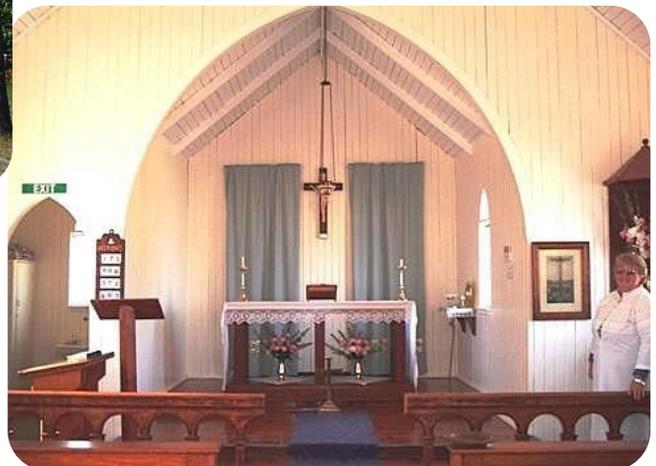
St Paul's, Talwood

St Paul's, Talwood



Church of the Annunciation, Yelarbon

**Church of the Annunciation,
Yelarbon**



Goondiwindi

Goondiwindi is a modern and energetic rural centre, considered one of Queensland's fastest growing rural communities. It has all necessary services, facilities and amenities. The regional council provides and maintains many of these, especially the excellent recreational, sporting and cultural facilities. The shopping, dining, accommodation and entertainment are the envy of many bigger centres. Yet Goondiwindi, with its well known country hospitality, still retains the relative simplicity of a traditional country town



Agricultural production is the mainstay of the local economy. Situated on the western edge of the Darling Downs, the country is flat, black

-soil plains, criss-crossed by tree lined rivers and watercourses.

These fertile, heavy clay soils and generally reliable rainfall, combine together to help produce bumper crops and high quality stock from

the valuable grazing and farming lands. The district is considered to be one of Queensland's top producers. Success is based on diversification, with a combination of farming and grazing practices being the most common system of rural enterprise.

Cotton is one of the largest contributors to the areas economy. Wheat is a significant crop, and the area is one of the largest producers of this grain in the state. Substantial quantities of oats, barley, sorghum, chickpeas and soybeans are grown. There is an extensive cattle grazing industry with feedlots becoming an increasingly popular way of fattening cattle. Sheep have been raised since settlers first arrived in the district, and the area is highly regarded for its sheep breeding, fattening and wool production.

The town itself spans the northern bank of the Macintyre River, which forms the border with New South Wales. The river is the lifeblood of the area, providing water for towns, stock, irrigation and industry. Lush lawns, trees and shrubs can be grown and maintained from the rivers reliable water supply. There



are many outstanding private gardens in the town and district. These are a great source of local pride, and some of the town's greatest assets. Such community pride has seen Goondiwindi placed first and second many times in its category as a Tidy Towns winner.

Some 5000 people live in the town, with a further 6000 taking up residence in the surrounding area. These all see Goondiwindi as their business, shopping and entertainment centre. The town is situated at or near the junction of six major highways, and considered the inland gateway to Queensland. It is a comfortable four hour drive from Brisbane. The cities of Toowoomba and Warwick are respectively 2½ hours and 2 hours away. Goondiwindi is not an isolated community.

Educational facilities include a State High School, State Primary School, St Mary's Catholic School, and Border Rivers Christian College. There are three Child Care Centres and a Family Day Care Centre. The outer areas of the shire are serviced by a mobile Kindergarten. There is a purpose-built Training and Technology Centre offering state-of-the-art technology for meetings, conferences, and workshops

Courses are offered throughout the year. The TAFE Campus at Boggabilla, 10km from Goondiwindi in NSW, also offers a variety of year-round courses.

Medical facilities include a modern 25 bed hospital with its associated health services. There is a large, well serviced medical centre, which shares medical responsibilities with the hospital. There are three independent dental practices, an optometrist, three physiotherapy practices and three psychologists are available for counselling. A number of alternative medicine practitioners are available for consultation. Many specialists visit Goondiwindi or can be accessed in Toowoomba. Kaloma is the Aged Care Facility (Hostel Type), and has a specialised dementia unit.

Other associated community health and support facilities include Blue Care, Meals on Wheel, Drug Arm, Disability Services Qld, Goondiwindi Community Health and Indigenous Health. Care Goondiwindi is an umbrella organisation covering community development, disability support, employment solutions, rural family support, youth and seniors development and community legal services. Other well-known support groups include AA, the Older Persons Network and the



Qld Cancer Council. The High School Chaplain, Primary School Chaplain and Youth Support Co-ordinator help provide support for younger people.

Goondiwindi has an excellent range of eateries including restaurants, bistros, bakeries, cafes and coffee shops. Diverse accommodation facilities include three caravan parks and a large number of motels and hotels. Shopping includes two large modern supermarkets, a number of middle-sized department stores. An extensive selection of clothes, shoes, jewellery, toys, giftware, home and hardware, electrical, white goods, furniture, books and stationery stores are available. There are a good number of beauticians, hairdressers and barbers. Commercial activity is supported by a large number of banks, professional offices, accounting and legal firms. It is rarely necessary to shop out of town.



Recreational facilities include the Botanic Gardens (Woodlands of the Western Region), the Heritage Water Park and the Town Common. The Water Park is mainly used for water-skiing. The Botanic Gardens are an attractive walking area, while the Town Common provides x4 wheel drive access to natural parts of the McIntyre River.

Picnics are a common feature of these facilities on weekends. The Riverwalk, with its views of the river and older parts of Goondiwindi, is also used by bicyclists. The regional council continues to construct new walking and bicycling paths. Camping and fishing are popular, with many areas of along the river being favourite camping spots. Twin cinemas show a wide range of recent features.

First class sporting facilities include a golf club, bowling club, shooting range, tennis courts, squash courts, bike track, netball courts, race track, showgrounds, football ovals, cricket pitches and Olympic swimming pool. The PCYC Indoor Sports Centre features basketball courts, a modern, fully equipped gym, and well supported exercise classes. All major sport and recreation groups from cricket to all the football codes, touch football to triathlon, pony club to public speaking, water aerobics to dance, aero to pistol shooting, athletics to triathlon, racing to fishing, bridge to gardening, photography to choral are represented.

Goondiwindi is culturally active! There is an Arts Council, Performing Arts group, a genealogical and historical society, and a business sponsored art gallery. Arts Councils visit are frequent and the Goondiwindi Eisteddfod is a well-established and successful event. Gourmet in Gundy is a premier wine, food and art festival

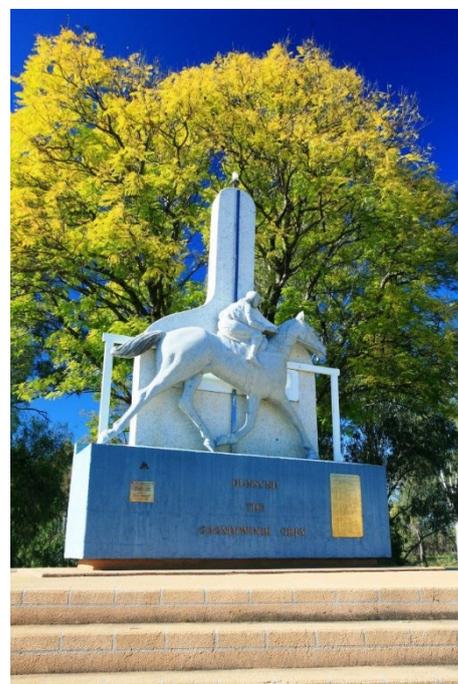
attracting visitors from far and wide. River Jam is a popular annual youth-orientated music concert competition. The large, modern Community and Cultural Centre is often used by the above organisations or events.

The town attracts a number of conventions, particularly in the agriculture arena, and these often use the Community and Cultural Centre. The diverse range of accommodation is well suited for visitors to the conferences and other events. Well known events, not already mentioned, include the Hell of the West Triathlon attracting hundreds of local, interstate and overseas athletes. The Goondiwindi Bachelor and Spinners Ball (B & S) is considered the best on the circuit. The B & S committee donates much of its profits. Race days are popular and well attended. Rodeos and camp drafts are held all over the shire on a regular basis. The annual Goondiwindi Show is the communities chance to celebrate the agricultural and commercial success of the town and district.

Service clubs include Apex, Rotary and Lions. Rotary sponsors Gourmet in Gundy celebrating the diversity of foods available in our district. The Lion's club sponsors the Christmas Eve Celebrations and Fireworks attended by thousands. All clubs are actively involved in the community. Community youth organisations include the Guides and Scouts with their brick club house. Numerous parent/child support, activity and music groups exist. There is also a very active Men's Shed and a small Ladies Shed.

The heritage area of Goondiwindi is near the old border crossing on the Macintyre river. The Old Border Bridge is a large steel structure built in 1914. The area features the Customs House Museum from when customs had to be paid on crossing the border. Martha's Cottage is a hand hewn, slab hut standing beside the Customs House. The statue of Gunsynd, the town's greatest icon and one of Australia's greatest racehorses is found on the banks of the river next to the old bridge. The modern Library Complex, with Visitor's Information Centre, Promotional Offices and Gunsynd Museum, forms part of the area.

All in all, Goondiwindi and district offer the advantage of a peaceful, natural environment coupled with a sense of strong community pride. The town and district are growing, and the commercial activity is palpable in the energy it generates. Goondiwindi is fast establishing itself as a sought after stop-over destination for travellers and tourists and the income generated is significant. The town and district look forward to a prosperous future.



What next?

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

Bishop Cam Venables

Email: cvenables@anglicanchurchsq.org.au

Mobile: 0419 784 456



Cam Venables